

KNOWN BY NECESSITY : BELIEF IN THE ANGELS

The Messenger Muhammad (saw) said, "Seeking Knowledge is obligatory upon every Muslim" On the commentary of this hadith {prophetic saying} the great companion Abdullah Ibn Abbas (ra) said, "Knowledge (ilm) here is what is known by necessity, in order for a Muslim to accomplish his deen {divine way of life}"

O Belief in the Angels is one of the six pillars of Iman (faith), without which there is no Iman. Whoever does not believe in any of these pillars is not a believer (mu'min). These pillars are belief in: Allah, His angels, His Books, His Messengers, The Last Day, and that predestination - both good and bad - comes from Allah. Unfortunately we find there are many incorrect assumptions made about angels; here are the facts according to Islam:

O The Angels according to the Qur'an & Sunnah.

The Arabic word for Angels is 'Malaika' Angels are the creation of Allah (swt) made from light (nur) they are living heavenly beings.

Aisha (ra) reported The Messenger of Allah (saw) said: "The angels are created from light, just as the jinn are created from smokeless fire and mankind is created from what you have been told about (clay)" [Sahih Muslim]

Angels have been given free will just like mankind and Jinns. However angels out of choice are always subservient to Allah (swt). Their main task in relation to mankind is that of conveying Allah's (swt) messages to His chosen prophets. This great honour is assigned mainly to the leader of the angels **Gabriel (Jibril {as})**. Allah (swt) used Gabriel to transmit all the books of revelation from the scrolls (Suhaf) **The angels are many, and their number is known only to Allah (swt)** of Abraham (Ibrahim {as}), the Torah (Tawrah) of Moses (Musa {as}), the Psalms (Zabur) of David (Dawud {as}), the Bible (Injil) of Jesus (Isa) up to the final revelation Al Qur'an revealed to the Final Messenger and the seal of Prophethood Muhammad (saw).

The very nature of angels is that they are Infallible and do not make mistakes hence why they are trusted with the revelation, contrary to what the Jews and some sects of the Shia claim.

Although we cannot see angels, Allah (swt) may show them to some humans. The Prophet Muhammad (saw) saw Jibril in his real shape with six hundred wings that covered the horizons. Angels can also change shape and appear in any form, Jibril came to Prophet Muhammad (saw) while he was among his Companions in the appearance of an unknown man with very white clothes and very black hair.

Regarding their wings Allah (swt) says "Praise be to Allah, Who created (out of nothing) the heavens and the earth, Who made the angels messengers with wings - two, or three, or four (pairs) adds to Creation as He pleases: for Allah has power over all things." [Qur'an 35:1]

Allah (swt) created the Angels before man. "Behold, your Lord said to the angels: 'I will create a vicegerent on earth'" [Qur'an 2:30] the fact that Allah told them of His intention to create man indicates that they already existed.

The angels were also commanded by Allah (swt) to prostrate to Adam (the first man created), they all did except Iblis (Satan) however he was from the jinn (made from smokeless fire), so Allah (swt) says Iblis became a kafir (disbeliever) as he disobeyed the command of Allah (swt) and so became an outcast.

Angels do not become tired or bored from serving their lord, Allah (swt) says "They celebrate His praises night and day, nor do they ever flag or intermit." [Qur'an 21:20]

They do not need food or drink; this is indicated by the conversation between Ibrahim (as), the "friend" of Allah and the angels who visited him. Allah says "Then he turned quickly to his household, brought out a fatted calf, and placed it before them. He (SWT) said, 'Will you not eat?' (When they did not eat), he conceived a fear of them. They said: 'Fear not,' and they gave him glad tidings of a son endowed with knowledge." [Qur'an 51:26-28]

Angels are genderless and do not co-habit, so they do not produce offsprings. Angels are not the sons and daughters of Allah (swt) as the Christians claim, nor are they the companions of Allah (swt) for eternity as they too will be destroyed when the final hour comes upon us.

Angels only come to the earth for the benefit of mankind; their presence prevents the occurrence of earthquakes and flooding, they control gravity and even stop asteroids hitting the earth. Angels protect the children from harm and make them smile.

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Angels always surround Muslims but being shy in nature, they leave the company of humans when exposed to nudity. Angels are there to make praise for the believers and seek forgiveness (istigfar) for them. In every hand span there are four angels to protect man.

O Roles of the Angels

- O **Jibril (Gabriel)** The chief of angels that took the revelation to all the prophets.
- O **Mikahil (Michael)** The angel of distribution of provisions.
- O **Israfil** The angel of preservation of the universe, also the angel who will blow the trumpet in the final hour.
- O **Malikul Mawt** The angel of Death.
- O **Ridhwan** The angel of Paradise.
- O **Malik** The angel of hellfire.
- O **Munkar & Nakir** Angels of the Grave: Will question everyone to their beliefs.
- O **Harut & Marut** Two angels sent to people of Babylon.
- O **Mamalat Ul-A'resh** The angels of the carriers of the throne.
- O **Kiraman Katibin** The scribes assigned to each human, one over each shoulder.

The angels are many, and their number is known only to Allah (swt).

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