

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

سورة الجن

Sura Jinn

What Is Jinn

What we can say about *jinn* based on Quranic verses is the following.

1- *Jinn* and human are two weighty creations of God.

سَنَفْرُغُ لَكُمْ أَيَّةَ التَّقْلَانِ

We shall soon make Ourselves unoccupied for you, O you notable two
(55:31).

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2- The *jinn* were created before humans.

3- They were created out of fire as humans were created out of mud.

وَلَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ صَلْصَالٍ مِّنْ حَمَإٍ مَّسْنُونٍ وَالْجَانَّ خَلَقْنَاهُ مِنْ قَبْلُ مِنْ نَّارِ السَّمُومِ

Certainly We created man out of a dry clay [drawn] from an aging mud, and We created the Jānn earlier out of a piercing fire (15:26-27)

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قَالَ أَنَا خَيْرٌ مِّنْهُ خَلَقْتَنِي مِن نَّارٍ وَخَلَقْتَهُ مِن طِينٍ

He said, "I am better than him," he said." You created me from fire and You created him from clay" (38:76).

4- They have intellect and free will. They can see, hear and think.

وَأَنَّا مِنَّا الْمُسْلِمُونَ وَمِنَّا الْقَاسِطُونَ فَمَنْ أَسْلَمَ فَأُولَئِكَ تَحَرَّوْا رَشَدًا

And among us some are Muslims and some of us are perverse. Yet those who submit, it is they who pursue rectitude. (72:14)

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وَلَقَدْ ذَرَأْنَا لِجَهَنَّمَ كَثِيرًا مِّنَ الْجِنِّ وَالإِنسِ لَهُمْ قُلُوبٌ لَّا يَفْقَهُونَ بِهَا وَلَهُمْ أَعْيُنٌ لَّا يُبْصِرُونَ بِهَا وَلَهُمْ آذَانٌ لَّا
يَسْمَعُونَ بِهَا أُولَئِكَ كَالْأَنْعَامِ بَلْ هُمْ أَضَلُّ أُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْغَافِلُونَ

Certainly We have created for hell many of the jinn and humans: they have hearts with which they do not understand, they have eyes with which they do not see, they have ears with which they do not hear. They are like cattle; rather they are more astray. It is they who are the heedless (7:179).

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5- Their purpose of creation is like ours.

وَمَا خَلَقْتُ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ

I did not create the jinn and the humans except that they may worship Me (51:56).

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6- God sends messengers to them as he sends messengers to us.

يَا مَعْشَرَ الْجِنِّ وَالْإِنسِ أَلَمْ يَأْتِكُمْ رُسُلٌ مِّنكُمْ يَقُصُّونَ عَلَيْكُمْ آيَاتِي وَ يُنذِرُونَكُمْ لِقَاءَ يَوْمِكُمْ هَذَا قَالُوا شَهِدْنَا عَلَى أَنفُسِنَا وَ غَرَّتْهُمُ الْحَيَوةُ الدُّنْيَا وَ شَهِدُوا عَلَى أَنفُسِهِمْ أَنَّهُمْ كَانُوا كَافِرِينَ

O company of jinn and humans! Did there not come to you apostles from yourselves, recounting to you My signs and warning you of the encounter of this Day?" They will say, We testify against ourselves. The life of this world had deceived them, and they will testify against themselves that they had been faithless (6:130).

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7- They have their ranks before God as we have.

وَ لِكُلِّ ۖ دَرَجَتٌ مِّمَّا عَمِلُوا ۗ وَ مَا رَبُّكَ بِغَفِلٍ ۖ عَمَّا يَعْمَلُونَ

For everyone there are ranks in accordance with what they have done; and your Lord is not oblivious of what they do. (6:132)

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8- They have righteous ones and other believers

وَأَنَا مِنَّا الصَّالِحُونَ وَمِنَّا دُونَ ذَلِكَ كُنَّا طَرَائِقَ قِدَدًا

Among us some are righteous and some of us are otherwise: we are multifarious sects. (72:11)

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9- They go to hell or paradise as we go.

وَلَقَدْ ذَرَأْنَا لِجَهَنَّمَ كَثِيرًا مِّنَ الْجِنِّ وَالإِنسِ

Certainly We have created for hell many of the jinn and humans (6:130).

