




IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE MOST GRACIOUS, THE MOST MERCIFUL

WHO ARE THE PEOPLE WHO WILL RECEIVE THE DU'A OF THE ANGELS

INTRODUCTION

Belief in angels is one of the articles of faith. Anyone who does not believe in angels are no longer a believer.

“The Messenger (Muhammad ) believes in what has been sent down to him from his Lord, and (so do) the believers. Each one believes in Allah, His Angels, His Books, and His Messengers....” 2:285

“It is not *Al-Birr* (piety, righteousness, and each and every act of obedience to Allah, 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 Allah, the Last Day, the Angels, the Book, the Prophets....” 2: 177

Allah The Glorified and Exalted decreed, which can be translated as, “*They say: ‘The Most Compassionate Lord has taken to Himself a son.’ Glory be to Him! Those whom they so designate are only His honoured servants. They do not outstrip Him in speech and only act as He commands. He knows whatever is before them and whatsoever is remote from them and they do not intercede except for him, intercession on whose behalf pleases Him, and they stand constantly in awe of Him.*” (Qs. Al Anbiyaa’ /The Prophets: 26-28)

OF WHAT ARE THEY CREATED?

They are created from light, as ‘Aishah (may Allah be pleased with her) reported: "The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) 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.’" [Muslim].

THEIR GREAT SIZE

Allah says concerning the angels of Hell:

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"O you who believe! Save yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is men and stones, over which are (appointed) angels stern and severe, who flinch not (from executing) the commands they receive from Allah, but do (precisely) what they are commanded." [66:6]

The greatest of all the angels is Jibreel, upon whom be peace, who was described in the following report:

"From 'Abdullah ibn Mas'ood (may Allah be pleased with him) who said: the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) saw Jibreel in his true form. He had six hundred wings, each of which covered the horizon. There fell from his wings jewels, pearls and rubies, only Allah knows about them." It was reported by Ahmad in al-Musnad, and Ibn Katheer said in al-Bidayah that its isnad (chain of narrators) is jayyid (good).

The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, describing Jibreel:

"I saw Jibreel descending from heaven, and his great size filled the space between heaven and earth." [Muslim].

Among the greatest angels are those who carry the Throne (of Allah), who were described in the following report:

"From Jabir ibn 'Abdullah (may Allah be pleased with him) from the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), who said: 'I have been given permission to speak about one of the angels of Allah who carry the Throne. The distance between his ear-lobes and his shoulders is equivalent to a seven-hundred-year journey.'" [Abu Dawood].

THEY HAVE WINGS

Allah says (interpretation of the meaning):

"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." [35:1]

THEIR BEAUTY

Allah said, describing Jibreel, upon whom be peace (interpretation of the meaning):

"He [the Prophet] has been taught by one Mighty in Power, Dhoo Mirrah (free from any defect in body and mind), then he rose and became stable." [53:5-6]

Ibn 'Abbas said: "Dhoo Mirrah means that he has a beautiful appearance."

Qutadah said: "He is tall and beautiful."

The idea that angels are beautiful is firmly established in all people's minds, so much so that they liken a beautiful human to an angel, as the women said about Yoosuf:

". . . When they [the women] saw him, they did extol him and (in their

STEPS2ALLAH

amazement) cut their hands: they said: 'Allah preserve us! No mortal is this! This is none other than a noble angel!'" [12:31]

THEIR DIFFERENCE IN SIZE AND STATUS

The angels are not all of one size or status; there are differences between them just as there are differences in virtue. The best of them are those that were present at the battle of Badr, as is stated in the hadeeth narrated by Mu'adh ibn Rifa'ah al-Zuraqi from his father, who had been one of the people present at Badr. He said: "Jibreel came to the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon Him) and asked, 'How do you rate the people among you who were present at Badr?' He said: 'They are the best of the Muslims,' or something similar. [Jibreel] said: 'So it is with the angels who were present at Badr.'" [al-Bukhaari].

