

**The second one:** «*Eemaan* in the Angels» '*Malaa.ika*' (angels) is the plural of *malak* (angel). Its origin in the language is *mal.ake* (ملاك), so it was then made easier to pronounce and was said as '*malak*.' The angels are beings created by Allaah in the world of the *ghayb* (hidden and unseen). Allaah created them to worship Him, and to carry out His commands, He the Perfect and Most High, within His dominion. They are different types; every type has a duty which it is entrusted with and which it carries out. They do not disobey Allaah regarding that which He commands them, and they do whatever they are commanded. So, from them, there are those who are entrusted with the revelation, and he is Jibreel *`alaibissalaam*. He is the noblest one from the angels; he is *ar-Roohul-Ameen* (the Trustworthy Spirit) and he is described as *Shadeedul-Quvaa* (the Mighty in Strength). And from them, are those entrusted with bearing the Throne:

﴿ الَّذِينَ يَحْمِلُونَ الْعَرْشَ وَمَنْ حَوْلَهُ ﴾ غافر: ٧

«Those who bear the Throne and those who are around it.» [40:3]

The Most High said,

﴿ وَالْمَلَكُ عَلَىٰ أَرْجَائِهَا وَيَحْمِلُ عَرْشَ رَبِّكَ فَوْقَهُمْ يَوْمَئِذٍ ثَمَنِيَّةٌ ﴾ الحاقة: ١٧

«And the angels will be at its edges, and eight angels, will, on that Day, bear the Throne of your Lord.» [69:17]

The Throne is the most tremendous of the created things, and no one knows its greatness except for Allaah, the Mighty and Majestic. It will be carried by the angels - and this is a proof of the tremendous signs of the angels, their great strength and their nature. He, the Most High said:

﴿ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ فَاطِرِ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ جَاعِلِ الْمَلَائِكَةِ رُسُلًا أُولَىٰ أَجْنِحَةٍ مَّثْنَىٰ وَثَلَاثَ وَرُبْعًا يَزِيدُ فِي الْخَلْقِ مَا يَشَاءُ ﴾ فاطر: ١

«All praise is for Allaah, the Creator and Originator of the heavens and the earth, the One who made His angel messengers with wings, - two, three, and four. He increases in creation whatever He wishes.» [35:1]

So, from them are those who have six hundred wings, such as Jibreel *`alaibissalaatumwasalaam*. No one knows their tremendous signs except for Allaah, the Perfect and Most High:

﴿ بَلْ عِبَادٌ مُّكْرَمُونَ ﴾ ﴿٣٦﴾ لَا يَسْفِقُونَهُ، بِأَقْوَابٍ وَهُمْ بِأَمْرِهِ يَعْمَلُونَ ﴿٣٧﴾ الأنبياء

الآيتان: ٢٦-٢٧

«Rather, they are honoured servants. They do not proceed Him in speaking, and they act upon His commands.» [21:26-27]

From them are those who are entrusted with the rain-drops and the plants, and he is Mikaeel. And from them are those who are entrusted with blowing the horn, and he is Israafeel. He will blow the horn and everything will perish. He, the Most High said:

﴿ وَنُفِخَ فِي الصُّورِ فَصَعِقَ مَنْ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَمَنْ فِي الْأَرْضِ إِلَّا مَنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ ﴾

«And the horn will be blown, and whoever is in the heavens and whoever is upon the earth, will swoon (drop down dead) except whomever Allaah wishes.» [39:68]

Then it will be blown for a second time, and the souls will return to their bodies:

﴿ نُفِخَ فِيهِ أُخْرَىٰ فَإِذَا هُمْ قِيَامٌ يَنْظُرُونَ ﴾

«Then it will be blown again and they will be standing, looking on» [39:68]

The souls will fly from the *Qarn*, which is the horn, back to their bodies, and they will enter into them and they will come to life by the Permission of Allaah, then they will proceed to the gathering place.

And from them are those who are entrusted with taking of the souls at the end of their lifespans, and he is *Malak al-Mawt* (the Angel of Death). He, the Most High, said:

﴿ قُلْ يَتُوبُ إِلَيْكُمْ مَلَكُ الْمَوْتِ الَّذِي وُكِّلَ بِكُمْ تُعْرَىٰ إِلَىٰ رَبِّكُمْ تُرْجَعُونَ ﴾

«Say: The angel of death, who has been entrusted with you, will take your souls, then you will be returned to your Lord.» [32:11]

And he has with him assistance from the angels:

﴿ تَوَقَّتْهُ رُسُلُنَا وَهُمْ لَا يُفْرِطُونَ ﴾

«Our Messengers (from the angels) take his soul, and they do not neglect their duty.» [6:61]

Meaning: they are the helpers for the angel of death.

