

🔑 THE KEY TO KNOWLEDGE 🔑

How to Understand Islaam Correctly

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Dars 11- The Principles of `Aqeedah: Belief in the Angels 20/02/2011

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 the session which continued with the explanation of the second pillar of Eemaan: belief in the angels.

REVIEW

In the previous class, our Shaykh spoke about the definition of the word “malak” (ملك- angel) and that the angels are created out of light as in the hadeeth in Saheeh Muslim.¹ They can be in any honourable form. This change in their form is for a great wisdom. The ahaadeeth were mentioned in regards to the angels changing into the form of man for example the hadeeth where Jibreel (`alayhi-salaam) used to come to the Prophet (sallallaahu`alayhi wa sallam) in the image (form) of Dihyah ibn `Aamir al-Kalbi (radhiyallaahu `anhu) who was a great companion. This hadeeth was mentioned by `Aishah radhiyallaahu `anhaa and authenticated by Shaykh al-Albaanee as in Sunan An-Nasaa’i. Imaam at-Tabari reported in his book *Al-Kabeer* and in *Al-Awsat* on the authority of Anas ibn Maalik (Radhiyallaahu `anhu) that the Prophet (sallallaahu`alayhi wa sallam) said: ***“Jibreel used to come to me in the image of Dihyah Al-Kalbi.”*** Imaam Ahmad (rahimahullaah) reported the hadeeth in his *Musnad* on the authority of `Abdillaah Ibn `Umar (radhiyallaahu `anhumaa) with a chain of narration that is an authentic isnaad on the condition of Imaam Muslim as Shaykh Shuayb Al-Arnaoot mentioned. Also in the hadeeth narrated by Abu Hurayrah that the Messenger of Allaah (sallallaahu`alayhi wa sallam) said: ***“A man went to visit a brother of his in another town and Allaah deputed an angel to await him on his way, so when he came to him he said, “Where are you going?” He replied, “I am going to visit a brother of mine in this town.”***

He said, “Have you done him some favour which you desire to be returned?” He said, “No, it is just that I love for Allaah, the Mighty and Magnificent.” He said, “Then I am a messenger sent by Allaah to you (to inform you) that Allaah loves you as you have loved him for His sake.” (Saheeh Muslim).

¹ 'A'ishah reported that Allaah's Messenger (sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam) said: The angels were born out of light and the Jinns were born out of the spark of fire and Adam was born as he has been defined (in the Qur'an) for you (i. e. he is fashioned out of clay).[Saheeh Muslim #7134]

In regard to the question which was brought yesterday, “Can the person who is in the process of death (المختضر) see the angel of death, or the one who takes the souls?” Our Shaykh (hafithahullaah) stated that he did not find anything that proves that the person who is in the process of death can see the angel that is responsible for taking the soul out of the body, Wallaahu A`lam.

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ANGELS

The angels have certain characteristics that distinguish them from mankind and jinn. The angels only live in the heavens and they only descend down to the earth to do what they have been commanded to do then they return back. They are a creation which is pious (صالحون - saalihoon) and don't have any desires. They cannot disobey Allaah because they are created only upon obedience whereas mankind has a lot of pious people and most of the jinn are disobedient to their Lord.

From their characteristics, there are some that have the duty of protecting mankind and likewise they surround mankind alternately some come and surround mankind at night and in the dawn they go up to the heavens and other angels come to take their duty as in the hadeeth recorded in the two saheehs on the authority of Abu Hurayrah that the Messenger of Allaah (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) said:

قال يتعاقبون فيكم ملائكة بالليل وملائكة بالنهار ويجتمعون في صلاة العصر وصلاة الفجر ثم يعرج الذين باتوا فيكم فيسألهم وهو أعلم بهم كيف تركتم عبادي فيقولون تركناهم (وهم) يصلون وأتيناهم وهم يصلون

Angels take turns among you by night and by day, and they all assemble at the dawn and afternoon prayers. Those (of the angels) who spend the night among you, then, ascend, and their Lord asks them, though He is the best informed about them: How did you leave My servants? -they say: We left them while they were praying and we came to them while they were praying. [Saheeh Muslim #1320]

The angels do not disobey Allaah Ta`Aalaa in whatsoever He commands them. Allaah says:

