

MODULE 2

Class Title: Fortune Telling. (2nd part in a 4 lesson series)

Aim of Lesson: Understanding prevailing practices of fortune telling & the Islamic perspective

Category: Scripture

Lesson Format: PowerPoint presentation and discussion

(Greeting to students) *Assalamu 'alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh*

(*Ta'ooz*) *A'oodhu billahi min Ash Shaytaanir Rajeem*

(*Tasmiyah*) *Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem*

(*Du'a*) *Rabbish rahli sadri wa yassirli amri wahlul 'uqdatum millisani yafqahu qawli* [Surah Ta-Ha 20: Verses 25-28]

Slides 1-2:

Today *Insha Allah* we will talk about another concept that is quite unclear to most of us; the concept of fortune telling.

Who are fortune tellers? Are they real? Have you been to any?

People who claim knowledge of the unseen and the future are known to us by different names:

- Fortunetellers
- Soothsayers
- Magicians
- Oracles
- Astrologers
- Palmists etc. ...

They all claim to predict the future. Most are fake but some are real too.

Slides 3-5:

Some read tea leaves, some read numbers or do some calculations to predict our lucky or unlucky numbers, they tell us if a particular day is going to be lucky for us or not and based upon their calculations they actually tell a lot about our future.

Then there are palmists and they too study the lines on our palms and sometimes give us some very personal information about our past and predict our future in the same manner.

Slides 6-9:

Then some cast horoscopes, which is a very common practice to guess one's future.

Some gaze into a crystal ball and can see what will happen to us in the future.

Some of them use strange looking tarot cards to tell us about our future.

And of course then there is this '*totay wala*' (the man with the parrot) on the foot paths whom you see especially near a *mazaar* (shrine). This *tota* (parrot) is apparently a lot smarter than us humans and has the knowledge about the future and the only thing lacking in him is the tongue to tell us what he knows! So this bird selects a note from a stack of cards to convey what he feels is going to happen to us in future.

Slides 10-12:

Fortunetellers are of two types:

Those who have no real knowledge: Their guesses are calculative and general. They would say things that could be true for most people. E.g. If you have light eyes they might say, "One of your relatives with light eyes takes care of you and supports you." Obviously most of us are loved by our parents, uncles or aunts and one of them probably has light eyes.

Or they would say very general stuff like:

"This week something good will happen to you."

"You will travel this year."

"A close relative of yours will get married this year."

"Someone close will die soon."

"A friend of yours will hurt you a lot in the near future."

So of course whatever they tell you is based on some type of calculation or probability.

Slides 13-15:

The second type is the ones who get highly accurate information from *jinnns*. Again, the concept behind these fortune tellers and their knowledge is the same as the concept behind the magicians. They are actually very tempting. Why are they tempting? They are tempting because this is the built-in nature in human beings to want to know what is going to happen in future. So, if you are tempted to know as to what grade you will get this year or when will you get married and who's going to be your husband, it is absolutely fine. It is in our nature to want to know what is going to happen to us next and that is the reason why a lot of people fall in their trap despite knowing that it is not allowed in Islam.

Today, I'm going to give you certain information about these *jinnns* because they are pretty much around us and are very much real.

Slides 16-17:

Jinns coexist with men on this earth ¹.

They are all around us, in our schools, in our houses, on the roads, in the markets and very possibly in this class as well and for all we know, they might be a lot more in number than us in this classroom. We don't know what they look like and we don't know their size. Perhaps they are very small in size but we don't feel them. We might not feel their existence but they are there.

We have to face this reality that we are surrounded by *jinn* and a lot of them are good *jinn* who are leading their own lives. The only difference between them and us is that they can see us and we cannot see them. This concept scares us but where does this fear stem from? It stems from the media...e.g. you can see the clothes and nobody is in those clothes. They try to create fear in us; why do they do that? Because we love to feel thrilled and enjoy the rush of adrenalin that we experience while watching horror movies and suspense thrillers and the movie-makers cash in on this urge of ours by exaggerating and distorting the concept of supernatural creatures such as *jinns*.

Slide 18:

Now the facts that I'm going to tell you today are based on the Qur'an and *hadith*; it is a fact that a few dogs and a few donkeys can see these *jinns*.