And from them are those who are entrusted with the foetuses in the wombs. The Messenger of Allaah *sallallaahu `alaibimasallam* said:

«إن أحدكم يجمع خلقه في بطن أمه أربعين يوماً نطفة ، ثم يكون علقة مثل ذلك ، ثم يكون مضغة مثل ذلك ، ثم يرسل إليه الملك»

«The creation of each one of you is brought together in the abdomen of his mother for forty days as a sperm drop, then he will be a clinging clot of blood for the like of that, then he will be a piece of flesh for the like of that, then the angel is sent to him.»<sup>58</sup>

And from them are those who are entrusted with recording the deeds of the descendents of Aadam. He, the Most High said:

﴿ وَإِنَّ عَلَيْكُمْ لَحَافِظِينَ ۙ كِرَامًا كُنِينًا ۙ ﴾ [82:10-11]

«And there are watchers over you and there are honourable scribes writing down your deeds.» [82:10-11]

They stay with you throughout the night and the day.

He *sallallaahu`alaibihwasallam* said:

«يتعاقبون فيكم ملائكة بالليل ، وملائكة بالنهار»

«The angels of the night and the day come to you in succession.»<sup>59</sup>

And they gather together at the *Fajr* and *`Ayr* prayer. They bear witness for those people who pray with Allaah, the Perfect and Most High. Therefore, He, the Most High said:

﴿ وَقُرْءَانَ الْفَجْرِ ۚ إِنَّ قُرْءَانَ الْفَجْرِ كَانَ مَشْهُودًا ۙ ﴾ [17:78]

«And the recitation of the Qur`aan in the *Fajr* prayer is witnessed.» [17:78]

Meaning: The angels attend it, the angels of the night and the angels of the day. And from them are those who are entrusted with guarding the descendents of Aadam from disagreeable things; they guard them from calamities, from enemies, creatures; the wild animals, serpents or snakes, for as long as he lives, he has angels guarding him from dangerous things.

He may sleep between wild animals and snakes in open desert, (so) who repels the snakes, the wild animals and creatures from him? He has angels whom Allaah, He the Most High, has placed in their service. Allaah said with regard to them:

<sup>58</sup> Reported by al-Bukhaaree no. 3208 and Muslim no. 2643 from a *hadeeth* of `Abdullaah ibn Mas`ood, *radiyallaahu`anh*.

<sup>59</sup> Reported by al-Bukhaaree no. 555 and Muslim no. 632 from a *hadeeth* of Aboo Hurayrah *radiyallaahu`anh*.

﴿لَهُ مُعَقِّبَاتٌ مِّنْ بَيْنِ يَدَيْهِ وَمِنْ خَلْفِهِ يَحْفَظُونَهُ مِنْ أَمْرِ اللَّهِ﴾

«There are angels guarding him in succession, from in front of him and from behind him by the Command of Allaah.» [30:11]

Meaning: by the Command of Allaah, they guard the children of Aadam from disagreeable things and from dangers, until his lifespan draws to a close. So, when his lifespan comes to an end, they leave him. And that which Allaah has decreed to occur will occur, be it death or being stopped by something which leads to death.

And from them are angels who are entrusted with carrying out the commands in different areas of the heavens and the earth. No one knows them except for Allaah, the Perfect and Most High.

From them are angels who seek out the gatherings of remembrance of Allaah and they attend them, just as Allaah's Messenger *sallallaahu`alaibivasallam* said:

«ما اجتمع قوم في بيت من بيوت الله ، يتلون كتاب الله ، ويتدارسونه بينهم ، إلا نزلت عليهم السكينة ، وغشيتهم الرحمة ، وحفتهم الملائكة»

«No people gather in a house from the houses of Allaah, reciting the Book of Allaah and studying it amongst them, except that (*as-sakeenah*) tranquility descends upon them, and mercy covers them, and the angels encircle them with their wings.»<sup>60</sup>

There are angels who travel about upon the earth, seeking out the circles of the remembrance of Allaah and attending them.<sup>61</sup>

No one knows about the angels, their types and characteristics except for Allaah. However, as for what occurs in the texts of the Qur`aan and the authentic *ahaadeeth* of the Prophet *sallallaahu`alaibivasallam*, we affirm it, and we believe it as our creed; and whatever has not been mentioned to us, then we withhold from it, and we do not delve into it, because this is from *ilmul-ghayb* (the knowledge of the hidden and the unseen) which we do not enter into, except with a proof.