﴿ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا قُوا أَنفُسَكُمْ وَأَهْلِيكُمْ نَارًا وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ وَالْحِجَارَةُ عَلَيْهَا مَلَائِكَةٌ غِلَظٌ شِدَادٌ لَا يَعْصُونَ اللَّهَ مَا أَمَرَهُمْ وَيَفْعَلُونَ مَا يُؤْمَرُونَ ﴾

O you who believe! Ward off from yourselves and your families against a Fire (Hell) whose fuel is men and stones, over which are (appointed) angels stern (and) severe, who disobey not, (from executing) the Commands they receive from Allâh, but do that which they are commanded. [At-Tahreem 66:6]

And they do not speak before Allaah:

﴿ لَا يَسْبِقُونَهُ بِالْقَوْلِ وَهُمْ بِأَمْرِهِ يَعْمَلُونَ ﴾

They speak not until He has spoken, and they act on His Command. [Al-Anbiyaa' 21:27]

They worship Allaah Ta`Aalaa day and night without any objection or losing interest in that. As Allaah Ta`Aalaa says:

﴿ وَلَهُ مَنْ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَنْ عِنْدَهُ لَا يَسْتَكْبِرُونَ عَنْ عِبَادَتِهِ وَلَا يَسْتَحْسِرُونَ ﴾

﴿ ۱۹ ﴾ يُسَبِّحُونَ اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ لَا يَفْتُرُونَ ﴿

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

BELIEF IN THE ANGELS IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE

Believing in the angels is a pillar of this religion as Allaah Ta`Aalaa says in Soorah Al-Baqarah:

﴿ ءَامَنَ الرَّسُولُ بِمَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ رَبِّهِ وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ كُلُّ ءَامَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَمَلَائِكَتِهِ وَكُتُبِهِ وَرُسُلِهِ لَا

نُفَرِّقُ بَيْنَ أَحَدٍ مِنْ رُسُلِهِ وَقَالُوا سَمِعْنَا وَأَطَعْنَا غُفْرَانَكَ رَبَّنَا وَإِلَيْكَ الْمَصِيرُ ﴿

The Messenger (Muhammad Sallallaahu`alayhi wa sallam) believes in what has been sent down to him from his Lord, and (so do) the believers. Each one believes in Allaah, His Angels, His Books, and His Messengers. They say, "We make no distinction between one another of His Messengers" - and they say, "We hear, and we obey. (We seek) Your Forgiveness, our Lord, and to You is the return (of all)." [Al-Baqarah 2:285]

The one who does not believe in the angels is a kaafir that is why Allaah has said:

﴿ لَيْسَ الْبِرَّ أَنْ تُولُوا وُجُوهَكُمْ قِبَلَ الْمَشْرِقِ وَالْمَغْرِبِ وَلَكِنَّ الْبِرَّ مَنْ ءَامَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ

وَالْمَلَائِكَةِ وَالْكِتَابِ وَالنَّبِيِّنَ وَءَاتَى الْمَالَ عَلَى حُبِّهِ ذَوِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَالْيَتَامَىٰ

وَالْمَسْكِينِ وَابْنَ السَّبِيلِ وَالسَّائِلِينَ وَفِي الرِّقَابِ وَأَقَامَ الصَّلَاةَ وَءَاتَى الزَّكَاةَ

وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ بِعَهْدِهِمْ إِذَا عَاهَدُوا وَالصَّابِرِينَ فِي الْبَأْسَاءِ وَالضَّرَّاءِ وَحِينَ الْبَأْسِ أُولَئِكَ
الَّذِينَ صَدَقُوا وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُتَّقُونَ ﴿١٧٧﴾

It is not Al-Birr (piety, righteousness, and each and every act of obedience to Allaah, etc.) that you turn your faces towards east and (or) west (in prayers); but Al-Birr is (the quality of) the one who believes in Allaah, the Last Day, the Angels, the Book, the Prophets and gives his wealth, in spite of love for it, to the kinsfolk, to the orphans, and to Al-Masaakin (the poor), and to the wayfarer, and to those who ask, and to set slaves free, performs As-Salaat (Iqaamat-as-Salaat), and gives the Zakaat, and who fulfill their covenant when they make it, and who are As-Saabirin (the patient ones, etc.) in extreme poverty and ailment (disease) and at the time of fighting (during the battles). Such are the people of the truth and they are Al-Muttaqoon.

