

FUNDEMENTALS OF TAWHID

Part 6

Fortunetelling

Who are Fortunetellers?

- They are those who claim knowledge of the unseen and/or the future.
- They are known by various names:
 - Fortuneteller
 - Soothsayer
 - Foreseer
 - Oracle
 - Palmist
 - Augur

They can be split into 2 groups...

- 1) No real knowledge or secrets, rather they fool other into thinking otherwise.
- 2) Those who have made contact with the *Jinn*.

When discussing this topic...

- We invariably discuss the world of the **Jinn**:
- The word **Jinn** comes from the word: “Janna”
 - Which means:
 - Cover
 - Hide
 - Conceal

Origin of the Jinn

- The nature of the fire that they were created from is described in greater detail:

وَيَبْقَىٰ وَجْهَ رَبِّكَ ذُو الْجَلَلِ وَالْإِكْرَامِ

And the Jinn We created aforetime from an intense flame. (Sūrat al-Hijr, 15:27)

also:

وَخَلَقَ الْجَانَّ مِنْ مَّارِجٍ مِّنْ نَّارٍ

And He created the Jinn from a smokeless flame of fire. (Sūrat al-Raḥmān, 55:15)

Sustenance of the Jinn

- Ibn Mas'ūd (رضي الله عنه) narrated: the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said, 'Someone from among the Jinn called me, and I went with him and recited Qur'an for them.' He took us and showed us the traces of where they had been and the traces of their fires. They asked him (ﷺ) for [clarification on] food and he said: 'You can have every bone on which the name of Allah has been mentioned that comes into your possession as meat, and all the droppings as food for your animals.' The Prophet (ﷺ) said: 'So do not use (these things) for cleaning yourselves (after relieving yourself), for they are the food and provision for your brothers.' (Muslim, no. 450)

Shape-shifting

- This is evidenced in the *ḥadīth* of Abū Hurayrah (رضي الله عنه) reported in *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī* and *Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim*, wherein a jinn visits him three times during the night while he is guarding the *Bayt al-Māl* (al-Bukhārī and Muslim).

Invisibility

*Indeed he sees you, him and his tribe, from
where you cannot see them*

(Sūrat al-Aʿrāf, 7:27)

Speed

- *An 'Ifrīt from the Jinn said: 'I will bring it [her throne] to you before you rise from your place [council]. For verily, I am strong and trustworthy for such work.' [Then] one who had knowledge of the Book said: 'I will bring it to you within the twinkling of an eye!' – when Sulaymān saw it placed before him, he said, 'This is from the favor of my Lord: to test me whether I be grateful or ungrateful. And whoever is grateful - his gratitude is only for [the benefit of] himself. And whoever is ungrateful - then indeed, my Lord is free of need and ever-generous.' (Sūrat al-Naml, 27:39–40).*

Belief in Fortunetellers

- “The *Salah* of whoever approaches a fortune-teller and asks him about anything will not be accepted for 40 days and nights.” [Muslim]
- “Whoever approaches a fortune-teller and believes what he says, has disbelieved in what was revealed to Muhammad.” [Ahmed]

Only Allah knows the unseen...

- “With Him are the keys to the unseen and none knows it except Him alone...” [Q. 6: 59]
- “Say: None in the heavens nor the earth knows the unseen except Allah...” [Q. 27: 65]

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Part 7

Astrology

- Astrology is referred to by Muslim scholars as “*Tanjeem*.”
- They divided it into three categories:
 - 1) Those who believed earthly beings are influenced by heavenly bodies.
 - 2) Those who claim that Allah has willed that the movement and configurations of heavenly bodies indicate the occurrence of earthly events.
 - 3) Those who use star formations in order to determine directions or by farmers to determine the arrival of the seasons in order that they may know when to plant crops.

- The third is the only permissible use.
- The basis is the following verse: “He is the One who made the stars as guidance for you in the darkness of the land and the sea...” [Q. 6: 97]

- Bukhari relates the following Qatadah:

“Indeed, Allah made the stars for directional guidance and for stoning the devils. So, whoever seeks anything beyond that from the stars has wildly speculated. He has missed his lot, lost his share of the good life, and has taken upon himself what he has no knowledge of. Indeed those who do so are a people ignorant of Allah’s commands. They have invented divination by the stars, claiming that whoever marries by such and such a star, this or that will happen, and whoever travels by such and such a star will find this or that. By my life, under every star is born a red, black, tall, short, ugly and handsome animal. But neither the stars, animals nor birds know anything of the unseen. Allah would have taught it to Adam, if He were to teach it to anyone. He created Him with His own hands, made the angels bow to him, and taught him the names of all things.”

Arguments of Muslim Astrologists

- They translate Surat al-Buruj to mean “Zodiacal signs.”
- This is misleading as “Buruj” actually means “star configurations.”
- The following verse was used as proof by ‘Muslim’ Astrologers in the courts of the caliphs: “...and with the stars they are rightly guided.” [Q: 16: 16]

How to respond...

- “Whoever learns a branch of stellar sciences, has learned a branch of magic.” [Ibn Majah]
- Abu Majham reported that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: **“What I fear most for my nation after my time is: The injustice of their leaders, the belief in the stars and the denial of divine destiny.”** [Collected by Ibn Asakir and authenticated by Al-Suyuti]