

THE CHORES OF THE ANGELS

One of the routine functions of the angels is that, they keep on reciting *salat* and *salam* upon the Messenger of Allah (*sallAllahu 'alayhi wa sallam*). Allah ordains in the Quran:

﴿إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا﴾
الأحزاب: ٥٦

(Translation of meaning) [“Lo! Allah and His angels shower blessings on the Prophet. O ye who believe! Ask blessings on him and salute him with a worthy salutation” (Al- Ahzab: 56)].

The Messenger of Allah (*sallAllahu 'alayhi wa sallam*) said:

«إِنَّ لِلَّهِ مَلَائِكَةً سَيَّاحِينَ فِي الْأَرْضِ، يُبَلِّغُونِي مِنْ أُمَّتِي السَّلَامَ» (أحمد)

(Translation of meaning) There are some angels of Allah who, keep on roaming through the earth and who convey the *salats* of my followers to me (Ahmad). Likewise, such angels pray for mercy for those who keep on praying for mercy for the Prophet (*sallAllahu 'alayhi wa sallam*). According to a tradition the Messenger of Allah (*sallAllahu 'alayhi wa sallam*) preached that

«أَكْثَرُوا الصَّلَاةَ عَلَيَّ يَوْمَ الْجُمُعَةِ؛ فَإِنَّهُ مَشْهُودٌ، تَشْهَدُهُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ، وَإِنْ أَحَدًا لَنْ يُصَلِّيَ عَلَيَّ، إِلَّا عُرِضَتْ عَلَيَّ صَلَاتُهُ، حَتَّى يَفْرُغَ مِنْهَا» (ابن ماجه).

(Translation of meaning) On Fridays you should send your *salats* and *salams* to me abundantly because the angels remain present on this day and keep on conveying your blessings to me continuously (Ibn Majah). Another function of the angels is that they keep on praying for the believers and seeking forgiveness for them. Allah has proclaimed:

﴿الَّذِينَ يَحْمِلُونَ الْعَرْشَ وَمَنْ حَوْلَهُ يُسَبِّحُونَ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّهِمْ وَيُؤْمِنُونَ بِهِءِ وَسْتَغْفِرُونَ لِلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا رَبَّنَا وَسِعْتَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ رَحْمَةً وَعِلْمًا فَاغْفِرْ لِلَّذِينَ تَابُوا وَاتَّبَعُوا سَبِيلَكَ وَقِهِمْ عَذَابَ الْجَحِيمِ﴾
﴿رَبَّنَا وَأَدْخِلْهُمْ جَنَّاتٍ عَدْنٍ الَّتِي وَعَدْتَهُمْ وَمَنْ صَلَحَ مِنْ ءَابَائِهِمْ وَأَزْوَاجِهِمْ وَذُرِّيَّاتِهِمْ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْعَزِيزُ﴾

الْحَكِيمُ ﴿٨﴾ وَفِيهِمُ السَّيِّئَاتِ وَمَنْ تَقِ السَّيِّئَاتِ يَوْمَئِذٍ فَقَدْ رَحِمْتَهُ وَذَلِكَ هُوَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ

﴿٩﴾ غافر: ٧ - ٩

(Translation of meaning) [“Those who bear the Throne, and all who are round about it, hymn the praises of their Lord and believe in Him and ask forgiveness for those who believe [saying]: Our Lord! Thou comprehendest all things in mercy and in knowledge, therefore forgive those who repent and follow Thy way. Ward off from them the punishment of hell. Our Lord! And make them enter the Garden of Eden which thou hast promised them, with such of their fathers and their wives and their descendants as do right. Lo! Thou, only Thou, art eh Mighty, the Wise. And ward off from them ill deeds; and he from whom Thou wardest off ill deeds that day, him verily hast Thou taken into mercy. That is the supreme triumph” (Ghafir: 7-9)].

In another place He pronounces:

﴿٤٣﴾ هُوَ الَّذِي يُصَلِّي عَلَيْكُمْ وَمَلَائِكَتُهُ لِيُخْرِجَكُم مِّنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ وَكَانَ بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ رَحِيمًا

﴿٤٣﴾ الأحزاب: ٤٣

(Translation of meaning) [“He it is who blesseth you, and His angels [bless you], that He may bring you forth from darkness unto light; and He is Merciful to the believer” (Al- Ahzab: 43)].