THEY DO NOT EAT OR DRINK

This is indicated by the conversation between Ibrahim, the "friend" of Allah, and the angels who visited him. Allah says (interpretation of the meaning): "Then he turned quickly to his household, brought out a fatted calf, and placed it before them. He 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." [51:26-28]

Elsewhere, Allah says (interpretation of the meaning):

"But when he [Ibrahim] saw their hands went not towards the (meal), he felt some mistrust of them, and conceived a fear of them. They said: 'Fear not: we have been sent against the people of Lut.'" [11:70]

THEY DO NOT GET TIRED OR BORED OF REMEMBERING ALLAH

Allah says (interpretation of the meaning):

"They celebrate His praises night and day, nor do they ever slacken." [21:20]

". . . For in the presence of your Lord are those who celebrate His praises by night and by day. And they never become tired (nor feel themselves above it)." [41:38]

THEIR NUMBER

The angels are many, and their number is known only to Allah. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, describing the Much-Frequented House (al-Bayt al-M'amoor) in the seventh heaven:

"Then I was taken up to the Much-Frequented House: every day seventy thousand angels visit it and leave, never returning to it again, another [group] coming after them." [al-Bukhaari].

'Abdullah (may Allah be pleased with him) said: "The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: 'Hell will be brought forth

that day by means of seventy thousand ropes, each of which will be pulled by seventy thousand angels." [Muslim].

Examples of angels who make du'a for believers

When the angels asked Allah if is He going to answer the du'a of prophet Yunus (AS) in the belly of the whale, when he (AS) made du'a to Allah (21:87)

These are the people who the angels are praying for:

1. Those who sleep in a state of purity. Imam Ibn Hibban narrated from Abdullah Ibn 'Umar -may Allah be pleased with him- , who said that The messenger of Allah -peace and prayer of Allah be upon him- said, *"Whoever sleeps while he's in purity state, the angel will accompany him in his garment. He will not wake up until the angel pray, 'O Allah, forgive your slave so and so since he is sleeping in purity state.'"* (Classed sahih by Sheikh Al Albani in his work "Shahih At Targhib wat Tarhib", I/37)

2. Those who are sitting, waiting for the prayer. Imam Muslim narrated from Abu Huraira -may Allah be pleased with him, that the Messenger of Allah - peace and prayer of Allah be upon him- said, *"If one of you sits waiting for the prayer, he is in a state of prayer so long as he does not commit Hadath, and the Angels pray for him, saying: 'O Allâh, forgive him; O Allâh, have mercy on him.'"* (See: "Sahih Muslim", no. 469)

3. Men who pray in the front rows in congregational prayer. Imam Abu Dawud (and Ibn Khuzaima) narrated from Barra' Ibn 'Azib -may Allah be pleased with him-, that the Messenger of Allah said, *"Indeed, Allah and His angels pray for those who fill the front rows."* (Classed sahih by Al Albani in his work "Shahih Sunan Abi Dawud" I/130)

4. Men who continue to fill the row (do not let any space left between men in a row). The Imams, that is Imam Ahmad, Ibn Maja, Ibn Khuzaima, Ibn Hibban, and Al Hakim narrated from 'Aisha -may Allah be pleased with her, that the Messenger of Allah -peace and prayer of Allah be upon him- said, *"Indeed Allah and His angels always pray for those who continuing the row."* (Classed sahih by Sheikh Al Albani in his work, "Shahih At Targhib wat Tarhib" I/272)

5. The angels say "Amin" when an Imam finished reciting chapter Al Fatihah. Imam Bukhari narrated from Abu Huraira -may Allah be pleased with him- said, *"If an Imam said, 'ghairil maghdhuubi 'alaihim waladh dhaalinn', then*

say 'amin', for if a person's saying 'amin' coincides with that of the angels, his previous sins will be forgiven." (Shahih Bukhari no. 782)

6. Men who stays in his prayer place after praying. Imam Ahmad narrated from Abu Huraira -may Allah be pleased with him said that the Messenger of Allah said, "*The Angels send Salât upon any one of you so long as he remains in the place where he prayed, saying: 'O Allâh, have mercy on him; O Allâh, forgive him; O Allâh, accept his repentance.'* So long as he does not offend anyone or commit *Hadath.*" (Al Musnad no. 8106, and Sheikh Ahmad Shakir classed it sahih).

