

## Bumps in the Night!!!!

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### Paranormal "U"

#### What is Jinn?

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Who are they? What are they?

Jinn [(djinn, genies) plural, Jinni (genie) singular] is Arabic in origin and its root means, "hidden, concealed". The jinn are spiritual beings described in Islamic theology as being created from smokeless fire by Allah. They are said to live amongst mankind, generally unseen but not always. The jinn were given free will, allowing for them to live as they choose. It is said they can be either non-Muslim or Muslim, however they are subject to the same punishments and Day of Judgment as human beings.

The jinn parallel human beings in that they are gendered (jiniri is the feminine form of jinni) and can be positive, negative and all degrees in between. That said, the jinn are commonly classified within the order of demons, the strongest being the Marid, the Ifrit, the Shaitan, the Jinn and the Jann being the weakest. Some traditions will also divide the Jinn in to three categories; those that are winged and can fly, those that appear as dogs and snakes and those that stay in places and travel about.

According to some beliefs, each one of us is assigned a jinni, referred to as a qarin (companion). Amongst those that follow this belief there is yet another split, some are of the belief that the qarin is there to attempt to lead the individual astray, while others feel they are to guide the qarin on the correct path.

Stories of the jinn and references to the jinn can be found in various Muslim and Muslim influenced cultures. The Mende of Sierra Leone West Africa espoused Islamic and traditional African religious beliefs.

The Mende attribute all life and activity to a Supreme God, Ngewo. Ngewo has little contact with the affairs of the human beings, only through spirit mediums. The Mende spirit world is comprised of ancestral spirits and Dyinyinga (jinn). Ancestral spirits reside with their living relatives and are the most direct way to the spirit world. The Dyinyinga are associated with nature and the elements. While the Dyinyinga are accessible and favors can be solicited, they are not as reliable and the sacrifice may be dear. Garnering the assistance from them may require ritual transactions in which people or human body parts must be offered as a sacrifice.

In ancient Rome, the term *genii*, the plural form of the Latin word *genius*, referred to the spirits that watched over every man. The genius was responsible for forming a man's character and caused all actions. Believed to be present at birth, genius came to be thought of as great-inborn ability. Women had a similar spirit known as a *juno*. Some Romans also believed in a spirit, called an evil genius, which fought the good genius for control of a man's fate. In later Roman mythology, *genii* were spirits who guarded the household or community.

Even now, many believers attribute various forms of mental health conditions to the jinn. So much that researchers found 105 articles about the jinn and their relationship with mental disorders as shown in this August 15, 2014 article <http://www.livescience.com/47394-supernatural-jinn-mental-illness-islam.html>.