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EEMAAN MADE EASY – PART 2

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KNOWING THE ANGELS

SECOND EDITION

مُحَمَّد ٱلجِبَالي

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مَنْشُورَاتُ ٱلْكِتَابِ وَٱلسُّنَّة

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PREFACE

Opening Sermon

إِنَّ ٱلْحَمْدَ للهِ، نَحْمَدُهُ ونَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ،
وَنَعُوذُ بِاللهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا.
مَنْ يَهْدِهِ ٱللهُ فَلاَ مُضِلَّ لَهُ، وَمَنْ يُضْلِلْ فَلاَ هَادِيَ لَهُ.

Al-hamdu lillaah. Indeed, all praise is due to Allaah. We praise Him and seek His help and forgiveness. We seek refuge with Allaah from our souls' evils and our wrong doings. He whom Allaah guides, no one can misguide; and he whom He misguides, no one can guide.

وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لاَ إِلَـهَ إِلاَّ ٱللهُ، وَحْدَهُ لاَ شَرِيكَ لَهُ.
وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّداً عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.

I bear witness that there is no (true) god except Allaah — alone without any partners. And I bear witness that Muhammad (ﷺ) is His *'abd* (servant) and messenger. [1]

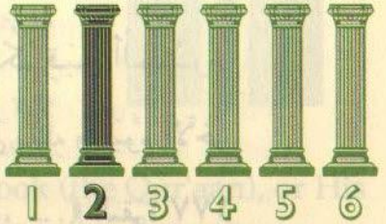
﴿يَا أَيُّهَا ٱلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا ٱتَّقُوا ٱللهَ حَقَّ تُقَاتِهِ،

1 The above two paragraphs, together with the following three portions of Qur'aan, are called *Khutbat ul-Haajah* (the Sermon of Need). Allaah's Messenger (ﷺ) often started his speeches with this sermon, and he was keen to teach it to his companions. The *hadeeth*s in this regard are recorded by Muslim, Aboo Daawood, an-Nasaa'ee, and others, and are narrated by Ibn Mas'ood, Ibn 'Abbaas, and others (رضي الله عنهم). A full discussion of the various reports of this sermon is provided by al-Albaanee in his booklet, "*Khutbat ul-Haajah*", published by al-Maktab ul-Islaamee, Beirut.

CHAPTER 1

THE SECOND PILLAR

The Six Pillars of Faith



In the first book of this series (Knowing Allaah), we discussed the Six Pillars of Faith. They were mentioned in the *hadeeth* of Jibreel (عليه السلام) — when he came to the Prophet (ﷺ) and asked him about Islaam, *Eemaan*, *Ihsaan*, and the Last Hour. The Six Pillars are:

1. Belief in Allaah
2. **Belief in the angels**
3. Belief in the books
4. Belief in the messengers
5. Belief in the Last Day
6. Belief in the *qadar*.

We must believe in all of these pillars. Allaah (سبحانه وتعالى) mentions the first four of them in the following *aayah*:

﴿ءَامَنَ ٱلرَّسُولُ بِمَآ أُنزِلَ إِلَيْهِ مِن رَّبِّهِۦ وَٱلْمُؤْمِنُونَ ۚ كُلٌّ ءَامَنَ بِٱللَّهِ وَمَلَٰٓئِكَتِهِۦ وَكُتُبِهِۦ وَرُسُلِهِۦ﴾ البقرة ٢٨٥

«The Messenger (Muhammad) believes in what was sent down to him from his Lord, and so do the believers. They all believe in Allaah, His angels, His books, and His messengers.» [1]

Allaah (ﷻ) also mentions five of them in the following:

﴿لَيْسَ ٱلْبِرَّ أَن تُوَلُّوا۟ وُجُوهَكُمْ قِبَلَ ٱلْمَشْرِقِ وَٱلْمَغْرِبِ، وَلَٰكِنَّ ٱلْبِرَّ مَنْ ءَامَنَ بِٱللَّهِ وَٱلْيَوْمِ ٱلْآخِرِ وَٱلْمَلَٰٓئِكَةِ وَٱلْكِتَٰبِ وَٱلنَّبِيِّۦنَ، ...﴾ البقرة ١٧٧

«Righteousness does not (only) mean that you turn your faces toward east or west (in the prayer); righteousness is believing in Allaah, the Last Day, the angels, the books (of Allaah), and the prophets, ...» [2]

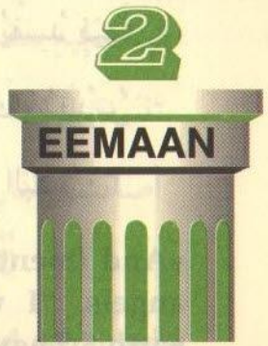
Anyone who does not believe in every single one of these pillars is not a true believer. Allaah (ﷻ) says:

﴿وَمَن يَكْفُرْ بِٱللَّهِ وَمَلَٰٓئِكَتِهِۦ وَكُتُبِهِۦ وَرُسُلِهِۦ وَٱلْيَوْمِ ٱلْآخِرِ فَقَدْ ضَلَّ ضَلَٰلًۢا بَعِيدًا ۝﴾ النساء ١٣٦

«Anyone who does not believe in Allaah, His angels, His books, His messengers, or the Last

1 *Soorat al-Baqarah* 2:285.
2 *Soorat al-Baqarah* 2:177.