The Prophet (pbuh) said: "If you hear the bark of dogs or the braying of donkeys during the night, seek refuge in Allah from Satan, as they see what you do not see." [Musnad Ahmad and Sunan abu Dawud]

but that does not mean that every time you see a donkey braying or a dog barking, you should say, 'Oh my God, they can actually see a *jinn*.' They might be barking for other reasons but we become paranoid.

Slides 19-21:

Iblees is a *jinn* too.

"And when We told the angels to prostrate to Adam, they all prostrated except Iblees. He was of the Jinn....." (Surah Al Kahf 18:Verse 50)

¹ "There are three types of Jinn: One type which flies in the air all the time, another type which exists as snakes and dogs, and an earthbound type which resides in one place or wanders about." (At-Tabaree and al-Haakim)

He is all around us and so are his followers. These are the evil *jinn*s. We call all of them *Shaytaan* or the plural, *Shayateen*. They are the ones who play a major role in diverting us from the right path and sometimes, *Shaytaan*, who is an evil *jinn*, runs in our body, in our blood vessels, in our arteries and veins².

Can you imagine the size of these *jinn*? They could be microscopic for all we know. Maybe that's why we can't see them. If we really want to get rid of this fear of *jinn*s, we have to try and think out of the box that the movie and media has created for us.

We also get to know that their food is bones and animal dung. (Bukhari - Volume 5, Book 58, Number 200)

They also have very long lives, much longer than ours.

Slides 22-25:

Basically there are three types of *jinn*³.

The first type is the one which fly in the air all the time. Keep reminding yourself that they might be like germs that fly around us and we can't see.

The second type is the one who can transform themselves into snakes and dogs but that does not mean that every dog that you see is a *jinn*. You don't have to get paranoid about it because it really doesn't make any difference. The third type is the ones who are earth bound and reside in one place or wander about. They are in our houses and everywhere else, just as germs are everywhere. Some live with us but they don't harm us and live peacefully.

Slides 26-29:

The problem is that our image of a *jinn* is something like this (show slide):

And that's the reason why it really scares us. It might just look like bacteria, however. Does this scare you? Especially if it is so small that you can't even see it. Would it really scare you? So those of you who are scared of *jinn*s, who can't stay back in an empty room or can't go to the washroom in the middle of the night, please keep telling yourself that for all you know, *jinn* might look like this bacteria.... and it should help you to become brave. So, today the fear of *jinn* is mainly because of the media frenzy and they do it because their movies sell when they

² Verily the Satan runs in the human in the veins. (Muslim (2175) and Bukhari (2035))

³ "There are three types of Jinn: One type which flies in the air all the time, another type which exists as snakes and dogs, and an earthbound type which resides in one place or wanders about." (At-Tabaree and al-Haakim)

exaggerate the concept of *jinn*s. Of course, novels play a very important role in that too but they too are far away from reality.

Slides 30-33:

Just as there are good bacteria and bad bacteria, there are good *jinn* and bad *jinn* too. So what happens when we are infected with bad bacteria? We get ill. If the bad bacteria attack you, what do you do? Do you say, “I’m so scared of these bacteria, they are inside me.”? No! You just take some medication to kill them; you get rid of them. We shouldn’t fear *jinn* at all.

Slide 34:

All we need to know is that *jinn* possess people in a state of extreme excitement, extreme sadness, extreme happiness and extreme depression.

And that is the reason why we should try to have a moderate personality. We should not go on extremes. Extreme anger, excitement, sadness, happiness is not good. If you are sad, then you need to know that whatever is happening in your life has been decided by Allah (swt) and do *sabr* on it. If you are happy, do *shukr* for it. If you are excited, do *sajdah* in front of Allah (swt). Thank Him rather than screaming and if you are depressed, pray to Allah (swt) and read the Qur’an.

Slides 35-37:

So just like there are cats and dogs, there are *jinn*s. What happens if, let’s say a stray cat enters into your house? What would you do? Shoo it away, right? So if you feel that your house has evil *jinn*s because of whatever reasons, all you need to do is shoo them away. There is a very easy way of doing that which we have been told through *ahadith*. All you need to say is, for Allah’s sake leave my house⁴.

That’s it and they will just leave *Insha Allah*. This is all you need to do or say.

Slide 38:

There is another very important thing that you must know if you really want to make sure that you don’t have evil *Shaytaan jinn*s in your house; don’t have music in your house because there is a *hadith* that tells us that angels of mercy do not go where music is played and if angels do not come to your house, it can very easily fill up with evil *jinn*s without your knowledge⁵.

