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Research Article

The Role Played by the Jinn in the Marriage Breakup: an Account from the Qur'an and a Hadith

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Abstract. All over the world, marriage breakup is a growing problem that has affected many families and societies in various ways. This study was descriptive study design that collected qualitative data from the Qur'an and six canonical books of ahadith of ahlul sunnah wal jama'ah to describe the role of the evil jinn in marriage breakup. The findings show that the evil jinn are the prevalent and hidden factor for the marriage breakup, that may either initiate or amplify the factors for the marriage breakup. The findings from this study may help Tanzanians and the world at large to avoid and overcome the effects of the evil jinn in their marriages; which include the marriage breakup. This study suggests further studies on this subject by using case study and longitudinal study designs, in order to broaden the scope of this subject.

Keywords: marriage, breakup, Muslims, families, and jinn.

INTRODUCTION

All over the world, marriage breakup, or divorce, is a growing problem that has affected many families and societies in various ways (Lee *et al.*, 2024). Is a growing problem in the United States (Rosenfeld & Roesler, 2024), Russia (Il'in *et al.*, 2021), United Kingdom (Brown, 2024), German (Wegner *et al.*, 2015), and all other countries in Europe (Mortelmans, 2020), America (Esteve *et al.*, 2020), Asia (Domaraju & Hu, 2024), as well as in Sub Saharan African countries (Adedini *et al.*, 2020; Odimegwu *et al.*, 2020); including East African countries (Ikamari, L., & Agwanda, 2020). In all these regions the institution of the family is in crisis due to the marriage breakup.

Tanzania; in particular, has also reported this trend of high rate of marriage breakup, and the number of complaints about marriage breakup filed with social welfare agencies is increasing daily (RITA, 2017). In Dar es Salaam alone, there are more than 300 family breakages in each month (Citizen News, 2022). In Kinondoni, each of the 12 officers in the Social Welfare Department handles more than 12 complaints pertaining to marriage breakup each month (Shabani & Kuname, 2018). This means that, there are more than 144 cases of marriage dissolution in Kinondoni each month. Citizen News (2017); in Kazungu and Byaro, 2023, reported that, the breakage rate of marriage in Tanzania has elevated from 1.1% in 6 years (2008/09 to 2.1% in 2014/15). This is almost double increment, and has implication that, for every 100 people in the country who have reached marriageable age, 2 are currently divorced. Furthermore, Kazungu and Byaro, 2023 has pulled data from RITA that have identified 16 factors for breakage of the marriages, with the 5 leading factors being: conflicts, failure to consummate, adultery, desertion, and cruelty. In addition to that, this study has reported that, about half of people who have reached marriage age have not yet married for the fear of the dynamic and complex situation of a future marriage.

It is worth-mentioning that the studies on the marriage breakup are perhaps among of the oldest literature in both sociology; including religion, and economic fields. However, the involvement of evil jinn in the marriage breakup across the globe remain an area of research inquiry due to the difficulty of conducting the original research on this area.

Allah (S.W.T) warns humankind repeatedly in the Qur'an that Iblis; and his progeny [the evil jinn], are our avowed enemy since the time of our parents [Adam (A.S) and Hawa (A.S)], whose temptations must be resisted in order to stay on His path (Qur'an, 2:168; 6:142; 7:22; 18:50; 20:117; 35:6; 36:60-64; 43:62). Knowing that the evil jinn are our historical enemies, the specific focus of the present study was to review the role played by the evil jinn in the breakup of the marriages as revealed in

the Qur'an and ahadith. The findings from this study may help Tanzanians and the world at large to avoid and overcome the effects of the evil jinn in their marriages; which include the marriage breakup.