Day, is surely greatly misguided.» [1]



Knowing the Angels

A true believer must believe in all of Allaah's angels. Believing in the angels is the second pillar of belief. This is our subject of study in this book.

The angels are beings that we cannot see. We only know about them as much as Allaah told us in His Book (the Qur'aan), or His Messenger Muhammad (ﷺ) told us in his Sunnah.

We should learn some of the angels' qualities, the jobs that Allaah (ﷻ) gave to them, and how they perform their jobs. By learning about the angels, we can answer many important questions. We can also learn what we should do to deserve the help and friendship of the angels.

When Were the Angels Created?

We do not know exactly when the angels were created. All we know is that Allaah (ﷻ) created them before humans. When Allaah (ﷻ) wanted to create humans and place them on earth, He told the angels about this, and they had a serious concer. Allaah (ﷻ) says:

1 *Soorat an-Nisaa'* 4:136.

Questions and Exercises



1. In the following table, check all true statements (19 points):

	Statement	✓
a	There are five pillars of faith.	
b	We do not have to believe in all of the pillars of faith.	
c	Belief in the angels is one of the pillars of faith.	
d	We can see the angels with binoculars.	
e	We know about the angels from the Qur'aan, the *hadeeth*s, and comics books.	
f	The angels were created before the people.	
g	The angels are better than people in this life.	
h	The angels serve the people of *Jannah*.	
i	We know the names of most angels.	
j	We can make up names for angels.	
k	The angels initially thought that it was not a good idea to create Aadam.	
l	The angels never die.	

	Statement	✓
m	A large number of angels comes down to earth on *Laylat ul-Qadr*.	
n	The angels count pebbles during *Laylat ul-Qadr*.	
o	Iblees was an angel.	
p	Iblees refused to make *sujood* to Aadam.	
q	Iblees was obedient to Allaah.	
r	It is disliked to be named after angels.	
s	The angels say *salaam* to the people of *Jannah*.	

2. Mention two benefits of learning about the angels (2 points):

1
2

3. Who besides Allaah knows the number of angels? (Put a ✓ next to the right answer; 2 points)

	The prophets		The believers
	The angels		No one

«(The angels say:) "Each one of us surely has a known place. And we surely are the ones who line up (for prayer before Allaah). And we surely are the ones who glorify Allaah."» [1]

The best of angels are those who fought with the Muslims in the battle of Badr. Raafi' Bin Khadeej (ﷺ) reported that the Prophet (ﷺ) said:

«أتاني جبريلُ، فقال: "ما تَعُدُّونَ من شهدَ بدراً فيكم؟" قلت: "خِيارَنا." قال: "كذلك هم عِندَنا خِيارُ الْملائكةِ."»

‹Jibreel came to me and said, "How do you recognize the Muslims who fought in the battle of Badr?" I replied, "They are the best among us." He said, "We too recognize the angels who fought in it as the best."› [2]

"Physical" Qualities of the Angels



Since the angels are part of *ghayb* that is beyond our physical world, they are not like anything we see around us. We have to keep this in mind when we discuss some of their qualities below. For example, we are told that they have wings, but this does not mean that their wings are similar to the wings of birds,

1 *Soorat as-Saaffaat* 37:164-166.
2 This *hadeeth* is recorded by al-Bukhaaree and Ibn Maajah.

bees, or airplanes.

They Were Created from Light

Allaah (ﷻ) created the angels from light. This is an example of how different they are from us and from other things that we know. 'Aa'ishah (ﷺ) reported that the Prophet (ﷺ) said:

«خُلِقت الْملائكةُ من نور، وخُلق الجانُّ من مارجٍ من نار، وخُلق آدمُ مِمّا وُصِفَ لكم.»

‹The angels were created from light, the *jinn*s were created from dark flames of fire, and Aadam was created from that which has been described to you (in the Qur'aan).› [1]

Therefore, unlike the angels, Allaah (ﷻ) created the *jinn*s from the smoke of fire. Some of the *jinn*s are good, others are bad. We mentioned earlier [2] that Shaytaan (Satan) is one of the *jinn*s. In this life, we can neither see the angels nor the *jinn*s.