In the above-mentioned verses the term “*salat*” has been used in a dual sense. When this word is ascribed to Allah it means His mercy and when its ascribed to the angels it means prayers and seeking forgiveness. It is in the tradition that: So long as one of you keeps sitting in the place where he performed his *salat* with his ablution intact the angels keep on praying for mercy for him. They pray O Allah forgive him and have mercy upon him (Al-Bukhari). One who believes that Allah is his Creator and that Islam is his way of life and that Muhammad is the vicegerent and Messenger of Allah and then he lives his life in accordance with the ordinances of Allah and his Prophet and perseveres in it in all difficulties then the angels pray for him. Allah proclaims:

﴿إِنَّ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا رَبُّنَا اللَّهُ ثُمَّ اسْتَقَمُوا تَتَنَزَّلُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَلَّا تَخَافُوا وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا وَأَبْشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُنتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ ﴿٣٠﴾ نَحْنُ أَوْلِيَائُكُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَشْتَهَى أَنْفُسُكُمْ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَدْعُونَ ﴿٣١﴾ نَزَّلْنَا مِنْ غَفُورٍ رَحِيمٍ ﴿٣٢﴾﴾

(Translation of meaning) [“Lo! Those who say: Our Lord is Allah, and afterward are upright, the angels descend upon them, saying: Fear not nor grieve, but her good tidings of the paradise which ye are promised. We are your protecting friends in the life of the world and in the Hereafter. There ye will have [all] that your souls desire, and there ye will have [all] for which ye pray. A gift of welcome from the Forgiving, the Merciful” (Fussilat: 30-32)].

In the above Ayats the word “*istiquamat*” has been used to mean “steadfastness”. It means that one should believe in monotheism steadfastly without any trace of shirk and one should comply with the commandments of Allah without slightest inclination towards the forbidden things or actions.

Arrival of Angels at Friday Prayers

The Messenger of Allah (*sallAllahu ‘alayhi wa sallam*) said

«إِذَا كَانَ يَوْمُ الْجُمُعَةِ كَانَ عَلَى كُلِّ بَابٍ مِنْ أَبْوَابِ الْمَسْجِدِ مَلَائِكَةٌ يَكْتُبُونَ النَّاسَ عَلَى مَنَازِلِهِمْ، الْأَوَّلَ فَأَلَّوْلَ فَإِذَا خَرَجَ الْإِمَامُ طُوِبَتْ الصُّحُفُ. وَاسْتَمْعُوا الْخُطْبَةَ» (البخاري)

(Translation of meaning) On Fridays the angels line up on the gates of all mosques and keep on registering the names of the incomers in order of their arrival. They close their register when the Imam sits upon the pulpit to deliver his *khutbah*. The angels arrive to listen to the discourse about Allah (Al-Bukhari).

Angels Saying Amen at End of Surah Al-Fatiha

It is in the tradition that:

« إِذَا قَالَ الْإِمَامُ: {غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ} [الفاتحة: 7] فَقُولُوا: آمِينَ، فَإِنَّهُ مَنْ وَافَقَ قَوْلَهُ قَوْلَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ غُفِرَ لَهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِهِ » (البخاري).

(Translation of meaning) When the Imam reciting Surah Fatiha ends up with “*Ghairil Maghdhubi Alaihim waladhdhallin*” say “Amen” because if his amen coincides with that of the angels, Allah the Almighty will forgive all his past sins (Al-Bukhari). The Prophet (*sallAllahu ‘alayhi wa sallam*) recommended that:

« إِذَا قَالَ الْإِمَامُ: سَمِعَ اللَّهُ لِمَنْ حَمِدَهُ، فَقُولُوا: اللَّهُمَّ رَبَّنَا لَكَ الْحَمْدُ، فَإِنَّهُ مَنْ وَافَقَ قَوْلُهُ قَوْلَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ، غُفِرَ لَهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِهِ » (متفق عليه)

(Translation of meaning) When the Imam says “*Samiallah liman Hamidah*” then you should say “*Allahumma Rabbana lakal Hamd*” because if this utterance coincides with that of the angels, Allah forgives all the past sins (Al-Bukhari & Muslim).