⁴ Imam Ibn Taymiyah says that this can be done

⁵ It is reported by Abu Hurayrah (ra) that the Prophet (pbuh) said: The angels (of mercy) do not accompany a caravan that has dogs or bells.[reported by Muslim, no. 5668]

But what will happen in this case? You will have fights, there will be no *barakah* in anything, you'll get depressed easily and the wrong things will make you happy and the right things will make you feel bored. These are the signs.

Slide 39:

The other thing that discourages angels from entering houses is pictures with faces.

Sahih Al-Bukhari Hadith 4.448, Narrated by Abu Talha

I heard the Messenger of Allah (saws) saying; "Angels (of Mercy) do not enter a house wherein there is a dog or a picture of a living creature (a human being or an animal)."

I know we all love to have pictures all around us on the walls but this is not the best thing to do if you want angels to live with you in your houses rather than these evil *jinn*s. You can have a picture album as long as you don't have a picture mounted on the wall. Some people wonder that we watch TV and there are faces in it. However, many Islamic scholars have told us that moving pictures are not considered as faces, so if you are watching the news or you 'National Geographic', as long as it doesn't have anything which goes against our religion, it is fine but you must not display pictures on the wall so that angels are around us.

Slides 40-41:

So if you are doing something that Allah does not like, chances of you being possessed by a *Shaytaan*, are higher. Please don't go home feeling paranoid that if you are not doing something right, a *jinn* is going to come and possess you and you are going to start doing strange things and talking in a foreign language. That's not going to happen, but you will be taken away from the right things that actually please Allah (swt). So, if you think you have an inclination towards things that displease Allah (swt), perhaps you are not doing enough good things so that the good angels can protect you.

Then of course, when the Qur'an is being read evil *jinn*s will go away.

"And when you (Muhammad) recite the Qur'an, We put between you and those who believe not in the Hereafter, an invisible veil (or screen their hearts, so they hear or understand it not) (Surah al-Israa' 17: Verse 45])

So, make it a habit to read a bit of the Qur'an every day. That will also keep the evil *jinn*, or the *Shaytaan*, away from you.

Slides 42-45:

And last but not the least; we need to know that Allah (swt) can protect us from these *jinn*s. Just as Allah (swt) can protect us from bacteria, Allah (swt) can protect us from *jinn* too and just like

for the bug we take medication, we must recite the *Quls*, *Ayat Al Kursi* and the *Qur'an* to dispel the fear of *jinn*⁶.

It was narrated that Abu Sa'eed al-Khudri (ra) said: "The Messenger of Allah (pbuh) used to seek refuge with Allah from the *jinn* and from the evil eye until the *Mi'wadhatayn* were revealed, and when they were revealed he started to recite them and not anything else." (Tirmidhi, Nasaa'i, Ibn Maajah)

This is very effective. Avoid listening to music and mounting pictures on the wall and you will be fully protected *Insha Allah*.

Human beings are either believers or disbelievers, the same is true for *jinn*. When we recite the Qur-an, the good *jinn* sit around us and listen while the *kaafir jinn*, who is actually a *Shaytaan*, misguides us. So, the concept of being possessed by *jinn*, well that happens once in a blue moon; evil *jinn* don't possess you all the time; most of the time he's trying to misguide you.

Slides 46-49:

So if you really need to be scared of something, it should be of these evil *jinn*s called *Shaytaan* around you who misguide you. Every person has a *Shaytaan jinn* accompanying him. Whenever a person is born, a *Shaytaan jinn* is born along with him and that *shaitaan jinn* has all the information of that person from when it eavesdrops in the heavens.

Ibn Mas'ood (ra) said: "The Messenger of Allah (pbuh) said, 'There is not one of you who does not have a *jinn* appointed to be his constant companion.' They said, 'And you too, O Messenger of Allah?' He said, 'Me too, but Allah has helped me and he has submitted, so that he only helps me to do good.'" (Reported by Muslim, 2814)⁷.