METHODOLOGY

This was descriptive study that collected qualitative data from the Qur'an and the six canonical books of ahadith of ahalul sunnah wal jamaa such as the two sahih and the four sunan. The Tafsir Al Qur'an Al Adhwim by Al Imam ibn Kathir and Sahih International Translation by the Qur'an Project were used to give the primary interpretation of the Quranic verses, and the English Translations of these ahadith books; such as those provided by Dr Muhammad Muhsin Khan (Sahih Al Muslim and Sahih Al Bukhari), Sheikh Abu Khalil (Sunan At Tirmidhi), Nassiruddin Al Khattab (Sunan ibn Majah), Sheikh Abu Khalyf (Sunan An Nasai), and Nassiruddin Al Khattab (Sunan Abu Dawuud). Then the extracted data were analyzed by Thematic approach, and findings presented in the form of description.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The survey from the Qur'an and the six canonical books of ahadith used by ahlul sunnah wal jama'ah revealed single verse and hadith that hint directly on this subject, Qur'an, 2:102 and hadith narrated by Jabir bin Abdullah (R.A) and reported by Al Imam Al Muslim in his Sahih Al Muslim. Qur'an, 2:102 says:

وَاتَّبَعُوا مَا تَتْلُو الشَّيَاطِينُ عَلَىٰ مُلْكٍ سُلَيْمَانَ ۖ وَمَا كَفَرَ سُلَيْمَانُ وَلَكِنَّ الشَّيَاطِينَ كَفَرُوا يُعَلِّمُونَ
النَّاسَ السِّحْرَ ۖ وَمَا أُنْزِلَ عَلَى الْمَلَكَيْنِ بِبَابِلَ هَارُوتَ وَمَارُوتَ ۚ وَمَا يُعَلِّمَانِ مِنْ أَحَدٍ حَتَّى يَقُولَا
إِنَّمَا نَحْنُ فِتْنَةٌ فَلَا تَكْفُرْ ۖ فَيَتَعَلَّمُونَ مِنْهُمَا مَا يُفَرِّقُونَ بِهِ بَيْنَ الْمَرْءِ وَزَوْجِهِ ۚ وَمَا هُمْ بِضَارِّينَ بِهِ
مِنْ أَحَدٍ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ ۚ وَيَتَعَلَّمُونَ مَا يَضُرُّهُمْ وَلَا يَنْفَعُهُمْ ۚ وَلَقَدْ عَلَّمُوا لِمَنِ اشْتَرَاهُ مَا لَهُ فِي
الْآخِرَةِ مِنْ خَلْقٍ ۚ وَلَيْسَ مَا شَرَوْا بِهِ أَنْفُسَهُمْ ۚ لَوْ كَانُوا يَعْلَمُونَ

And they followed [instead] what the devils had recited during the reign of Solomon. It was not Solomon who disbelieved, but the devils disbelieved, teaching people magic and that which was revealed to the two angels at Babylon, Harut and Marut. But they [i.e., the two angels] do not teach anyone unless they say, "We are a trial, so do not disbelieve [by practicing magic]." And [yet] they learn from them that by which they cause separation between a man and his wife. But they do not harm anyone through it except by permission of God. And they [i.e., the people] learn what harms them and does not benefit them. But they [i.e., the Children of

Israel] certainly knew that whoever purchased it [i.e., magic] would not have in the Hereafter any share. And wretched is that for which they sold themselves, if they only knew.

There are various opinions among commentators on this verse. However, according to Al Imam ibn Kathir; in his Tafsir Al Qur'an Al Adhwim, from different pious predecessors (*salaf-e-saliheen*); including Ibn Abbas (R.A), this verse refutes two claims made by Israelites in Babylon. That, the two angels; sent by Allah (S.W.T) in the form of humans, did not teach magic to the people, and Solomon did not use magic in his kingship. Rather, the two angels were sent with magic as a test to Israelites who were overwhelmed with moral and material deterioration; including magic, sorcery, witchcraft, charms, and amulets. But Allah (S.W.T) made them promise that they would not teach anyone until first proclaiming: We are a test for you, do not fall into disbelief. When a person who came to learn magic still insisted on learning it, they commanded him to go to such and such place, where if he went, Iblis would meet him and teach him magic. Hence, people learnt magic from Iblis, and indulged in evil acts, that included separation between the wife and husband. Likewise, the Hadith of Jabir bin Abdullah (R.A) report that:

