

Story 13: Ghost stories from Iran and Afghanistan

The Story:

It is believed that there is a spirit that calls out to you when you are alone. The name of this creature, translated from Persian, means “Calls-your-name.” For instance, this spirit would show me the face of my brother or someone I know, making me start to trust it. When someone falls for it, they follow the spirit, believing it to be their, say, sister or daughter... And in doing so, they lose themselves, unaware of where they are. The spirit leads them down the wrong path. It’s always ahead of you, calling you. You keep following and following... and you never reach it, only to find yourself somewhere completely empty. When this begins to happen, you don’t understand what’s going on, and in the end, the creature just disappears, and you realize where you are. All you remember is the beginning and the end—nothing in between.

2.

There is a creature that doesn’t appear until someone says your name out loud. No one knows what this creature is called because the trouble with mentioning and summoning it is that it causes chaos. There’s a story about a wedding where some women were sitting and chatting in a separate room, talking about this creature. During their conversation, they mentioned its name. It appeared and devoured all the wedding guests.

3.

There is a spirit that latches onto your body. It controls what you do. This belief is mostly held by women, not men. When someone is possessed by such a spirit, they might hit themselves or scream because the spirit sometimes shows up and can harm them. Some people avoid those who are said to be possessed by such a spirit. However, this spirit is seen as both a positive and negative presence, depending on the situation. If someone claims not to believe in it, the spirit will get angry and harm the person it’s attached to. On the other hand, people say that the spirit allows them to do things others can’t—almost as if it gives them a superpower. It is said that these spirits most commonly leach onto beautiful girls.