[Al-Baqarah 2:177]

Righteousness here means “belief” (eemaan). So it is obligatory to believe in the angels as the one who does not believe in them is a kaafir. Allaah says:

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا ءَامِنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ ءَ وَالْكِتَابِ الَّذِي نَزَّلَ عَلَى رَسُولِهِ ءَ
وَالْكِتَابِ الَّذِي أَنْزَلَ مِنْ قَبْلُ ءَ وَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِاللَّهِ وَمَلَائِكَتِهِ وَكُتُبِهِ وَرُسُلِهِ ءَ وَالْيَوْمِ
الْآخِرِ فَقَدْ ضَلَّ ضَلَالًا بَعِيدًا ﴿١٣٦﴾

O you who believe! Believe in Allaah, and His Messenger (Muhammad – sallallaahu `alayhi wa sallam), and the Book (the Qur'aan) which He has sent down to His Messenger, and the Scripture which He sent down to those before (him), and whosoever disbelieves in Allaah, His Angels, His Books, His Messengers, and the Last Day, then indeed he has strayed far away. [An-Nisaa' 4:136]

And likewise it came in the authentic hadeeth - the well-known hadeeth recorded in Saheeh Muslim when Jibreel (`alayhi wa sallam) came to the Rasool (sallallaahu `alayhi wa sallam) in the form of a man and asked him About Islaam and then asked him about eemaan. He (sallallaahu `alayhi wa sallam) said, *“Eemaan is to believe in Allaah, His Angels, His Books, His Messengers, the Last Day and to believe in the Divine Decree - the good of it and the evil of it.”*²

² Part of along Hadeeth recorded in Saheeh Muslim.

BELIEF IN THE ANGELS AND THEIR DUTIES

First we must admit –believe and utter, the existence of the angels the way Allaah Ta`Aalaa described them to us in the Qur'aan and as the Rasool (sallallaahu `alayhi wa sallam) described them to us in the authentic Sunnah. Second, we have to believe in the duties that Allaah Ta`Aalaa gave them. For example Jibreel is the head of the angels and the one from amongst them who has the most magnificent creation. He was responsible for the revelation, descending with it to the prophets and messengers. We have to believe in the duty of Mika`eel who is responsible for the rain and in Israfeel who is responsible for blowing into the Horn. We believe that he has the horn ready at his mouth waiting for the command from Allaah Subhaanahu wa Ta`Aalaa to blow into the Horn the first time and also the second time. We believe in the one who is responsible for taking the souls out of the body as Allaah says in Sooratus-Sajdah:

﴿ قُلْ يَتُوقَّكُمْ مَلَكُ الْمَوْتِ الَّذِي وُكِّلَ بِكُمْ تُعْرَىٰ إِلَىٰ رَبِّكُمْ تَرْجِعُونَ ﴾

Say: "The angel of death, who is set over you, will take your souls, Then you shall be brought to your Lord." [As-Sajdah 32:11]

There is an angel who is responsible for the mountains and the angel who is responsible for writing in the womb (ar-rahim) as in the hadeeth recorded in the two saheehs on the authority of Anas (Radhiyallaahu `anhu) that the Prophet (sallallaahu `alayhi wa salaam) said:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَكُلَّ بِالرَّحْمِ مَلَكًا فَيَقُولُ يَا رَبُّ نَظْفَةٌ يَا رَبُّ عَلَقَةٌ يَا رَبُّ مِضْغَةٌ فَاذَا أَرَادَ اللَّهُ أَنْ يَقْضِيَ خَلْقَهَا قَالَ يَا رَبُّ أذكر أم أنثى شقياً أم سعيداً فما الرزق فما الأجل فيكتب كذلك في بطن أمه

"At every womb Allah appoints an angel who says, 'O Lord! A drop of semen, O Lord! A clot. O Lord! A little lump of flesh.'" Then if Allah wishes (to complete) its creation, the angel asks, (O Lord!) Will it be a male or female, a wretched or a blessed, and how much will his provision be? And what will his age be?' So all that is written while the child is still in the mother's womb." [Al-Bukhaaree and Muslim]

There are those who carry the Throne as mentioned in Soorah Ghaafir:

﴿ الَّذِينَ يَحْمِلُونَ الْعَرْشَ وَمَنْ حَوْلَهُ يُسَبِّحُونَ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّهِمْ وَيُؤْمِنُونَ بِهِ وَيَسْتَغْفِرُونَ لِلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا رَبَّنَا وَسِعْتَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ رَّحْمَةً وَعِلْمًا فَاغْفِرْ لِلَّذِينَ تَابُوا وَاتَّبَعُوا سَبِيلَكَ وَقِهِمْ عَذَابَ الْجَحِيمِ ﴾

Those (angels) who bear the Throne (of Allaah) and those around it glorify the praises of their Lord, and believe in Him, and ask forgiveness for those who believe (in the Oneness of Allaah) (saying): "Our Lord! You comprehend all things in mercy and knowledge, so forgive those who repent and follow Your way, and save them from the torment of the blazing Fire! [Ghaafir 40:7]

They are eight as Allaah says:

﴿ وَالْمَلَكُ عَلَى أَرْجَائِهَا وَيَحْمِلُ عَرْشَ رَبِّكَ فَوْقَهُمْ يَوْمَئِذٍ ثَمَنِيَّةٌ ﴾

And the angels will be on its sides, and eight angels will, that Day, bear the Throne of your Lord above them. [Al-Haaqqah 69:17]

There are some who will guard the heavens as mentioned in Soorah Az-Zumar:

﴿ وَسِيقَ الَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا رَبَّهُمْ إِلَى الْجَنَّةِ زُمَرًا حَتَّىٰ إِذَا جَاءُوهَا وَفُتِحَتْ أَبْوَابُهَا وَقَالَ لَهُمْ خَزَنَتُهَا سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ طِبْتُمْ فَادْخُلُوهَا خَالِدِينَ ﴾

And those who kept their duty to their Lord (Al-Muttaqoon) will be led to Paradise in groups till when they reach it, and its gates will be opened (before their arrival for their reception) and its keepers will say: Salaamun 'Alaikum (peace be upon you)! You have done well, so enter here to abide therein forever." [Az-Zumar 39:73]

And the likes of the guards of the Hellfire as Allaah Ta`Aalaa says in Soorah Ghaafir:

﴿ وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ فِي النَّارِ لِخَزَنَةِ جَهَنَّمَ ادْعُوا رَبَّكُمْ يُخَفِّفْ عَنَّا يَوْمًا مِّنَ الْعَذَابِ ﴾

And those in the Fire will say to the keepers (angels) of Hell: "Call upon your Lord to lighten for us the torment for a day!" [Ghaafir 40:49]

And in part of the long hadeeth recorded in the two Saheehs on the authority of Anas ibn Maalik, from Maalik ibn Sa'sa'ah; it mentions that there is a house in the heavens called al-Bayt al-Ma'moor and when the Prophet (salallaahu`alayhi wa sallam) saw it, he asked Jibreel:

فَقُلْتُ : يَا جِبْرِيلُ مَا هَذَا ؟ قَالَ : هَذَا الْبَيْتُ الْمَعْمُورُ يَدْخُلُهُ كُلَّ يَوْمٍ سَبْعُونَ أَلْفَ مَلَكٍ حَتَّىٰ إِذَا خَرَجُوا مِنْهُ لَمْ يَعُودُوا فِيهِ آخَرَ مَا عَلَيْهِمْ

O Jibreel what is this? He replied: It is the bayt-ul-Ma'muur. Seventy thousand angels enter into it daily and, after they come out, they never return again. [Al-Bukhaaree and Muslim]

There are those angels who go around the earth searching for those who remember Allaah (and the highest rank of remembrance is seeking knowledge) as in the hadeeth narrated by Abu Hurayrah and recorded in Al-Bukhaaree and Muslim that the Prophet (salallaahu`alayhi wa salam) said:

أَنَّ مَلَائِكَةً يَطُوفُونَ فِي الطَّرِيقِ يَلْتَمِسُونَ أَهْلَ الذِّكْرِ فَإِذَا وَجَدُوا قَوْمًا يَذْكُرُونَ اللَّهَ تَعَالَى تَنَادَوْا هَلُمُّوا إِلَيَّ حَاجَتِكُمْ قَالَ فَيَحْفُونَهُمْ بِأَجْنِحَتِهِمْ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ الدُّنْيَا

“Allaah, be He be blessed and exalted, has angels who travel the highways seeking out the people of dhikr. When they find people remembering Allaah, the Mighty and Majestic, they call out to one another, "Come to what you hunger for!" and they enfold them with their wings, stretching up to the lowest heaven”³