7. Men who perform the Fajr and Ashar prayer in congregation. Imam Ahmad narrated from Abu Huraira -may Allah be pleased with him-, that the Messenger of Allah -peace and prayer of Allah be upon him- said, "The angels gather in the time of Fajr prayer, afterwards the angels (who accompany the slaves) at the night time (who has performed their duties from night time until dawn) ascend (to the sky), and the angels ordered to perform duty during the day stay. Later they'll gather once again at the time of Ashr prayer, and the angels ordered to perform duty during the day (until the Time of Ashr prayer) ascend (to the sky) while angels ordered to perform duty during the night time stay. Then Allah will ask them, "In what state did you leave my slave?", they reply, "We came while they were praying, and we left them while they were praying, so please forgive them in the Hereafter." (Al Musnad no. 9140; classed sahih by Sheikh Ahmad Shakir)

8. Those who pray for their brothers without being known by them. It is narrated by Imam Muslim, from Ummud Darda' -may Allah be pleased with her-, that the Messenger of Allah -peace and prayer of Allah be upon him- said, "*A Muslim's prayer for his brother in his absence will be answered. At his head there is an angel who is appointed, and when he prays for good for his brother, the angel who is appointed says: 'amin', and you will have something similar.*" (Sahih Muslim no. 2733)

9. Those who spend their wealth in charity. Imam Bukhari and Imam Muslim narrated from Abu Huraira -may Allah be pleased with him- that the Messenger of Allah -peace and prayer of Allah be upon him- said, "*There is no day on which people wake up, but two Angels come down and one of them says: O Allâh, give more to the one who spends, and the other says: O Allâh, send destruction upon the one who withholds.*" (Shahih Bukhari in hadith no. 1442 and Shahih Muslim no. 1010)

10. Those who take Sahur (eating and drinking before dawn for someone intend to fast at that day, -transl.). Imam Ibn Hibban and Imam Ath Thabrani both narrated from Abdullah Ibn Umar -may Allah be pleased with him-, that the Messenger of Allah said, "*Indeed, Allah and His angels pray for those who take*

sahur." (classed sahih by Al Albani in his work 'Shahih At Targhiib wat Tarhiib' I/519)

11. Those who visit the sick. Imam Ahmad narrated from 'Ali Ibn Abi Thalib - may Allah be pleased with him-, that the Messenger of Allah -peace and prayer of Allah be upon him said, "A believer doesn't visit his sick brother, but Allah will send to him 70.000 angels who' ll pray for him anytime during the day, until afternoon, and anytime during the night, until dawn." (Al Musnad no. 754, Sheikh Ahmad Shakir commented, "The status is sahih.")

12. Those who teach goodness to others. Imam At Tirmidhi narrated from Abu Umamah Al Bahily, -may Allah be pleased with him, that the Messenger of Allah -peace and prayer of Allah be upon him- said, "Indeed Allâh, His Angels, the inhabitants of the heavens and the earths – even the ant in his hole, even the fish – say Salat upon the one who teaches the people to do good." (classed sahih by Sheikh Al Albani, in his work "Sahuh At Tirmidhi" II/343)

WHAT KIND OF DU'A WOULD THE ANGELS BE MAKING FOR US?

Those (angels) who bear the Throne (of Allah) 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 Allah) (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!

"Our Lord! And make them enter the '*Adn* (Eden) Paradise (everlasting Gardens) which you have promised them, and to the righteous among their fathers, their wives, and their offspring! Verily, You are the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.

"And save them from (the punishment, because of what they did of) the sins, and whomsoever You save from (the punishment, because of what they did of) the sins (i.e. excuse them) that Day, him verily, You have taken into mercy." And that is the supreme success.

40: 7-9