



NEW MUSLIM
ACADEMY

THE Angels OF God

We have previously studied the story of Satan and his armies of devils. We find Satan mentioned throughout the Quran and particularly in the story of Adam. In that story, God also makes mention of the angels. The angels also feature in many places in the Quran. Belief in God's angels is one of the six pillars of faith in Islam.

Let us take a brief look at the angels...



ORIGIN

The angels were created from light. We do not know exactly when they were created, but like Satan they existed before the creation of Adam. Angels do not disobey God by their very nature as opposed to devils who are rebellious and prone to disobedience. God says, “angels who never disobey God’s commands to them, but do as they are ordered.” 66:6



REALITY

In Islam, we do not believe that angels are hologram images, illusions or imaginary beings of good nature. Angels are not fat cherubic babies as portrayed in some drawings and illustrations. They are not divine and have no God like abilities. Therefore angels are not to be worshipped.



BEFORE THE CREATION OF ADAM

In the second chapter of the Quran, God informs us that before the creation of Adam, He told the angels that He would be bringing forth a new creation. God says, “When your Lord told the angels, ‘I am putting a successor on earth,’” 2:30. The angels objected not understanding God’s wisdom behind a creation that would not always obey God as the angels do. The angels said as God relays in the Quran, “How can You put someone there who will cause damage and bloodshed, when we celebrate Your praise and proclaim Your holiness?” 2:30

The angels acknowledged that they did not have God’s wisdom or knowledge, “They said, ‘You are far above imperfections! We have knowledge only of what You have taught us. You are the All Knowing and All Wise.’” 2:32 God then commanded the angels to bow down before Adam out of respect.



THE NUMBER OF ANGELS

Only God knows the exact number of angels. However, we do know that they exist in huge numbers. The Messenger Muhammad informed us that there is a sacred house of worship in the heavens above the temple of God built by Abraham in Mecca. Every day, a new group of seventy thousand angels enter into this house to worship God, never returning to it again. Furthermore he mentioned that there is not the space of a hand span in the heavens except that there is an angel standing in worship or bowing in worship.

The Messenger Muhammad speaking of the vast number of angels said that on the Day of Judgement the Fire of Hell will be brought forth with seventy thousand chains, each chain will be pulled by seventy thousand angels.



APPEARANCE

Angels have been described to us as being beautiful and endowed with strength. God says, “It was taught to him by an angel with mighty powers and great strength.” 53:5-6 The angels have wings as God describes them, “Praise be to God, Creator of the heavens and earth, who made angels messengers with two, three, four wings. He adds to creation as He wills: God has power over everything.” 35:1 The Messenger Muhammad described the angel Gabriel as having six hundred wings and a size which filled the horizon.



ABILITIES

God has endowed the angels with certain abilities. They have the ability to take human form. God mentions in the story of the birth of Jesus that the archangel Gabriel came to Mary in the form of a man, “We sent a special Spirit to appear before her in the form of a perfected man.” 19:17 Angels also appeared in human form to Abraham and Lot as well as to the Messenger Muhammad.

May God’s protection be with you