

Fundamentals of Faith 4 - Belief in the Angels

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

The Angels are a matter of the unseen. They are created by Allaah and they worship Him. They have no attributes that qualify them to be gods or lords. Allaah created them from light, and He bestowed on them the bounty of obeying Him at all times. He gave them the power to carry and implement His orders, **“And those who are near Him (the angels) are not too proud to worship Him, nor are they weary (of His worship). They glorify His praises night and day, (and) they never slacken (to do so).”** [21:19-20]. They are so numerous that only Allaah can count their numbers. Anas (radiyallaahu anhu) said, while narrating the story of the Prophet’s (May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) ascension to heaven, that Al-Bait Al-Ma’amoor (the House in heaven that is always inhabited. It is, for the inhabitants of heaven, like the Kaa’bah for the people of earth) was raised for the Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) in heaven so he can see it. Each day, seventy thousand Angels pray in this House, and when they exit from it, they will never get back into it (this shows how numerous the angels are).[Saheeh al-Bukharee and Saheeh Muslim]

Belief In The Angels Has three Parts:

1. Belief in their existence.

Belief in what we were told of their names, such as Jibreel, and also belief in other angels whom we were not informed of their names.

2. Belief in what we were told of their attributes. The example to this is the description of Jibreel. The Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) told us that he saw Jibreel in the shape that Allaah created him, having six hundred wings and larger than the horizon. The angels may change their shapes, by the order of Allaah. They may take the shape of men. Allaah sent Jibreel to Maryam (Mary) and he came to her in the shape of a man. He was also sent to Prophet Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him), while he was sitting down with his companions, in the shape of a man, wearing very white clothes with very dark hair, a stranger to the companions, yet no evidence of travelling was apparent on him. He sat next to the Prophet and laid his knees next to the Prophet’s knees and put his hands on the Prophet’s thighs. He asked the Prophet about Islam, Eemaan, Ih’san (excellence in the religion) and the Last Hour and its signs. The Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) answered him. Then, Jibreel left. The Prophet (May the peace

Fundamentals of Faith 4 - Belief in the Angels

and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said to his companions, “This was Jibreel, He came to you to teach you your religion.” [Saheeh Muslim popularly known as the HADEETH of JIBREEL]

Also, Allaah sent the angels to Ibrahim (Abraham) and Loot in the shape of men.

3. Belief in the tasks that they perform, by the order of Allaah. They praise Allaah and worship him at all times without the slightest boredom or fatigue. Some angels may have special tasks to fulfil, a few have been mentioned below;

- Jibreel is the honourable angel, whom Allaah sends down with revelation to the Prophets and Messengers.
- Mikaeel is the angel who is controlling rain and vegetation by the order of Allaah.
- Israfeel is the angel who must blow in the Horn when the Hour (Last Day) has started and when it is time to resurrect the dead.
- An angel is the keeper and supervisor of Hell.
- The Angel of death captures the souls at death.
- There are angels who supervise foetuses in the wombs. When a foetus is four months old, Allaah sends down an angel and orders him to record the foetus's sustenance, maximum age, deeds and if miserable (destined to Hell) or happy (destined to Paradise).
- There are angels who record deeds of mankind. They have a record of everyone's deeds. There are two angels for each person, one to the right and the other to the left.
- There are other angels who question the dead when they are in their graves. Two angels come to all dead persons and ask each one of them about the Lord he worshipped, the religion he followed and the Messenger he obeyed.

Benefits of Believing In The Angels

1. Knowing Allaah's Might, Strength and Power. All the strength of creation is a sign of the Strength of the Creator.
2. Thanking Allaah because He takes care of mankind. He appointed angels to protect them, record their deeds and other beneficial tasks.
3. Loving the angels because they are true worshippers of Allaah.

Some misguided people reject that the angels exist in a physical form. They claim that the angels are the potential for good that creation possesses. This is a direct rejection to the Book of Allaah, the Sunnah of His Messenger (May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) and the Ijmaa' (consensus) of Muslims. Allaah said, what translated means: **“All the praises and thanks be to Allaah, the (Only) Originator of the heavens and the earth, Who made the Angels messengers with wings, two or three or four).”** [35:1], **“And if you could see when the angels take away the souls of those who disbelieve (at death), they smite their**

Fundamentals of Faith 4 - Belief in the Angels

faces and their backs.” [8:50], “And if you could but see when the unjust (disbelievers) are in the agonies of death, while the angels are stretching forth their hands (saying): “Deliver your souls.” [6:93], “Until when fear is banished from their (the angels’) hearts, they (the angels) say: “What is that your Lord has said?” They say: “The Truth. “And He is the Most High, the Most Great” [34:23] and, “And angels shall enter unto them from every gate (saying): ‘Peace be upon you for that you preserved in patience! Excellent indeed is the final Home (Paradise).” [13:23-24].

The Messenger of Allaah (May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said, what translated means, “When Allaah likes a slave, He calls on Jibreel, saying: ‘Allaah loves so and so (person), therefore, love him.’ Then, Jibreel loves him. Afterwards, Jibreel calls on the inhabitants of heaven, saying: ‘Allaah loves so and so (person), therefore, love him.’ Then, the people of heaven love him. Afterwards acceptance (among the community of believers) will be granted for him in earth.”¹ and, “When the day of Friday comes, there stand angels at each of the Masjid’s doors. They record the first then the next (one to come to the Masjid). When the Imaam sits down (waiting for the call to prayer to end so he can start the speech), they close the books and they come to listen to the Dhikr (the remembrance of Allaah contained in the Friday speech).”²

The above texts are clear in their meaning that the angels have physical forms and are not a state of the mind, as the misguided claim. The true meaning of these texts, which states that the angels exist in a physical form, is accepted by the entire Ummah.

¹ Saheeh al-Bukhaaree (3209) and Saheeh Muslim (2637)

² Saheeh al-Bukhaaree