The Birth of the (Exorcism) Clinic: media, modernity, and the jinn

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Because the jinn are mentioned in the Holy Koran, skepticism regarding their existence is not an option for a believer. They are all around us, and practices for exorcizing them are varied and numerous. In the contemporary Muslim diaspora in Europe, controversy rages about what techniques may be used: reformers insist that only Koranic recitation is allowed, whereas others make use of talismans and additional rituals. Another controversy concerns whether or not it is allowed to forge alliances with Muslim jinn. In this paper, I summarize these controversies, illustrating them with videos I have taken in England, Tunis, and India, and go on to discuss one particular practitioner who has generated a global following due to his effective use of media, and whose “exorcism clinics” avoid at least some of these controversies, while generating others.