Presence of Angels in Assemblies of Divine Discourse

Allah has appointed some angels to roam about in the human settlements in search of meetings and assemblies meant for Quranic discourse and the invocation of the name of Allah. They are looking for sittings where Allah is praised and sanctified with a view to attend them. The Messenger of Allah (*sallAllahu ‘alayhi wa sallam*) said:

The angels keep on marching through paths, in search of those who remember Allah, and when they find some people invoking the name of Allah they say to each other Lo! Here is what you search for. The Prophet (*sallAllahu ‘alayhi wa sallam*) said, then they overshadow them with their wings up to the lowest heaven. The Messenger of Allah (*sallAllahu ‘alayhi wa sallam*) said then Allah asks them, even if He knows better than they; tell me what my slaves say? The angels reply that they are praising, sanctifying and glorifying You. Then Allah asks the angels: Have they seen me? The angels say "No they have not. Allah says "If they see me". The angels say if they see You they would worship you more than that and praise you even more. The Messenger of Allah (*sallAllahu ‘alayhi wa sallam*) said then Allah asks the angels: What do my slaves want of me? They reply that they want Your Garden. Then Allah asks them again: Have they seen my Garden? The angels say that they have not. Then Allah asks what will be of them if they see my Garden? The angels reply that they would want it more if they happen to see it. Then Allah asks them what is it they seek refuge in me from? The angels say it the Hell. Then Allah asks: Have they seen it? The angels say they have not. Then Allah asks what will happen if they see it? The angels say then they will fear you more than ever and try to find all means to escape it. Then Allah says: You be witness. I have forgiven all of them. Then one of the angels points out that one person in their company is not so; he is there just for some worldly reason. Allah then replies: They are all together. One companion cannot be deprived of my forgiveness (Al-Bukhari & Muslim).

Allah is Proud of Those Who Remember Him

According to a tradition:

Once the Messenger of Allah (*sallAllahu 'alayhi wa sallam*) came to his Companions who were sitting in a circle. He asked them why you are sitting like this. They replied they are remembering Allah and thanking Him for favouring them with the bounty of Islam. The Prophet (*sallAllahu 'alayhi wa sallam*) asked: What? By Allah are you sitting for this? The Companions replied by Allah we are sitting for this. The Prophet (*sallAllahu 'alayhi wa sallam*) said that by swearing I did not mean to find fault with you. Jibril (Alaihis Salam) had just arrived and told me that Allah is telling His angels that He is proud of you (Muslim).

The Angels Overshadow the Reciters of Holy Quran

A tradition enlightens that:

« مَا اجْتَمَعَ قَوْمٌ فِي بَيْتٍ مِنْ بُيُوتِ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى، يَتْلُونَ كِتَابَ اللَّهِ، وَيَتَذَكَّرُونَ بَيْنَهُمْ إِلَّا نَزَلَتْ عَلَيْهِمُ السَّكِينَةُ، وَغَشِيَتْهُمْ الرَّحْمَةُ، وَحَفَّتْهُمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ، وَذَكَرَهُمُ اللَّهُ فِيمَنْ عِنْدَهُ » (مسلم).

(Translation of meaning) If some people assemble together in a house to recite and teach Quran Allah blesses them with contentment, His mercy encloses them and the angels overshadow them and Allah makes a mention of them among those who are around Him (Muslim).

Somebody was reciting Surah Kahf and his horse was tied beside him. Suddenly a patch of cloud overshadowed it and gradually descended nearer to it. The horse became frightened and restive. In the morning the man came to the Prophet (*sallAllahu 'alayhi wa sallam*) and narrated the happening of the night. The Prophet (*sallAllahu 'alayhi wa sallam*) said: Contentment was descending by the grace of Quran.

The Angels Spread their Wings in the Way of Knowledge-Seekers

The Messenger of Allah (*sallAllahu 'alayhi wa sallam*) said:

« مَنْ سَلَكَ طَرِيقًا يَطْلُبُ فِيهِ عِلْمًا سَلَكَ اللَّهُ بِهِ طَرِيقًا مِنْ طُرُقِ الْجَنَّةِ، وَإِنَّ الْمَلَائِكَةَ لَتَضَعُ أَجْنِحَتَهَا رِضًا لَطَالِبِ الْعِلْمِ » (أبو داود).