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And addressing *jinn* and humans in Sura al-Rahman God says:

وَلِمَنْ خَافَ مَقَامَ رَبِّهِ جَنَّاتٍ ۖ فَبِأَيِّ آلَاءِ رَبِّكُمَا تُكَذِّبَانِ

For him who stands in awe of his Lord will be two gardens. So which of your Lord's bounties will you both deny? (55:46-47)

وَمِنْ دُونِهِمَا جَنَّاتٍ ۖ فَبِأَيِّ آلَاءِ رَبِّكُمَا تُكَذِّبَانِ

And below these two, there will be two [other] gardens. So which of your Lord's bounties will you both deny? (55:62-63)

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10- Because of their physical constitution they can do things that we cannot do.

وَلَقَدْ جَعَلْنَا فِي السَّمَاءِ بُرُوجًا وَزَيَّنَّاهَا لِلنَّاظِرِينَ وَحَفِظْنَاهَا مِنْ كُلِّ شَيْطَانٍ رَجِيمٍ إِلَّا مَنْ اسْتَرَقَ السَّمْعَ فَاتَّبَعَهُ
شَهَابٌ مُبِينٌ

Certainly We have appointed strongholds in the sky and adorned them for the onlookers, and We have guarded them from every outcast devil, except someone who may eavesdrop, whereat there pursues him a manifest flame. (15:16-18)

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وَلِسُلَيْمَانَ الرِّيحَ غُدُوُّهَا شَهْرٌ وَرَوَاحُهَا شَهْرٌ وَأَسَلْنَا لَهُ عَيْنَ الْقَاطِرِ وَمِنَ الْجِنِّ مَن يَعْمَلُ بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِ وَمَن يَزِغْ مِنْهُمْ عَنْ أَمْرِنَا نُذِقْهُ مِنْ عَذَابِ السَّعِيرِ

And for Solomon [We subjected] the wind: its morning course was a month's journey and its evening course was a month's journey. We made a fount of [molten] copper flow for him, and [We placed at his service] some of the jinn who would work for him by the permission of his Lord, and if any of them swerved from Our command, We would make him taste the punishment of the Blaze. (34:12)

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يَعْمَلُونَ لَهُ مَا يَشَاءُ مِنْ مَحْرَبٍ وَ تَمَاثِيلَ وَ جِفَانٍ كَالْجَوَابِ وَ قُدُورٍ رَاسِيَتٍ اَعْمَلُوا ءَالَ دَاوُدَ شُكْرًا وَ قَلِيلٌ مِّنْ عِبَادِيَ الشَّاكِرِينَ

They built for him as many temples as he wished, and figures, basins like cisterns, and caldrons fixed [in the ground]. “O House of David, observe thanksgiving, and few of My servants are grateful.” (34:13)

و مِنَ الشَّيَاطِينِ مَنْ يَغُوصُونَ لَهُ وَ يَعْمَلُونَ عَمَلًا دُونَ ذَلِكَ وَ كُنَّا لَهُمْ حَافِظِينَ

Among the devils were some who dived for him and performed tasks other than that, and We were watchful over them. (21:85)

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11- They do not know *ghayb*

فَلَمَّا قَضَيْنَا عَلَيْهِ الْمَوْتَ مَا دَلَّهُمْ عَلَى مَوْتِهِ إِلَّا دَابَّةُ الْأَرْضِ تَأْكُلُ مِنْسَأَتَهُ فَلَمَّا خَرَّ تَبَيَّنَتِ الْجِنُّ أَنْ لَوْ كَانُوا يَعْلَمُونَ الْغَيْبَ مَا لَبِثُوا فِي الْعَذَابِ الْمُهِينِ

When We decreed that Solomon should die, no one knew of his death except for a creeping creature of the earth who ate-up his staff. When he fell down, the jinn realized that if they had known about the unseen, they would not have remained in such a humiliating torment for so long.

(34:14)

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هَلْ أَنْبِئُكُمْ عَلَىٰ مَنْ تَنْزَلُ الشَّيَاطِينُ

Should I inform you, on whom the devils descend? (26:221)

تَنْزَلُ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ ۖ أَفَّاكٍ أَثِيمٍ

They descend on every sinful liar. (26:222)

يُلْفُونَ السَّمْعَ ۖ أَكْثَرُهُمْ كَاذِبُونَ

They eavesdrop, and most of them are liars. (26:223)