إِنَّ إِبْلِيسَ يَضَعُ عَرْشَهُ عَلَى الْمَاءِ ثُمَّ يَبْعَثُ سَرَايَاهُ فَأَذْنَاهُمْ مِنْهُ مَنْزِلَةً أَعْظَمُهُمْ فَتَنَةً يَجِيءُ أَحَدُهُمْ فَيَقُولُ فَعَلْتُ كَذَا وَكَذَا فَيَقُولُ مَا صَنَعْتَ شَيْئًا قَالَ ثُمَّ يَجِيءُ أَحَدُهُمْ فَيَقُولُ مَا تَرَكْتُهُ حَتَّى فَرَّقْتُ بَيْنَهُ وَبَيْنَ امْرَأَتِهِ - قَالَ - فَيُذْنِيهِ مِنْهُ وَيَقُولُ نَعَمْ أَنْتَ . قَالَ الْأَعْمَشُ أَرَاهُ قَالَ " فَيَلْتَزِمُهُ " .

Iblis places his throne upon water; he then sends detachments (for creating dissension); the nearer to him in rank are those who are most notorious in creating dissension. One of them comes and says: "I did so and so." And he says: "You have done nothing." Then one amongst them comes and says: "I did not spare so and so until I sowed the seed of discord between a husband and a wife." The Satan goes near him and says: "You have done well." A'mash said: He then embraces him. (Al Muslim, 9C/2007, v. 7, pg, 214, no. 7106).

The above verse; when read together with this Hadith, it may imply that, even though the evil jinn are the sources of evils (Bajirova, 2018), and mislead people in many things; by whispering the vein desires and commanding them, but they put much efforts in separating between people; and more in separating between wife and husband, i.e, breaking the marriages. The reason behind this view is that, both, the above verse and this Hadith addresses the misguidance of Iblis; and the evil jinn who followed him, to the humans, but they only mention the misguidance of separating between people, and specifically, they give a direct mention to the

separation between wife and husband. With this consideration, this study has come with the hypothesis that, most of the marriage breakup we see in our societies and that have been reported in various studies are due to the activities of the evil jinn, either as root factor or amplifying factor. And hence, the evil jinn are the prevalent and hidden factor for the marriage breakup.

However, apart from the case studies and longitudinal studies, it is difficult to conduct the original research on how the evil jinn conduct these activities. This is because, the tactics they are using to mislead people in other things are quite similar to the tactics they are using to break the marriages. Hence, it become difficult to differentiate them.

They may enter in the body and circulate as blood circulate in it, and reach up to the brain and heart. When they reach the heart, they insert the evil thought and feelings; to tempt and command people to say and do evil things. However, they withdraw from the body when a person remembers Allah (S.W.T); by *adhkar*, contemplating [His presence, greatness, and glory], reciting Qur'an, supplicating, repenting, sending peace and blessings of Allah (S.W.T) to the Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) [*Salat Alan Nabi*] etc (Qur'an, 114:1-6; Al Muslim, 9C/2007, v. 6, pg., 28, no. 5679). They may also remain into the body for a considerable amount of time or they may enter and exit periodically, which is generally referred to as jinn possession (Qur'an, 2:275; Mackenrodt, 2006). In this form, they may stay in various parts of the body, such as uterus, stomach, blood, and genitals. Their ability to stay in the body makes them able to introduce the magic; from the witchcrafts and witchdoctors (Qur'an, 2:102; Bajirova, 2018). They can place the magic in the female reproductive system; such as in the uterus or fallopian tube, in order to prevent fertilization or the development of the pregnancy. Likewise, they may break the capillaries of the endometrial wall to prolong or to maximize the volume of the menstrual flow (Bajirova, 2018), and they may change the nature and flow of the hormone, leading to the hormonal imbalance, which is among of the prevalent reproductive problems among the women all over the world.

