

## Lesson 10: MALAIKAH: THE ANGELS

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The angels were created by Allah سبحانه وتعالى as His servants. They are invisible creatures made of divine light (*Nur*). We cannot see them unless by Allah’s سبحانه وتعالى permission, but they can see us.

They are created to carry out the commands of Allah سبحانه وتعالى. They do not possess the ability to choose right from wrong like we do. They have been created solely to obey Allah سبحانه وتعالى. Therefore, they are always good.

They serve Allah سبحانه وتعالى in many different ways. Some of them carry Allah’s messages for the guidance of the mankind. Others record our deeds. And still others carry out Allah’s command and regulate natural occurrences, such as rainfall. They encourage and help the believers when they are in difficulty or danger. There are special angels who guard the Heaven and Hell.

They have no free will of their own. They have no personal desires and no feelings of hunger. There is no male or female among them. Their knowledge is limited to what Allah سبحانه وتعالى has given them.

Some of the angels are assigned special tasks. Some of them are created to glorify Allah سبحانه وتعالى. Some of the angels go around the ‘*Arsh*, the seat of Divine manifestation, and continuously praise Allah سبحانه وتعالى. There are angels who are in charge of *Jannah* and they welcome the believers as they enter *Jannah*. There are other angels who are responsible for *Jahannum*, and they wait for the disbelievers to arrive. They ask them: “Why did you not believe when the message of Allah سبحانه وتعالى had come to you and many prophets gave to warnings of this coming day?”

Whenever we hear the name of an angel, we must say ‘*Alai-hi (a) s-Salam*, which means, “may peace be upon him”.

The chief of the angels is Jibril (Gabriel) عليه السلام who was responsible for bringing the message of Allah سبحانه وتعالى to the prophets. He brought Allah’s سبحانه وتعالى, final message of the Qur’an to Rasulullah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ. He is described in the Qur’an as “very strong” (*Shadid al-Quwa*), “trustworthy” (*Al-Amin*) and “generous

messenger (*Rasulun Kareem*). Rasulullah ﷺ saw him on various occasions. **One** time, he appeared in human form, and several *Sahaba* saw him.

Angel Izra'il عليه السلام is responsible for carrying out the order for death. He approaches people, informing them that their time in this world is over, and then he extricates their soul. Angel Israfil عليه السلام will blow the trumpet (*Sur*) before the day of Judgement. Its sound will be so fierce and loud that it will shatter and destroy everything. Then, he shall blow the trumpet the second time to recreate everything, thus marking the commencement of the Day of Judgement. Angel Mika'il (Michael) عليه السلام is responsible for the rainfall and supply of provisions.

Two angels, *Kiraman katibin*, are assigned to each individual to record their actions on a scroll. One records the good deeds, and the other records the bad deeds. On the Day of Judgement, their record will be presented before Allah سبحانه وتعالى. Those who believed and did good deeds will go to *Jannah*, and those who did not believe and did evil deeds will be condemned to *Jahannum*.

Two angels, Munkir and Nakir, will visit the dead in the grave soon after the burial. They will ask three questions:

1. Who is your lord?
2. Who is your messenger?
3. What is your religion?

The believers will answer these questions easily and receive the good news of meeting their lord on the Day of Judgement. The non-believers will be confused and will not know the answers.