(Translation of meaning) One who proceeds to seek knowledge, then Allah makes one of the paths of Garden easy for him and the angels spread their wings in his way to please him (Abu Dawood).

The angels likewise pray for mercy, for one, who teaches righteousness to others. Once the Prophet (sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam) was informed about a devout worshipper and a learned person. The Messenger of Allah (sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam) said:

«فَضَّلُ الْعَالِمِ عَلَى الْعَابِدِ كَفَضْلِي عَلَى أَدْنَاكُمْ» ثُمَّ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ -: «إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ وَأَهْلَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِينَ حَتَّى النَّمْلَةِ فِي جُحْرِهَا وَحَتَّى الْحُوتِ لِيُصَلُّوا عَلَى مُعَلِّمِ النَّاسِ الْخَيْرِ» (الترمذي).

"The superiority of the learned over the devout worshipper is like my superiority over the most inferior amongst you (in good deeds)." He went on to say, "Allah, His angels, the dwellers of the heaven and the earth, and even, the ant in its hole and the fish (in water) supplicate in favour of those who teach people knowledge. (Tirmizi).

Angels Say Amen When a Believer Prays for His Brother

The Messenger of Allah (sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam) said that:

«مَنْ دَعَا لِأَخِيهِ بِظَهْرِ الْغَيْبِ، قَالَ الْمَلَكُ الْمُوَكَّلُ بِهِ: آمِينَ، وَلَكَ بِمِثْلٍ» (مسلم)

(Translation of meaning) If anybody prays to Allah for his brother in faith in his absence his companion angel says amen at his prayer and says the same prayer be for you (Muslim). Another tradition has it that:

«إِذَا سَمِعْتُمْ صِيَاخَ الدِّيَكَةِ، فَاسْأَلُوا اللَّهَ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ، فَإِنَّهَا رَأَتْ مَلَكًا» (متفق عليه)

(Translation of meaning) When the cock cries in the morning you should seek the grace of Allah because the cock sees the angels at that time (Al-Bukhari & Muslim). At this time a believer must pray to Allah so that the angel says Amen to his prayer and pray to Allah for his forgiveness. It is quite possible that Allah grants this prayer. Likewise one must pray for a patient or one who is on his deathbed. The Prophet (sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam) said that:

«إِذَا حَضَرْتُكَ الْمَرِيضَ، أَوْ الْمَيِّتَ، فَقُولُوا خَيْرًا، فَإِنَّ الْمَلَائِكَةَ يُؤْمِنُونَ عَلَى مَا تَقُولُونَ» (مسلم)

(Translation of meaning) If you visit a patient or somebody who is about to die say something good for him because whatever you say at that time the angels say Amen to it (Muslim).

The Angels Bring Good Tidings to the Believers

Whenever Hadrat Zakaria (*Alaihis Salam*) visited Hadrat Maryam (*Alaihas Salam*), who she used to be engaged in the worship of Allah, he found a variety of foods available in her place, although nobody except him visited her. Once Hadrat Zakaria (*Alaihis Salam*) asked Hadrat Maryam (*Alaihas Salam*) where does all this come from? She replied from Allah the Almighty. Then Hadrat Zakaria (*Alaihis Salam*) too prayed to Allah to grant him a son. His prayer was accepted by Allah and lo an angel came down to inform him about the arrival of a son. This event has been mentioned in the Quran in these words:

﴿فَنَادَتْهُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ وَهُوَ قَائِمٌ يُصَلِّي فِي الْمِحْرَابِ أَنَّ اللَّهَ يُبَشِّرُكَ بِيَحْيَىٰ مُصَدِّقًا بِكَلِمَةٍ مِّنَ اللَّهِ ۖ وَهُوَ قَائِمٌ يُصَلِّي فِي الْمِحْرَابِ﴾
 آل عمران: ٣٩

(Translation of meaning) [“And the angels called to him as he stood praying in his sanctuary: Allah giveth thee glad tidings of [a son whose name is] John, [who cometh] to confirm a word from Allah,” (Al-Imran: 39)].

