

Hadīth Eight

The Jinn can take many forms and enact different tasks

And [also] the devils [of jinn] — every builder and diver, and others bound together in shackles (38:37-38).

وَالشَّيَاطِينُ كُلٌّ بِنَاءٍ وَغَوَاصٍ ﴿٣٧﴾ وَأَخْرَيْنَ مُفَرَّزِينَ فِي الْأَصْفَادِ ﴿٣٨﴾

There are three types of jinn: a type that possesses wings and flies in the air, another type which exist as [or in the form of] snakes and dogs, and a third type which resides in one place or wanders about.

Recorded by Al-Ṭahāwī in Mushkil Al-Āthār.

Noted in Mirqātul-Mafātīḥ: "There are three types of jinn" means that they are atmospheric beings capable of taking different forms, possessing intellect and able to achieve great feats. "A type that flies" means among them are those with wings with which they fly. "Another type which are snakes and dogs" means among them are a category that are snakes and dogs. "Another type which resides and wanders" means among them are those that reside in one place and then travel onto other parts.

عن أبي ثعلبة الخشني أن النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم قال الجبُّ ثلاثة أصنافٍ صنّف لهم أجنحةً يطيرون في الهواءِ وصنّف حياتٍ وکلابٍ وصنّف يجلون ويضعون

جاء في كتاب مرقاة المفاتيح شرح مشكاة المصابيح لعلي بن سلطان بن محمد القاري في الحاشية (الجن ثلاث أصناف) أي هم أجسام هوائية قادرة التشكل بأشكال مختلفة لها عقول وأفهام وقدرة على الأعمال الشاقة (صنف يطرون) أي منهم صنف لهم أجنحة يطرون بها (وصنف حياء وکلاب) أي ومنهم صنف حيات وکلاب (وصنف يجلون ويضعون) يجلون بضم الحاء وبكسرهما أي ينزلون ويقيمون تارة "يضعون" أي سافرون ويجلون أي مرة أخرى ومنه قوله تعالى يَوْمَ ظَعِنَ كُمْ وَيَوْمَ إِقَامَتِكُمْ

Points of benefit:

1. The jinn were originally created from smokeless fire.
2. There are 3 categories of the jinn. If one includes the children of iblīs to be a different category, then there are four categories.
3. They can take different forms.
4. They have different levels of strengths and thus have experts for different tasks.

All three of these categories of jinn can possess humans, and they all can be killed by humans through the Wahyī-methods and ruqyah treatments.