Furthermore, they may inhabit our houses (Al Muslim, 9C/2007, v. 2, pg., 301, no. 1825; Al Muslim, 9C/2007, v. 6, pg., 96, no. 5840; Bajirova, 2018); like in the living rooms, toilets, kitchen, seating rooms etc., where, they use various tactics to distract people, particularly, wife and husband. They may also involve in the love affairs (Bajirova, 2018; Jimoh, 2015); by making love with the wife, marrying her, and jealous or envying to the husband. These kinds of evil jinn are called 'spirit jinn' [*jini mahaba'*]. According to the testimonies, the sexual activities and marriage between the humans and evil jinn may be either in the dreams or even physically [by changing their forms and becomes like the male human being], but mostly it is in the dreams, and commonly involves between male jinn and female human being (Bajirova, 2018;

Jimoh, 2015; Caplan et al., 1992). In addition to that, there are reports of the women to give birth to the children resulted from this kind of relationship (Bajirova, 2018; Jimoh, 2015), that may also be connected to the description given by Allah (S.W.T) in the Qur'an, 17:64.

By these tactics, the evil jinn may lead to the negative consequences to either wife or husband or both. These negative consequences may include angry, impatience, insults, arrogance, cruel, pride, contempt, hatred, recurring aggression, constant laziness, recurring nightmares, insomnia (oversleeping), insufficient or lack of libido, sexual dysfunction, insufficient or lack of intimacy, repeated miscarriages, mental health conditions; such as anxiety, depression, bipolar, schizophrenia, and obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD), infertility, suspicions, negligence, menstrual irregularities, forgetfulness, sulk [Swahili: 'kususia'], indifference, withdrawal from the society and love of loneliness (Bajirova, 2018).

As the results, these negative consequences may either stand as root causes or amplifying factor to the secondary factors for marriage breakup. By the order of their prevalence, the factors for the marriage breakup in Tanzania as reported by RITA (Registration, Insolvency and Trustee Registration Agency) are conflicts, failure to consummate, adultery, desertion, cruelty, misbehaving, communication problem, jealous and insecurity, conflicts over family responsibilities, lack of commitment, lack of intimacy, consent, emotional/physical abuse, financial incapacabilities, alcohol addiction, unrealistic expectations, and impotence (RITA, 2022 in Kazungu & Byaro, 2023). Hence, by considering the role of the evil jinn in the marriage breakup, the stated negative consequences caused by the evil jinn stand as the root causes of these factors or may amplify them (**Figure 1**). On the other hand, these negative consequences caused by the activities of the evil jinn in marriages may be similar to other negative consequences derived from other influences such as various diseases conditions as well as behaviors that are the products of nurture and life experiences. This add to the difficultness of exploring more on how the evil jinn conduct these activities of separating between wife and husband.

