

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي جَعَلَ لِعِبَادِهِ مَوَاسِمَ لِلْخَيْرَاتِ، وَخَصَّ رَمَضَانَ بِمَزِيدِ الْفَضْلِ
وَالْبَرَكَاتِ وَحَثَّنَا فِيهِ عَلَى عَمَلِ الطَّاعَاتِ، وَالْإِكْتِثَارِ مِنَ الْقُرْبَاتِ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا
إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا وَنَبِيَّنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولُهُ،
خَيْرٌ مَنْ صَلَّى وَصَامَ، وَتَزَكَّى وَوَصَلَ الْأَرْحَامَ، صَلَّى اللَّهُ وَسَلَّمْ وَبَارَكَ عَلَيْهِ
وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ، وَعَلَى مَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.

Praise be to Allah, who placed for his slaves seasons of blessings, and honoured Ramadan with His Grace and Benevolence. I bear witness that there is no God but Allah, and I testify that our master Muhammad is the servant and Messenger of Allah. He was the best of those who observed the prayers and fasts, purified himself and maintained ties of kinship. May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon our master Muhammad, his family, his companions, and all those who will follow them in righteousness till the Day of Judgment. Amin

The Honoured Ones Of Allah ﷺ

We learnt that honour is bestowed upon the Angels who obey Allah in thought and action, remaining in His awe and reverence. Honour is also bestowed upon true scholars of Allah who uphold His commands and follow His Messenger, and that honour is given to those acting upon certainty bringing others closer to the reality.

- **Surah al-Dhariyat relates the story of Ibrahim ﷺ:**

هَلْ أَتَاكَ حَدِيثُ ضَيْفِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ الْمُكْرَمِينَ

“Has there reached you the story of the honoured guests of Ibrahim?” ...

These were the three angels who came to Ibrahim ﷺ in the form of men. When they then refused to eat from his food, Ibrahim ﷺ became afraid at which point they mentioned they were angels who had come to give him glad tidings of a son. Here the honoured refers to the angels once again.

- **The fifth and final mention of the honoured comes in Surah al-Ma'arij:**

إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ خُلِقَ هَلُوعًا إِذَا مَسَّهُ الشَّرُّ جَزُوعًا وَإِذَا مَسَّهُ الْخَيْرُ مَنُوعًا إِلَّا الْمُصَلِّينَ الَّذِينَ هُمْ عَلَى صَلَاتِهِمْ دَائِمُونَ

“Indeed mankind was created impatient. If evil befalls him he is irritable. And if good comes to him he is miserly. Except for those who pray. Those who are constant in their prayers. And those within whose wealth is a known right For the petitioner and the deprived - And those who believe in the Day of Recompense And those who are fearful of the punishment of their Lord - And those who guard their private parts And those who are to their trusts and promises attentive And those who are in their testimonies upright And those who [carefully] maintain their prayer: They will be in gardens, honoured. (70:19-35) ”

Honour from the Qur'anic perspective falls into two categories; the angels and the righteous believers

Therefore, the question is how do we ensure that the noble angels of Allah ﷻ, who only obey His commands and intercede for whom He is pleased with will intercede for us?

- **Purifying Oneself** - The Prophet ﷺ said in the Hadith of Abdullah ibn Abbas , “Purify these bodies (so that) may Allah purify you. There is no person who sleeps in a state of ritual purity except that an angel sleeps alongside him. He does not turn throughout the night except that the angel says, 'O Allah forgive Your slave for he slept in a state of ritual purity.’”(Tabrani – Al Awsat)
- **2. The Prayer** – The Prophet ﷺ said “One of you does not sit waiting for the prayer except that he is counted as being in the prayer, so long as he does not break his ablution. The angels supplicate for him saying, 'O Allah, forgive him. O Allah, have mercy upon him.’”(Muslim)
- The Prophet ﷺ said, “Indeed, Allah and His angels supplicate for those who pray in the first row.”(Sahih Ibn Hibban)

So as you arrive, try your utmost to find a space in the first row. Do not just laze around at the sides or the back of the prayer hall allowing others to precede you in goodness and reward.

3. Charity & Fasting - The Prophet ﷺ said “**A day does not rise upon the slaves except that two angels descend. One of them says, 'O Allah, give the one who spends more. The other says, 'O Allah, give the one who withholds misery.'**”(Bukhari)

4. Being in the Service of Others - The Prophet ﷺ said “**The supplication of the Muslim for his absent brother is answered. There is an angel appointed to it. Every time he supplicates for his brother with good, the angel says, Amin, and may you have the same.**”(Muslim)

The angels also supplicate for those who teach others what is good and beneficial. The Prophet ﷺ said “**Indeed, Allah, His angels, the inhabitants of the heavens and the inhabitants of the earth, including the ant in its hole and the fish supplicate for those who teach others good.**”(Tirmidhi)

So if you want the intercession, duas and extra boost from angels to achieve the honour of Allah ﷻ then follow His commands with sincerity and conviction, honour His commands and remain faithful and Allah will enter you amongst His Honoured Slaves.

Reminder: Ramadan – the fragrant month of mercy, forgiveness and saviour, the guest of Allah is upon us. Prepare your hearts, minds and bodies for its blessed days and beautiful nights. This is the month of the Qur’an so prepare to completely absorb your heart and mind in the glorious recitation of the Qur’an.