

## FRIDAY KHUTBA OF TOKYO CAMII

September 4, 2009

# TO BELIEVE IN THE ANGELS

### Dear Mumins!

The angels are mentioned in the Qur'ân as the second element of the fundamental faith just after the belief in Allah. They are invisible, graceful (latif), spiritual, and shining beings, which cannot be perceived by humanly senses. They neither eat nor drink nor sleep, and they have no gender as does mankind. Therefore, they do not have feelings of sexual desire. Notably, they do not commit any fault or sin.

The angels fulfill Allah's orders perfectly and without any objection.<sup>1</sup> It is possible to investigate angels under three main categories from the perspective of the duties they perform:

**a.** Those who are responsible for constantly praising (hamd), exalting (tasbih-tanzih), and remembering (zikr) Allah (s.w.t.). **"And you will see the angels surrounding the Throne (of Allah) from all around, glorifying the praises of their Lord (Allah)."**<sup>2</sup> **"Those (angels) who bear the Throne (of Allah), and those around it, glorify the praises of their Lord, and believe in Him..."**<sup>3</sup>

**b.** Those who are charged with maintaining the order of the universe and with applying Allah's will and divine laws. These angels perform their duties meticulously to maintain these laws (adatullah-sunnatullah) and a perfect balance of the universe.

**c.** Finally, those who are charged directly with all of the material and spiritual needs of the people:

**1. Jibrael (a.s.):** Is the angel that conveys the divine message unto the Prophet. It is referred to Jibrael (a.s.) in the Qur'ân with names like rûh, rûhu'l-quds, Jibrael and rasûl karîm.<sup>4</sup>

**2. Mikael (a.s.):** Is charged with the administration of the powers of nature. It is also responsible for management of rizq (sustenance) for the creatures. Enmity to Mikael (a.s.) is equal to enmity to Allah (s.w.t.).<sup>5</sup>

**3. Israfeel (a.s.):** Is charged with blowing twice into something called "sûr," which indicates that doomsday is just about to commence. Upon this

first blowing, everything on the Earth will die (except those whom Allah (s.w.t.) willed); by the second blowing, everyone is going to rise up and look around.<sup>6</sup>

**4. Azrael (a.s.):** Is also named "malakûtu'l-mawt." Azrael (a.s.) is the angel of death and is referred in the Qur'ân as such. **"Say: The angel of death, who is set over you, will take your souls. Then you shall be brought to your Lord."**<sup>7</sup>

**5. Kiraman katibin (كراما كاتبين):** These angels are also called by the name of "hafaza angels" or "Raqîb" and "Atîd." They record the deeds done by people. The one at the right side writes about good and friendly behaviors while the angel on the left side writes about the evil and unfriendly deeds.

**6.** Angels that have concern for some actions of the people: These angels pray for the believers, descend onto the Earth while the Qur'ân is recited, attend 'ilm and zikr gatherings, and wander and listen around. They say "âmin" after reciting sûratu'l-fâtiha at the prayer as well.<sup>8</sup>

**7. Munkar and Nakir:** These angels are charged with interrogating the people at the grave after death. According to the answers they receive to the questions they ask, they will either treat the dead well or poorly.<sup>9</sup>

**8. "Hazanatu jannah and jahannam":** They are responsible for rendering the works in paradise and in hell. There are indeed many of these angels, and their real number is known only to Allah. As there are some who serve for mumins<sup>10</sup>—Ridwân is their head—there are also some who torment the unbelievers in hell.<sup>11</sup> The name of their head in hell is Mâlik.

To deny believing in the angels represents the denial of one of the pivotal pillars of Islam; it is the same as departing from the religion. Be our witness, O Allah, that we have believed in your angels.



<sup>1</sup> An-Nahl, 50.

<sup>2</sup> Az-Zumar, 75.

<sup>3</sup> Ghâfir, 7.

<sup>4</sup> Maryam, 17; Al-Al-Baqarah, 87; Al-Mâidah, 110; At-Takwîr, 19; Al-Al-Baqarah, 97-98.

<sup>5</sup> Al-Baqarah, 98.

<sup>6</sup> Az-Zumar, 68.

<sup>7</sup> As-Sajdah, 11.

<sup>8</sup> Ghâfir, 7; Al-Ahzâb, 43; Al-Anfâl, 12; Bukhâri, Azan, 111, 112; Muslim, Salat, 18.

<sup>9</sup> Tirmidhî, Janâiz, 70.

<sup>10</sup> Ar-Ra'd, 23-24.

<sup>11</sup> Az-Zukhruf, 77; At-Tahrîm, 6.