⁶ It was narrated that Abu Hurayrah said: "The Messenger of Allah (pbuh) put me in charge of guarding the zakah of Ramadan. Someone came to me and started grabbing handfuls of the food. I took hold of him and said, 'I will take you to the Messenger of Allah (pbuh).' He said, 'I will teach you some words by means of which Allah will benefit you.' I said, 'What are they?' He said, 'When you go to your bed, recite this aayah (interpretation of the meaning): "Allah! La ilaaha illa Huwa (none has the right to be worshipped but He), Al-Hayyul-Qayyoom (the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists)..." [al-Baqarah 2:255] - until he completed the ayah. Then Allah will appoint a guard for you who will stay with you and no shaytan (devil) will come near you until morning.' The Messenger of Allah (pbuh) asked me, 'What did your prisoner do last night?' I said, 'O Messenger of Allah, he taught me something, and claimed that Allah would benefit me by it.' He said, 'What was it?' I said, 'He taught me to recite Ayat al-Kursi when I go to bed, and said that no shaytan would come near me until morning, and that Allah would appoint a guard for me who would stay with me.' The Prophet (pbuh) said, 'He told you the truth, although he is an inveterate liar. That was the Shaytan.'" (Narrated by al-Bukhaari, 3101)

⁷ Al-Nawawi said in his commentary on Muslim (17/175): "'He has submitted' ... he became a believing Muslim.

So what actually happens is that this evil *jinn* goes to a fortune teller and gives all that information to that fortune teller so when you or another person related to you, goes to this fortune teller, he will have the information that will impress you. He will tell you stuff that only you know about and you'll say wow! He knows so much about me. He's genuine. What is the reality? The reality is that he knows about you because your *Shaytaan jinn* has given the information to this person. That's more of a reason for you to get rid of the *Shaytaan jinn*, don't you think?

Slides 50-52:

Now there was this fortune teller called Jean Dixon who predicted certain things which were very accurate. The day she died, this is what she wrote for her own horoscope on January 25th 1997.

"Have faith in yourself and a fresh start will prove highly successful. Time is your best ally. Be willing to work hard and put in long hours."

Slide 53-55:

Another thing that you need to know is that some *jinn* who are in the air eavesdrop when Allah (swt) gives instructions to the angels to go down to do certain things.

The Prophet (pbuh) said: "The angles speak in the clouds about things that will happen on earth. The devils listen to what is said, then they drop that into the ear of the fortuneteller like dropping something into a bottle, and they add a hundred lies to it." [Bukhari]

In this way these *jinns*, get the accurate information and then come down to their companion jinns who are working for the fortune teller and provide this knowledge of future to them. What does Allah (swt) do to chase them away? We come to know through the Qur'an and *hadith* that these *jinns* are chased away by a shooting star

"And We have guarded it (the heavens) from every accursed devil, except one who is able to snatch a hearing and he is pursued by a brightly burning flame" (Surah Al-Hijr 15: Verse18)

Slides 56-57:

There are a lot of things whose existence we hear and read about in novels, such as fairies, witches, goblins, elves, vampires, zombies, ogre, Dracula, pixies etc. None of these exist. What about ghosts and spirit of dead people? Don't they come back on this earth? Where do they go? They all go to a place called *burzakh* and they do not have any kind of connection with this world.

The Holy Qur'an confirms the period of Barzakh saying, ".....And before them is a barrier until the day they are raised." (Surah al Mu'minoon, 23:Verse 100)

They have absolutely no idea of what goes on after they die.

They don't go and update them that your daughter got married to so and so or your son got straight A's. This doesn't happen. They don't know what goes on here in this world.

Slides 58-60:

There is one more very important thing that we need to know; that fortune telling is absolutely *haraam* in Islam.

"Whoever approaches an oracle or fortune-teller and believes in what he says, has disbelieved in what was revealed to Muhammad." [Reported by Abu Hurayrah and collected by Ahmad and Abu Dawood]

Go to a fortune teller, read their books, listen to them on radio, watch them on TV, is not permissible in Islam. And last but not the least; I want to quote this *ayah* from the Qur'an,

"Surely, the knowledge of the hour is with Allah alone. It is He who sends down the rain and knows the contents of the womb. No one knows what he will earn tomorrow, nor in which land he will die. But Allah is All Knowing and Aware." [Surah Luqman 31: Verse 34]

So if there is anyone who knows the accurate future as to what is going to happen to you, it is only Allah (swt).

(Du'a for end of a gathering) *Subhana Rabbika Rabbul 'Izzati 'amma yasifun wa salaamun 'alal mursaleen, walhamdulillahi Rabbil 'aalameen*

(Parting salutation to students) *Assalamu 'alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh*

References for teacher:

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