

❧ THE KEY TO KNOWLEDGE ❧

How to Understand Islaam Correctly

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Dars 10- `Aqeedah—The Pillars of Eemaan: Belief in the Angels 19/02/2011

After praising Allaah and sending salaah and salaam upon His Messenger (sallallaahu `alayhi wa sallam) and those who followed him, our Shaykh and teacher, Muhammad Al-Malki welcomed the students to today's class and mentioned that we will deal with: **The second pillar of the pillars of eemaan and it is: Belief (Eemaan) in the Angels**

Our discussion today regarding the angels deals with: the identity, quality and some of the attributes and characteristics of the angels, as well as their duties and functions and also: how we believe in the angels, the names of those who have been given names from amongst them and we will complete that by discussing the fruits of believing in them.

THE ANGELS – ONE OF ALLAAH'S CREATION

As for the term "angels," in Arabic the word is ملائكة (*mala'ikah* – angels) and it is the plural of مَلَك (*malak* - angel); the word *malak* is derived from the word أَلَوَّك (*ulook*) which in Arabic means الرسالة (*ar-risaalah*) "the message."

The angels are of the creations of Allaah. They are not "daughters of Allaah" as the idol-worshippers from the Arabs called them; Allaah `Azza wa Jall has refuted this in many aayaat as He subhaanahu wa Ta`Aalaa said:

﴿ أَمْ لَهُ الْبَنَاتُ وَلَكُمْ الْبَنُونَ ﴾

Or has He (Allah) only daughters and you have sons? (At-Toor 52:39)

There is no doubt that this is a very clear mistake on the path of the kuffaar. The angels are a creation from amongst the creation that Allaah has created.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ANGELS

According to the `Ulamaa', the angels are Allaah's creatures who have luminous and soft bodies. They are created from light, and are capable of assuming many honorable shapes. They also possess outstanding power and exceptional ability to move from one place to another. Regarding the number of angels, only Allaah knows their number. Allaah ta`Alaa created them only to worship Him.

The proof that the kuffaar from the Arabs used to say that angels are the daughters of Allaah is:

﴿ وَجَعَلُوا الْمَلَائِكَةَ الَّذِينَ هُمْ عِبْدُ الرَّحْمَنِ إِنثًا أَشْهَدُوا خَلَقَهُمْ سَكَنَبُ شَهِدَتْهُمْ وَيَسْأَلُونَ ﴿١٩﴾ ﴾

And they have made the angels, who are servants of the Most Merciful, females. Did they witness their creation? Their testimony will be recorded, and they will be questioned. (Az-Zukhruf 43:19)

Allaah Ta`Aalaa also said:

﴿ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْآخِرَةِ لَيَسْمُونَ الْمَلَائِكَةَ تَسْمِيَةَ الْأُنثَىٰ ﴿٢٧﴾ ﴾

Verily, those who believe not in the Hereafter, name the angels with female names. (An-Najm 53:27)

However, the fact is that the angels are created from light and they are all one sex; there is no male and female amongst them, and they were created only for worshipping Allaah, as He `Azza wa Jall said,

﴿ وَمَنْ عِنْدَهُ لَا يَسْتَكْبِرُونَ عَنْ عِبَادَتِهِ وَلَا يَسْتَحْسِرُونَ ﴿١٩﴾ يُسَبِّحُونَ اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ لَا يَفْتُرُونَ ﴿٢٠﴾ ﴾

And those who are near Him (i.e. the angels) are not too proud to worship Him, nor are they weary (of His worship). They (i.e. the angels) glorify His Praises night and day, (and) they never slacken (to do so). (Al-Anbiyaa' 21:19-20)

And Allaah `Azza wa Jall said describing them:

﴿ فَإِنْ اسْتَكْبَرُوا فَالَّذِينَ عِنْدَ رَبِّكَ يُسَبِّحُونَ لَهُ بِاللَّيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ وَهُمْ لَا يَسْأَمُونَ ﴿٣٨﴾ ﴾

But if they are too proud (to do so), then there are those who are with your Lord (angels) glorify Him night and day, and never are they tired. (Fussilat 41:38)

These are from the characteristics of the angels (`alayhimus-Salaam).

THE DUTIES OF THE ANGELS

They have very magnificent duties as Allaah has mentioned in many ayaat. For example, He said,

﴿ يُنَزِّلُ الْمَلَائِكَةَ بِالرُّوحِ مِنْ أَمْرِهِ عَلَىٰ مَنْ يَشَاءُ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ أَنْ أَنْذِرُوا أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنَا فَاتَّقُونِ ﴿٢﴾ ﴾

He sends down the angels with inspiration* of His Command to whom of His slaves He pleases (saying): "Warn mankind that *Laa ilaaha illaa Ana* (none has the right to be worshipped but I), so fear Me (by abstaining from sins and evil deeds). (An-Nahl 16:2)

*Ar-Rooh (الروح) here means "the revelation" as ar-rooh is used for one of three things:

1. The one that all creation lives with i.e. **the soul** (النفس – an-nafs) as in the ayah:

﴿ وَيَسْأَلُونَكَ عَنِ الرُّوحِ قُلِ الرُّوحُ مِنْ أَمْرِ رَبِّي وَمَا أُوتِيتُمْ مِنَ الْعِلْمِ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا ﴿٨٥﴾ ﴾

And they ask you, [O Muhammad ﷺ], about the soul. Say, "The soul is of the affair of my Lord. And mankind have not been given of knowledge except a little." (Al-Israa' 17:85)

2. The **revelation** (الوحي – *al-wahy*), as in ayah 2 of Soorah An-Nahl.

﴿ يُنَزِّلُ الْمَلَائِكَةَ بِالرُّوحِ مِنْ أَمْرِهِ ﴾

He sends down the angels with inspiration... (An-Nahl 16:2)

3. The **Angel Jibreel**, as Allaah Ta`Aalaa said:

﴿ نَزَلَ بِهِ الرُّوحُ الْأَمِينُ ﴿١٩٣﴾ ﴾

Which the trustworthy *RooH* [Jibraa'eel (Gabriel)] has brought down. (Ash-Shu`araa 26:193)

And also the saying of Allaah Ta`Aalaa:

﴿ نَزَّلَ الْمَلَائِكَةُ وَالرُّوحُ فِيهَا بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ مِنْ كُلِّ أَمْرٍ ﴿٤﴾ ﴾

Therein descend the angels and the *RooH* [Jibraa'eel (Gabriel)] by Allaah's Permission with all Decrees. (Al-Qadr 97:4)

This is from their duties and we will discuss their duties some more later on as we shall be talking about the angels today and tomorrow inshaa Allaah.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ANGELS

The origin of the creation of the angels is from light, as comes in Saheeh Muslim from the hadeeth of the Mother of the Believers, `Aa'ishah radiyallaahu `anhaa who said that the Messenger of Allaah sallallaahu `alayhi wa sallam said:

خُلِقَتِ الْمَلَائِكَةُ مِنْ نُورٍ، وَخُلِقَ الْجَانُّ مِنْ مَارِجٍ مِنْ نَارٍ، وَخُلِقَ آدَمُ مِمَّا وُصِفَ لَكُمْ

*"The angels were created from light, the Jinn were created from the first flame of the fire, and Aadam was created from that which has been described to you (i.e. teen – clay)."*¹

The first description of them is that they are **harsh and severe** as Allaah Ta`Aalaa said:

﴿ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا قُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ وَأَهْلِيكُمْ نَارًا وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ وَالْحِجَارَةُ عَلَيْهَا مَلَائِكَةٌ غِلَظٌ شِدَادٌ لَا يَعْصُونَ

اللَّهَ مَا أَمَرَهُمْ وَيَفْعَلُونَ مَا يُؤْمَرُونَ ﴿٦﴾ ﴾

O you who have believed, protect yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is people and stones, over which are [appointed] angels, harsh and severe; they do not disobey Allaah in what He commands them but do what they are commanded. (At-Tahreem 66:6)

¹ Reported by Muslim, 5314

Allaah Ta`Aalaa said about the head of them, Jibreel (`alayhis-salaam):

عَلَّمَهُ شَدِيدُ الْقُوَى ﴿٥﴾

Taught to him by one intense in strength. (An-Najm 53:5)

So, Prophet Muhammad sallallaahu `alayhi wa sallam had this Qur'aan dictated to him by one who is **intense in strength** as comes in the ayah (above) and also when Allaah Ta`Aalaa described him saying:

ذِي قُوَّةٍ عِنْدَ ذِي الْعَرْشِ مَكِينٍ ﴿٢٠﴾ مُطَاعٍ ثَمَّ أَمِينٍ ﴿٢١﴾

Owner of power, and high rank with (Allah) the Lord of the Throne, obeyed (by the angels), trustworthy there (in the heavens). (At-Takweer 81:20-21)

The angels obey Jibreel `alayhis-salaam, and he is described as **trustworthy** over the revelation (as in the above ayah).

Allaah Ta`Aalaa told us that Muhammad sallallaahu `alayhi wa sallam saw him (Jibreel) in his original form when He `Azza wa Jall said:

وَلَقَدْ رَآهُ بِالْأُفُقِ الْمُبِينِ ﴿٢٣﴾

And indeed he (Muhammad (ﷺ)) saw him [Jibrael (Gabriel)] in the clear horizon (towards the east).
(At-Takweer 81:23)

Meaning that he sallallaahu `alayhi wa sallam saw him in his real form as reported in Saheeh Muslim where it is narrated that the Prophet sallallaahu `alayhi wa sallam said,

إِنَّمَا هُوَ جِبْرِيلُ، لَمْ أَرَهُ عَلَى صُورَتِهِ الَّتِي خُلِقَ عَلَيْهَا غَيْرَ هَاتَيْنِ الْمَرَّتَيْنِ، رَأَيْتُهُ مُنْهَبَطًا مِنَ السَّمَاءِ سَادًّا عِظَمُ خَلْقِهِ مَا بَيْنَ السَّمَاءِ إِلَى الْأَرْضِ

“That was Jibreel whom I have not seen in his natural form except on these two occasions. I saw him descending from the heavens with the magnitude of his physical appearance covering the distance (filling the space) between the heavens and the earth.”