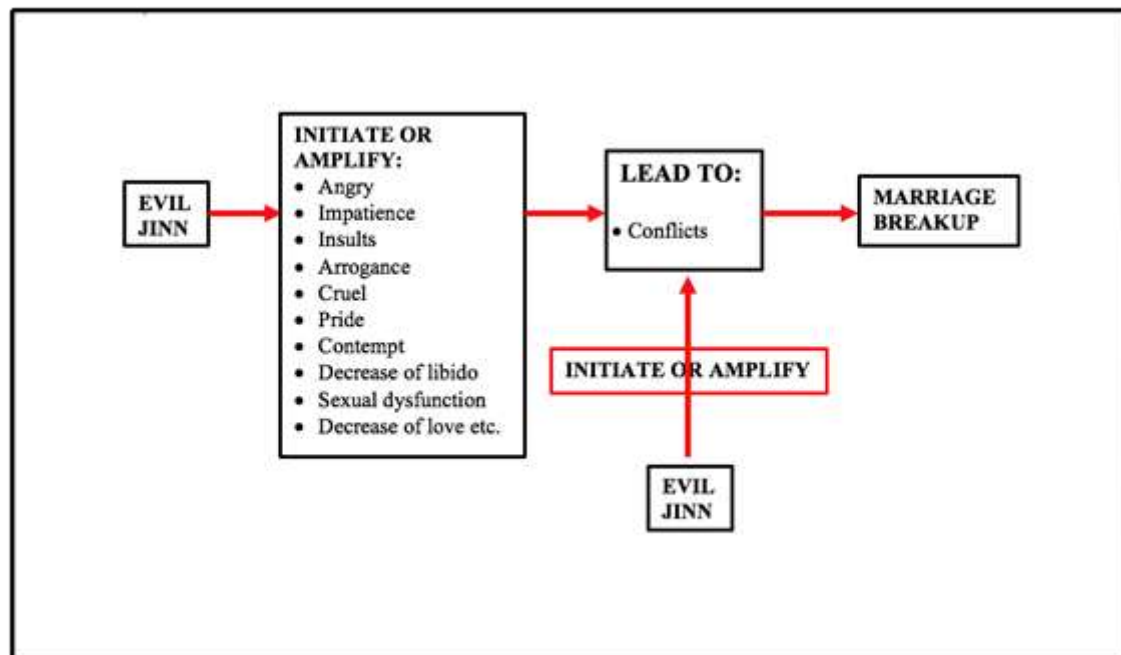


Figure 1: The Model showing the contribution of the evil jinn in marriage breakup.

However, Qur'an as a complete code of life has explicitly state that, the evil jinn does not have ability to mislead the believers who adheres to the guidance of the Qur'an and Sunnah with regard to how we should live in order to be protected from their activities (Qur'an, 15:42; 17:65). This is because, Allah (S.W.T) knew all of us humans and jinn even before He initiated the creation processes. As the vicegerents, He created us with qualities that when guided by His guidelines He revealed in the Qur'an and Sunnah, we cannot be misguided by the out casted Iblis and his progeny [the evil jinn who followed him]. That's why, when Iblis promised to mislead us [after being out casted from the Paradise], Allah (S.A.W) told him that: Indeed, My servants - no authority will you have over them, except those who follow you of the deviators (Qur'an, 15:42).

These guidelines include: seeking refuge to Allah (S.W.T) from the outcast Iblis by saying ***a'uudhubillaahi minash-shaytwaanir rajiim*** (Qur'an, 41:36; 7:200; 41:36; Al Bukhari, 846/2007, v. 4, pg. 307, no. 3282; Al Muslim, 9C/2007, v. 2, pg., 38, no. 1211), by reciting ***al-mu'awwidhataani: Qul a'uudhubirabbinnas*** and ***Qul a'uudhubirabbil falaq*** (Qur'an, 113:1-5; 114:1-6; Al Muslim, 9C/2007, v. 2, pg., 331, no. 1891), reciting *aayatul qursiyu* (Al Bukhari, 846/2007, v. 3, pg. 287, no. 2311), staying with *wuduu* (stay clean by taking ablution) (Abu Dawood, 889/2008, v5, pg. 377, no. 5046), reciting *Suratul Baqara* in the house (Al Muslim, 9C/2007, v. 2, pg., 301, no. 1824; Al Tirmidhi, 9C/2007, v. 5, pg., 218, no. 2877), remembrance of Allah (S.W.T) by reciting Qur'an, *adhkar*, contemplation, etc (Qur'an, 114:1-6), reciting

Qur'an (Qur'an, 17:45), reciting the last two verses of the *Suratul Baqara* (Al Muslim, 9C/2007, v. 2, pg., 326, no. 1878), starting with supplication during the sexual intercourse between wife and husband (Al Bukhari, 846/2007, v. 4, pg. 303, no. 3271), mention the name of Allah (S.W.T) when entering home (Al Muslim, 9C/2007, v. 5, pg., 368, no. 5262), avoiding staying nakedness (Bajirova, 2018), and starting with supplication in everything you're doing; from the time you wake up [in the morning] to the time you sleep [in the night].

This study has specified an area of further research on this subject by employing case study or longitudinal study research design, in order to provide additional information on the involvement of the jinn in the marriage breakup.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The problem of marriage breakup is alarming. It is seen through life experience, and also various literatures. According to this study, the evil jinn are the prevalent and hidden factor for the phenomena of marriage breakup. This research appeals to all people; Tanzanians and the world at large, to reconsider the role of the evil jinn, and taking the precautions to avoid them as referenced in this study. Furthermore, this study has suggested further studies on this subject by using case study and longitudinal study designs, in order to broaden the scope of this subject.

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