There are those who are responsible for writing the deeds –one called **Raqeeb** and the other called **Ateed** as Allaah Ta`Aalaa says:

﴿ إِذْ يَنْقَلِبُ الْمُتَلَقِينَ عَنِ الْيَمِينِ وَعَنِ الشِّمَالِ قَعِيدٌ ﴿١٧﴾ مَا يَلْفِظُ مِنْ قَوْلٍ إِلَّا لَدَيْهِ رَقِيبٌ عَتِيدٌ ﴾

(Remember) that the two receivers (recording angels) receive (each human being), one sitting on the right and one on the left (to note his or her actions). [17] Not a word does he (or she) utter but there is a watcher by him ready (to record it). [Qaaf 50:17-18]

Mujaahid said in his tafseer that the angel to his right will write only the good deeds and the one to his left will only write the bad deeds.

There are angels who are responsible for questioning everyone in the graves as in hadeeth of Anas ibn Maalik which is reported in Bukhaaree and Muslim that the Prophet (salallaahu`alayhi wa sallam) said:

« الْعَبْدُ إِذَا وُضِعَ فِي قَبْرِهِ، وَتَوَلَّى وَذَهَبَ أَصْحَابُهُ حَتَّى إِنَّهُ لَيَسْمَعُ قَرْعَ نِعَالِهِمْ، أَتَاهُ مَلَكَانِ فَأَقْعَدَاهُ فَيَقُولُ: أَنْ لَهْ مَا كُنْتَ تَقُولُ فِي هَذَا الرَّجُلِ مُحَمَّدٍ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ - فَيَقُولُ: أَشْهَدُ أَنَّهُ عَبْدُ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولُهُ. فَيَقَالُ انظُرْ إِلَى مَقْعَدِكَ مِنَ النَّارِ، أَبَدَلَكِ اللَّهُ بِهِ مَقْعَدًا مِنَ الْجَنَّةِ - قَالَ: النَّبِيُّ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ - فَيَرَاهُمَا جَمِيعًا -

“When the servant is placed in his grave and his companions retrace their steps he hears the noise of the footsteps, then two angels come to him and make him sit and say to him: ‘What you have to say about this person (the Prophet)?’ If he is a believer, he would say: ‘I bear testimony to the fact that he is a servant of Allaah and His Messenger.’ Then it would be said to him: ‘Look to your seat in the Hell-Fire, for Allaah has substituted (the seat of yours) with a seat in Paradise.’” Allaah's Messenger (sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam) said, “he would be shown both (the seats)..”

³ Part of a longer hadeeth, the wording is from Saheeh Al-Bukhaaree #6408

CONCLUSION

These are the angels of Allaah, no one knows their number except Allaah and no one knows how they are created except Allaah. No one has seen them except he whom Allaah Ta`Aalaa permitted like the prophets. They are surrounding us and protecting us and they record our deeds and sayings. They love the sittings of goodness and remembrance and they hate the people of evil and destruction. They seek forgiveness of their Lord for the believers. They lower their wings as a greeting and welcoming the student of knowledge because of what he seeks. They are witnesses either for us or against us. They are from the most blessed creation of Allaah because they don't disobey their Lord. They do not get busy with anything other than the remembrance of Allaah and glorifying Allaah as they don't have males and females of them to get them involved in anything other than the glorification of Allaah. They are given the ability to do remembrance exactly in the way that we are given the ability to breathe. They are the closest of the creation to Allaah and believing in them and loving them is obligatory while sending peace upon them is worship to Allaah.

It is from the benefits and fruits of believing in them that we come to recognize the sublimity of the Almighty and that He is perfect in power and authority. And from the fruits and benefits is that we come to appreciate the kindness and care of our Lord Allaah Ta`Aalaa that He has assigned for us these angels to take care of us and write our deeds and seek forgiveness for the believers. We love them for the continuous worship that they do for our Lord because we love every single creation that worships our Lord Allaah Subhaanahu wa Ta`Aalaa.

This was only a drop of rain of what we can speak about this great creation, the angels. Wallaahu Ta`Aalaa A`lam. And salaam and salaams be upon our Prophet Muhammad and his companions, Aameen.

❧ END OF DARS ELEVEN ❧