A similar news was transmitted by the angels to Hadrat Ibrahim (*Alaihis Salam*) and his wife. Allah says:

﴿وَلَقَدْ جَاءَتْ رُسُلُنَا إِبْرَاهِيمَ بِالْبُشْرَىٰ﴾
 هود: ٦٩

(Translation of meaning) [“And our messengers [angels] came unto Abraham with good news.” (Hud: 69)].

In another place in the Quran it is revealed the:

﴿فَبَشَّرْنَاهَا بِإِسْحَاقَ وَمِنْ وَرَاءِ إِسْحَاقَ يَعْقُوبَ﴾
 هود: ٧١

(Translation of meaning) [“And his wife, standing by, laughed when We gave her good tidings [of the birth] of Isaac, and, after Isaac, of Jacob” (Hud: 71)].

The angels bring good news not only to the apostles of Allah but also to ordinary human beings. According to a tradition of the Prophet (*sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam*): Once a believer set out to meet his brother in faith living in another village. Allah made an angel sit in the way in the form of a human being. When the believer passed by him he asked: Where are you going? He

replied, that, he was going to meet a person in the village. The angel then asked is he facing any problem you are going to help him solve it. The man said no I love him just for the sake of Allah and I am going to know of his well-being. Then the angel told him that I have been deputed by Allah the Almighty to tell you that He loves you just as you love this man for the sake of Allah (Muslim).

The Angels Overshadow the Martyrs with their Wings

It is narrated by Hadrat Jabir Bin Abdullah (*RadhiAllahu Anhu*) that his father got martyred in the battle of Uhud. I kept on uncovering his face and wept. The people forbade me from doing so. But the Messenger of Allah (*sallAllahu 'alayhi wa sallam*) did not forbid me. Hadrat Fatima Bint Umar (*RadhiAllahu Anha*) was also weeping. Then the Messenger of Allah (*sallAllahu 'alayhi wa sallam*) said:

« تَبْكِيهِ، أَوْ لَا تَبْكِيهِ، مَا زَالَتِ الْمَلَائِكَةُ تُظِلُّهُ بِأَجْنِحَتَيْهَا، حَتَّى رَفَعْتُمُوهُ » (مسلم).

(Translation of meaning) Whether you weep or do not the angels will cover them with their wings until you pick them up (Muslim).

The Angels Love Whom Allah Loves

It is in a tradition of the Prophet (*sallAllahu 'alayhi wa sallam*) that:

« إِذَا أَحَبَّ اللَّهُ الْعَبْدَ نَادَى جِبْرِيلُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ فُلَانًا فَأَحَبَّهُ فَيُحِبُّهُ جِبْرِيلُ فَيُنَادِي جِبْرَائِيلُ فِي أَهْلِ السَّمَاءِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ فُلَانًا فَأَحَبُّوه فَيُحِبُّهُ أَهْلُ السَّمَاءِ، ثُمَّ يُوضَعُ لَهُ الْقَبُولُ فِي الْأَرْضِ » (البخاري ، مسلم).

(Translation of meaning) When Allah loves any one of His slaves He tells Hadrat Jibril (*Alaihis Salam*) that I love so and so therefore you should also love him. Then Jibril (*Alaihis Salam*) begins to love him. Then Jibril (*Alaihis Salam*) announces throughout the heavens that Allah loves this man, so you should also love him. So all the heavenly creatures begin to love him. Then he is made lovable and desirable on the earth too (Al-Bukhari, Muslim).

The Angels Damn too, But Whom?

The Messenger of Allah (*sallAllahu 'alayhi wa sallam*) said that:

« مَنْ أَشَارَ إِلَى أَخِيهِ بِحَدِيدَةٍ، فَإِنَّ الْمَلَائِكَةَ تُلْعَنُ » (مسلم).

(Translation of meaning) One who targets his brother in faith with an object made of iron is damned by the angels (Muslim). That is, when a Muslim takes up an arm against a fellow-Muslim or threatens or injures him with a weapon

the angels damn him for this misdeed of him. Similarly, the angels damn a woman who refuses without a cause to join him in bed when he calls her. The Messenger of Allah (*sallAllahu 'alayhi wa sallam*) said that:

«إِذَا دَعَا الرَّجُلُ امْرَأَتَهُ إِلَى فِرَاشِهِ فَأَبَتْ فَبَاتَ غَضَبَانَ عَلَيْهِمَا لَعْنَتْهُمَا الْمَلَائِكَةُ حَتَّى تُصْبِحَ» (البخاري)

(Translation of meaning) Whenever a man calls her woman to bed and she refuses to the displeasure of her husband the angels damn the woman till the break of dawn (**Al-Bukhari**).

