

RE, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE) –

Closure work for Year 9

I hope you are all OK. We are now continuing with this new topic, looking at Islam, Beliefs and Teachings. Today, we are going to look at Angels in Islam.

Tasks:

- 1. Read the information, below**
- 2. Summarise knowledge, below, which outlines basic beliefs of Muslims (followers of Islam), about Angels**

Angels

Muslims believe that angels, or malaikah, were created before humans with the purpose of following the orders of Allah and communicating with humans. Muslims believe that angels, like all other creatures, were created by God. In Islamic belief, angels communicate messages from Allah to humanity.

The Messenger has believed in what was revealed to him from his Lord, and [so have] the believers. All of them have believed in Allah and His angels and His books and His messengers, [saying], 'We make no distinctions between any of His messengers.' And they say, 'We hear and obey. [We seek] your forgiveness, our Lord, and to You is the [final] destination.' (Qur'an 2:285). According to Islamic belief, the angels constantly praise God:

The role of angels

In Islam, there are some angels who have specific roles, including guardian angels. Generally, Muslims believe that angels have the following characteristics:

- They were part of God's creation - they had a beginning and they will exist until the end of time.
- They are made of light and have wings.
- They are pure and always obey and serve Allah.
- They can appear in human form and watch over human beings.
- They record everything a person does, and this information is used on the Day of Judgement.
- They welcome Muslims into Paradise and also supervise the pits of Hell.

Angel Jibril

In Islam, the **Angel Jibril** is the bringer of good news. He is mentioned in both the Qur'an and the Hadith. The Angel Jibril revealed Allah's words in the form of the Qur'an to Muhammad on the Night of Power. Because of this, he is also known as the Angel of Revelation, as he played a vital role in communicating Islam to humanity. The Angel Jibril is known as the Angel Gabriel in Christian scriptures.

The Angel Jibril also appeared to Maryam (who is known as Mary in Christianity). Maryam was the mother of Isa (known as Jesus in Christianity). She is considered to be the most respected woman, above all other women in the Qur'an. The Angel Jibril told her she was pregnant with Isa, one of Islam's great prophets.

Characteristics of the Angel Jibril

According to Islamic belief, Jibril knows the beauty of Paradise but also how hard it is to get there. He has seen Hell and knows that no one would want to be sent there. In the Qur'an, Allah makes it clear that anyone who opposes Jibril or the other angels will become an enemy of Allah: Whoever is an enemy to Jibril – it is [none but] he who has brought the Qur'an down upon his heart, by permission of Allah, confirming that which was before it and as guidance and good tidings for the believers. Whoever is an enemy to Allah and His angels and His messengers and Jibril and Mika'il – then indeed, Allah is an enemy to the disbelievers. (Qur'an 2:97–98)

Angel Mika'il and other angels

The Angel Mika'il (known as Michael in Christianity) is a friend to humanity. He is known as the giver of rain, which waters the land and helps to provide food for people. He is believed to guard places of worship and reward people's good deeds. As the Angel of Mercy, he asks Allah to forgive people's sins. It is believed that both the Angel Jibril and the Angel Mika'il will be present on the Day of Judgement.

There are other angels in Islam, such as Izrail, the Angel of Death, who takes the souls from bodies when people die. It is believed that the Angel Israfil will blow a trumpet to announce the final Day of Judgement.

3. To summarise the knowledge learnt today, please write and respond to all questions:

- a. Why are Angels important in Islam?
- b. Describe the importance of Angels in Islam (try and include at least 5 pieces of descriptive knowledge).
- c. What are the roles of Angels, according to Islam?
- d. Why might Angel Jibril be understood as an important Angel, in Islam?