It is also reported in the Musnad of Imaam Ahmad on the authority of `Abdullaah bin Mas`ood radiyallaahu `anhu that Ibn Mas`ood said: ***“The Messenger of Allaah sallallaahu `alayhi wa sallam saw Jibreel in his true (original, natural and angelic) form, and he had 600 wings. Each wing blocked the horizon. Many pearls, rubies, and other objects of different colors, the exact number of which is known to Allaah, were falling off the wings of Jibreel (`alayhis-salaam).”*** Al-Haafidh Ibn Katheer (rahimahullaah) said its chain is *jayyid* (good).

It is also reported by Imaam Aboo Daawood in his Sunan from Jaabir bin `Abdillaah (radiyallaahu `anhumaa) with a chain of narration which is authenticated by Al-Haythami in Majma` Az-Zawaa'id², that the Messenger sallallaahu `alayhi wa sallam said:

أذن لي أن أحدث عن ملكٍ من ملائكة الله من حملة العرش، إن ما بين شحمة أذنه إلى عاتقه

مسيرة سبعمائة عامٍ

"I have been given permission to speak about one of the angels of Allaah among the bearers of His Throne. The distance between his ear-lobes and his shoulders is equivalent to a 700-year walk."

Subhanallaah, how great a creation these are! Why did Allaah create them? Apart from worshiping and glorifying Him day and night there are other purposes for which they have been created; when you hear them, they will make you love them tremendously, have respect for them and send peace upon them. Try to always remember that they are with you and surrounding you.

These angels are not all the same in their creation; some have 2 pairs of wings, some 4, some 6 and some more as mentioned regarding Jibreel `alayhis-salaam. Allaah subhaanahu waTa`Aalaa said:

﴿ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ فَاطِرِ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ جَاعِلِ الْمَلَائِكَةِ رُسُلًا أُولِي أَجْنِحَةٍ مَّثْنَى وَثُلَاثَ وَرُبْعَ زَيْدٍ فِي الْخَلْقِ مَا يَشَاءُ ﴾

All the praises and thanks be to Allaah, the (only) Originator [or the (only) Creator] of the heavens and the earth, Who made the angels messengers with wings, - two or three or four*. He increases in creation what He wills... (Faatir 35:1)**

*This doesn't mean one wing on the left and one on the right. Rather, it means two, three or four pairs.

**Meaning, in the creation of the angels regarding their wings, as he created Jibreel (`alayhis-salaam) with six-hundred wings.

Jibreel (`alayhis-salaam) is the one who raised the town of Sadoom (Sodom) where the people of Loot (`alayhis-salaam) were living. Jibreel (`alayhis-salaam), with one wing, raised the whole town with everything in it, like if it was a piece of paper, to the heavens and then threw it back upside down. Subhanallaah!

﴿ ذُو مِرَّةٍ فَاسْتَوَى ﴾

Dhoo Mirrah (free from any defect in body and mind), Fastawaa [then he (Jibraa'eel - Gabriel) rose and became stable]. [Tafseer At-Tabari]. (An-Najm 53:6)

ذُو مِرَّةٍ – Dhoo Mirrah in the above ayah has been explained by Ibn `Abbaas (radiyallaahu `anhu) as one with an attractive outward appearance. Al-Qataadah said, (what means) "one with a handsome, tall shape." So Jibreel (`alayhis-salaam) is very **beautiful-looking**.

² مجمع الزوائد ومنبع الفوائد لعلي بن أبي بكر الهيثمي نور الدين

Also, Allaah described these angels with being **honorable and obedient** as Allaah Ta`Aalaa said:



In the hands of scribes (angels). Honorable and obedient. (`Abasa 80:15-16)

And He Ta`Aalaa also said:



And indeed, [appointed] over you are (angels appointed as) keepers, noble and recording (the deeds). (Al-Infitaar 82:10-11)

So, they **record our deeds**. These are some of their descriptions. We will continue tomorrow with the characteristics of the angels, may Allaah's Peace be upon them.

We now end by praising Allaah and sending salaah and salaam upon the Messenger of Allaah.

❧ END OF DARS TEN ❧

Q&A SESSION

There were several questions asked related to the topic of angels. Please listen to the audio to benefit from the enlightening answers to these important questions. Amongst the questions asked were:

- Will we see the angel of death in his original form?
- Can we call Jibreel "the rooh of Allaah"?
- Do the angels who guard Hell have names?
- You mentioned that all the angels are all one sex yet they have male names, why is that? Are they all male?
- May we take the names of angels?
- Is it permissible to name a child "Malak"?
- When you sit after prayer to do dhikr, a hadeeth says that angels ask Allaah for forgiveness for you, I understand the angels are very big so how are they in our house? How should I understand this?
- Why did Allaah call Jibreel "Rooh"?
- "Maalik" means "king" – what does that have to do with the angels?
- Can the names of angels be used – like Jibreel and Mikaa'eel?
- Is it allowed to call one's child "my angel" out of love?
- How can I convince a child of the idea of the presence of angels?
- What happens after the angels die?