The Angels Ascend with Good Deeds and Good Words

Hadrat Abdullah Ibn Masud (*RadhiAllahu Anhu*) said that When I narrate any tradition of the Prophet (*sallAllahu 'alayhi wa sallam*) to you I corroborate it with the holy Quran. Whenever a devotee chants “*Subhanallah*”, “*Alhamdlillah*”, “*La Ilaha illallah*”, “*Allah-o-Akbar*”, and “*Tabarakallah*” the angels gather these utterances and covering them under their wings and ascend upwards. Wherever they pass through the assemblage of angels pray for forgiveness for the chanters of these phrases. Then he recited this verse:

﴿مَنْ كَانَ يُرِيدُ الْعِزَّةَ فَلِلَّهِ الْعِزَّةُ جَمِيعًا إِلَيْهِ يَصْعَدُ الْكَلِمُ الطَّيِّبُ وَالْعَمَلُ الصَّالِحُ يَرْفَعُهُ﴾
فاطر: ١٠

(Translation of meaning) [“Whoso desireth power (should know that) all power belongeth to Allah. Unto Him good words ascend, and the pious deed doth He exalt;” (Fatir: 10)].

Some Objects Hated and Avoided by Angels

The angels hate the images of the animate things and keep away from them. **Hadrat** Ayesha (*RadhiAllahu Anha*) narrates that: Once she bought a pillow which was painted with images. The Messenger of Allah (*sallAllahu 'alayhi wa sallam*) stopped at the door. She said I repent to Allah what wrong have I committed? The Prophet (*sallAllahu 'alayhi wa sallam*) asked what sort of a pillow is this? She said this is for your comfort. The Prophet (*sallAllahu 'alayhi wa sallam*) then said the makers of these images will be tortured on the Day of Judgment and they will be told to infuse life into them. The angels do not enter homes which have images (**Bukhari**). In another tradition Prophet (*sallAllahu 'alayhi wa sallam*) said that: «لَا تَدْخُلُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ بَيْتًا فِيهِ كَلْبٌ، وَلَا صُورَةٌ تَمَاتِيلُ» Angels do not enter a home which has either the images or dogs (**Bukhari & Muslim**). She also narrates that:

Once Hadrat Jibril (*Alaihis Salam*) promised to come to the Prophet (*sallAllahu 'alayhi wa sallam*) but did not come at the appointed time. He had a cane in his hand which he put away and said neither Allah dishonours His promise nor His messenger. Then he probed to find that a dog was sitting beneath his cot. He asked when this dog come here? She said I do not know. Then he ordered the dog to be removed and as the dog was removed Hadrat Jibril (*Alaihis Salam*) appeared. The Prophet (*sallAllahu 'alayhi wa sallam*) asked him he had been waiting for him why did not he come on time? Hadrat Jibril (*Alaihis Salam*) replied that a dog was present in your home and we angels do not enter a home which has either a dog or an image (Muslim).

The Angels are the Supporting Army of Believers

Allah has proclaimed:

﴿وَلَقَدْ نَصَرَكُمُ اللَّهُ بِبَدْرٍ وَأَنْتُمْ أَذِلَّةٌ فَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ ﴿١٢٣﴾ إِذْ تَقُولُ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ أَلَنْ يَكْفِيَكُمْ أَنْ يُمَدِّدَ رَبُّكُمْ بِثَلَاثَةِ آَلَفٍ مِنَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ مُنَزَّلِينَ ﴿١٢٤﴾ بَلَىٰ إِنْ تَصْبِرُوا وَتَتَّقُوا وَيَأْتُوكُم مِّنْ فَوْرِهِمْ هَذَا يُمَدِّدْكُمْ رَبُّكُمْ بِخَمْسَةِ آَلَفٍ مِنَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ مُسَوِّمِينَ ﴿١٢٥﴾﴾ *آل عمران: ١٢٣ - ١٢٥*

(Translation of meaning) [“Allah had already given you the victory at Badr, when ye were contemptible. So observe your duty to Allah in order that ye be thankful. And when thou didst say unto the believers: is it not sufficient for you that your Lord should support you with three thousand angels sent down [to your help]? Nay, abut if ye persevere, and keep from evil, and [the enemy] attack you suddenly, your Lord will help you with five thousand angels sweeping on” (Al-Imran” 123-125)].