They Have Wings

The angels have wings. Some angels have two wings, some three, some four, and some many more. Allaah (ﷻ) says:

1 Recorded by Muslim and others.
2 In Chapter 1.

7. Mention ten things the angels do that reflect their love for the believers (10 points):

1	6
2	7
3	8
4	9
5	10

8. Mention three things the angels do that show their love for the Prophet (ﷺ) (3 points):

1	3
2	

9. Mention three things that the angels do to the *kuffaar* and other wrongdoers (3 points):

1	3
2	

10. Explain how the angels coduct all affairs (3 points):

CHAPTER 4

ANGELS THAT WE KNOW

In this chapter, we introduce specific angels that have been mentioned in the Qur'aan or Sunnah, and we highlight some important things that we know about them.

Jibreel

The most important angel is Jibreel (عليه السلام). He is respected and obeyed by all other angels. Allaah (سبحانه وتعالى) says about him:

﴿إِنَّهُ لَقَوْلُ رَسُولٍ كَرِيمٍ ۝ ذِي قُوَّةٍ، عِندَ ذِي ٱلعَرْشِ مَكِينٍ ۝ مُطَاعٍ ثَمَّ أَمِينٍ ۝﴾ التكوير ١٩-٢١

«This (Qur'aan) is surely a Word brought by a noble Messenger (Jibreel). He is powerful, and has a high position with the Lord of the Throne (Allaah). He is obeyed (in the heavens) and is trustworthy.» [1]

NAMES OF JIBREEL

The English word for Jibreel is Gabriel. Jibreel is mentioned

1 *Soorat at-Takweer* 81:19-21.

Meekaa'eel

Meekaa'eel is one of the nearest angels to Allaah. Some of the scholars believe that his jobs include bringing rain, plants, and food to the creation (all by Allaah's permission). We must love him and all the angels, as Allaah (ﷻ) says:

﴿مَن كَانَ عَدُوًّا لِّلَّهِ وَمَلَٰٓئِكَتِهِۦ وَرُسُلِهِۦ وَجِبْرِيلَ وَمِيكَىٰلَ فَإِنَّ ٱللَّهَ عَدُوٌّ لِّلْكَٰفِرِينَ ۝﴾ البقرة ٩٨

«Whoever is an enemy of Allaah, His angels, His messengers, Jibreel, and Meekaal: surely, Allaah is an enemy to the disbelievers.» [1]

Meekaa'eel stopped smiling when Allaah (ﷻ) created Hell. The Prophet (ﷺ) said:

«قلتُ لِجبريل: "مالي لم أرَ ميكائيل ضاحكاً قطُّ؟"

قال: "ما ضحِكَ ميكائيلُ منذُ خُلِقتِ النارُ." »

‹I asked Jibreel, "Why have I never seen Meekaa'eel smile?" Jibreel replied, "Meekaa'eel never smiled since the Fire was created."› [2]

1 *Soorat al-Baqarah* 2:98.

2 Verified to be *hasan* (good) by al-Albaanee (*as-Saheehah* no. 2511).

Israafeel and the Horn Blower

Israafeel (عليه السلام) is not mentioned in the Qur'aan, but is mentioned in the following *du'aa'* that the Prophet (ﷺ) sometimes said when he started his night prayers:

«اللهُمَّ ربَّ جِبريلَ وميكائيلَ وإسرافيلَ، فاطِرَ السَّماواتِ والأرضِ، عالمَ الغَيبِ والشَّهادةِ، أنتَ تحكُم بينَ عِبادِكَ فيما كانوا فيه يختلِفُونَ، اهْدِني لِما اختُلِفَ فيه منَ الحقِّ بإذْنِكَ، إنَّكَ تَهْدِي مَنْ تَشَاءُ إلى صِراطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ»

***‹Allaahumma rabba jibreela wa-meekaa'eela wa-israafeel, faatir as-samaawaati wal-ard, 'aalim al-ghaybi wash-shahaadah, anta tahkumu bayna 'ibaadika feemaa kaanoo feehi yakhtalifoon. Ihdinee li-ma-khtulifa feehi min al-haqqi bi-ithnika, innaka tahdee man tashaa'u ilaa siraatin mustaqeem* —**

Oh Allaah! You are the Lord of Jibreel, Meekaa'eel, and Israafeel. You are the Creator of the heavens and earth. You know all about what we cannot see and what we can see. You judge among Your servants when they disagree. So guide me, by Your permission, to the truth when the people differ. You truly guide whom You will to the Straight Path.› [1]

1 Recorded by Muslim from 'Aa'ishah (رضي الله عنها).