



Stories from the Hijaz

THE MAKKAH CHRONICLES



The Jinn heard the Quran and accepted Islam

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MASJIDUL Jinn is located close to the Haram adjacent to the old cemetery known as Janatul Mualla. It is also known as Masjid al-Haras (Mosque of the Guards) as the guards of Makkah would patrol the city up to that point.

Another name for it is Masjid Bai'et (Mosque of Allegiance) as it is the place where the jinn pledged their acceptance of Islam. There are references to the jinn in ahadith and a chapter in the Quran, titled Surah Al-Jinn (surah 72), dealing with the subject.

It is reported that the Prophet (SAW) departed Makkah for the bazaar of Ukkath, in Ta'if, aiming to call people to Islam but it was to no avail.

On his way back to Makkah, he stayed for the night at a vale called Jinn where he recited some Quranic verses. A group of the jinn heard him and converted to Islam and returned to other jinn to propagate the faith. Some commentators indicate that a similar incident occurred where Masjidul Jinn is located.

Verses 1 and 2 of Surah 72, of the Holy Quran, state: 'Say: It has been revealed unto me that a group [of jinn] listened to me. Then, they said: We have heard a wondrous Quran that guides to the Straight Path. Thus, we have believed in it and we will never as-

sociate anything with our Lord [in worship].'

The verses indicate that the Prophet (SAW) did not see the jinn, however, their presence was revealed to him by Allah. The verses also indicate that jinn can hear humans and can understand the Quran. They also have the capacity to distinguish right from wrong. Like humans, they will be held accountable for their deeds and actions.

Currently, orientalists grapple with the concept that jinn are figments of ancient superstitions and myths. Rationality, reality and modern pressure to provide proof seems to deter the acceptance of their existence.

The Quran is very clear in numerous different verses in expanding on their creation (made from fire while humans are made of clay [Surah ar-Rahman:14-19]), that jinn were created before humankind (Surah Al Hijr:27) and that jinn can see humans but humans cannot normally see jinn (Surah Al Araf:27). Accepting their existence is similar to accepting the existence of the angels, and questioning their existence is doubting the word of Allah.

Abdullah bin Mas'ood narrated: 'While in Makkah, the Prophet (SAW) once said to the Sahabah, 'Whoever wishes to see what the jinn are all about should come along.' Besides myself no one else came. When we reached



Masjidul Jinn is dwarfed by the modern buildings around it, and within walking distance of the Haram, in Makkah.

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the place in the Mualla district of Makkah, the Prophet (SAW) used his foot to draw a circle on the ground. He then instructed me to sit inside the circle.

'After proceeding a little further, the Prophet (SAW) started reciting the Quran. It then happened that jinn started to arrive in

troops as they gathered there. So many came that I could not even see the Prophet (SAW) nor hear him. The Prophet (SAW) then continued talking with a group of them until Fajr.' (Tafseer ibn Kathir)

A hadith also refers to another incident which indicates the interaction between Nabi Muhammad (SAW) and jinn. It has also been narrated by Abdullah bin Mas'ood that the Prophet (SAW) said: 'A caller from among the jinn came to me, and I went with him and recited Quran to them.'

He further narrates that the Prophet (SAW) took them and showed them their footsteps and the traces of their fires. They had asked him for provision and he had prayed to Allah and told them: 'You will have every bone over which the name of Allah has been mentioned; when it falls into

your hands it will have plenty of meat on it. And all droppings are food for your animals.'

The Prophet (SAW) then said: 'Do not use them (bones and dung) to clean yourselves after relieving yourselves for they are the food of your brothers.' (Sahih Muslim)

Masjidul Jinn is within walking distance of the Haram. It is sometimes open during prayer times but pilgrims prefer to perform their obligatory (fard) prayers in the Haram as it is many times more rewarding praying there.

It is not easy accessing Masjidul Jinn outside prayer times and hence praying two rakaats salaah in there is mostly not possible. The building has been renovated and modernised and seems overshadowed by the number of skyscrapers that surround it. Whoever has a chance to visit it should do so.



The interior of Masjidul Jinn is modern but not ornate.

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A view of Masjidul Jinn from the outside. From this point, the Haram is about 700 metres down the road, to the left.

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