Likewise, with reference to the Battle of Ahzab, Allah proclaimed:

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اذْكُرُوا نِعْمَةَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ إِذْ جَاءَتْكُمْ جُنُودٌ فَأَرْسَلْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ رِيحًا وَجُنُودًا لَّمْ تَرَوْهَا ؕ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرًا ﴿٩﴾﴾ *الأحزاب: ٩*

(Translation of meaning) [“O ye who believe! Remember Allah’s favour unto you when there came against you hosts and We sent against them a great wind and hosts ye could not see. And Allah is ever Seer of what ye do” (Al-Ahzab: 9)].

Hadrat Ayesha (*RadhiAllahu Anha*) has narrated that: When the Messenger of Allah (*sallAllahu 'alayhi wa sallam*) returned home from the Battle of Ahzab he laid down the arms and had a bath. At the moment Hadrat Jibril (*Alaihis Salam*) arrived and asked him have you laid down the arms while by Allah we angels

have not laid down our arms yet. Please take up your arms and proceed to those people. Which people? Asked the Prophet (*sallAllahu 'alayhi wa sallam*) . Hadrat Jibril (*Alaihis Salam*) pointed towards Bani Quraidha and the Prophet (*sallAllahu 'alayhi wa sallam*) marched in that direction (Bukhari).

Angels Accompany the Funeral Procession of Muslims

Once the Messenger of Allah (*sallAllahu 'alayhi wa sallam*) was accompanying a funeral procession. He was offered a horse to ride on. He refused. But on the return trip he rode a horse. When the Messenger of Allah (*sallAllahu 'alayhi wa sallam*) was inquired about this, he said:

«إِنَّ الْمَلَائِكَةَ كَانَتْ تَمْشِي، فَلَمْ أَكُنْ لِأَرْكَبَ وَهُمْ يَمْشُونَ، فَلَمَّا ذَهَبُوا رَكِبْتُ» (أبو داود)

The angels were accompanying the procession on feet. I did not like that angels walk on feet and I take a ride. When they departed I took a riding (Abu Dawood). Likewise once he saw some persons riding among a funeral procession. He told them:

«أَلَا تَسْتَحْيُونَ إِنَّ مَلَائِكَةَ اللَّهِ عَلَى أَقْدَامِهِمْ وَأَنْتُمْ عَلَى ظُهُورِ الدَّوَابِّ» (ترمذي)

(Translation of meaning) Are not you ashamed? The angels of Allah are walking and you are riding (Tirmizi).

Angels will be Arrayed before Allah on Doomsday

On the Day of Resurrection the angels will be arrayed in ranks before Allah Almighty. In the words of Quran:

﴿يَوْمَ يَقُومُ الرُّوحُ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ صَفًّا لَا يَتَكَلَّمُونَ إِلَّا مَنْ أَذِنَ لَهُ الرَّحْمَنُ وَقَالَ صَوَابًا﴾ (النبا: ٣٨)

(Translation of meaning) [“On the day when the angels and the Spirit stand arrayed, they speak not, saving him whom the Beneficent alloweth and who speaketh right” (An-Naba: 38)].

In another place in the Quran it is said:

﴿كَلَّا إِذَا دُكَّتِ الْأَرْضُ دَكًّا دَكًّا ۖ وَجَاءَ رَبُّكَ وَالْمَلَكُ صَفًّا صَفًّا﴾ (الفجر: ٢١ - ٢٢)

(Translation of meaning) [“Nay, but the earth is ground to atoms, grinding, grinding. And thy Lord shall come with angels, rank on rank. And hell is brought near that day; on that day man will remember, but how will the remembrance [then avail him?]” (Al-Fajr: 21-22)].

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