So, having *eemaan* in the angels is a pillar from the pillars of Islaam. Whoever denies the angels and says: "There are no angels (in existence) because we do not see them," then this person will be a disbeliever, an apostate and heretic, and Allaah's refuge is sought. This is because he does not have *eemaan* in the *ghayb*. Likewise, the person who interprets the angels away and says: "The angels are just abstract things and not bodily beings; they are just thoughts or promptings which occur to a person. If they are good promptings, then they are angels, and if they are evil promptings, then they are devils," this is a saying involving apostasy, and Allaah's refuge is sought.

Unfortunately, this is found in *Tafseerul-Manaar*, it was quoted by Muhammad Rasheed Ridaa from his *Shaykh* Muhammad `Abdah.

<sup>60</sup> Reported by Muslim no. 2699 from a *hadeeth* of Aboo Hurayrah *radhiyallaahu`anh*.

<sup>61</sup> [Reported by al-Bukhaaree no. 6408 from a *hadeeth* of Aboo Hurayrah *radhiyallaahu`anh*.]

This is speech of the philosophers and it is *baatil* (false and futile). Whoever truly holds this as his creed and belief, he is a disbeliever. However, we hope that he was just quoting it, and he did not believe it, however, he quoted it without criticism, and that is dangerous. This is false and futile speech, and it is disbelief in the angels. We ask Allaah for safety and security.

So a person should not enter with his own intellect and thinking into this, nor should he quote anything from the philosophers and heretics with regard to **anything** from the affairs of the religion and the matters of *ilmul-ghayb*. Rather, he should rely upon the Book and the *Sunnah*. This is what is obligatory. And he mentions in *Tafseerul-Manaar* that he was quoting from the book *Ihya Uloom ad-Deen* of al-Ghazaalee, and Allaah knows best. And the book *Ihya Uloom ad-Deen* of al-Ghazaalee contains terrible and calamitous things, and it contains some things from good and benefits, however, it contains a great deal of matters which can cause destruction, and it contains a great deal of poison. It is a book which is mixed up, its evil is more than its good. So therefore, it is not befitting that the beginner or the common person should look into it, unless he has the knowledge and ability to distinguish between the truth and falsehood.

And the angels are not abstract things as is said, rather, the angels have bodies and forms, they can take on different forms which Allaah gives them the ability to take on. Therefore, Jibreel *alaibis-salaam* came to the Prophet *sallallaahu`alaibivasallam* in the form of a man. So, Allaah gives them the ability to take forms for the benefit of the descendents of Aadam, because the descendents of Aadam are not able to see the angels in the form upon which Allaah created them. So, he came to the Prophet *sallallaahu`alaibivasallam* in the form of a man out of kindness to the sons of Aadam. And they are not seen in their true forms and realities, except at the time of punishment. He, the Most High said:

﴿ يَوْمَ يَرَوْنَ الْمَلَائِكَةَ لَا بُشْرَىٰ يَوْمَئِذٍ لِلْمُجْرِمِينَ وَيَقُولُونَ حَجْرًا مَّحْجُورًا ﴾ (22)

«On the Day when they will see the angels, there will be no glad tidings on that Day for the criminals.» [25:22]

At death, the person will see them, he will see the angels of death, however, in this world and once he is alive, he does not see them because he is not able to see them. Allaah created them from light and He created the devils from Fire, just as occurs in the *Qur`aan*, and He created Aadam from earth, so Allaah has full ability over everything.

And the disbelievers believed that the angels are the daughters of Allaah. He the Most High said:

﴿ وَجَعَلُوا الْمَلَائِكَةَ الَّذِينَ هُمْ عِبَادُ الرَّحْمَنِ إِنثًا أَشْهَدُوا خَلْقَهُمْ سَتُكُنَبُ لَهُمْ شُهُودٌ لَهُمْ ﴾

﴿ وَسُئِلُوا ﴾ (19)

**«And they made the angels, who are servants of the Most Merciful, females. Did they witness their creation? Their testimony will be written and they will be questioned about it.» [43:19]**