

BLESSING UPON THE BEARERS OF THE THRONE

A Supplication in Calling down Blessings upon the Bearers of the Throne and Every Angel Brought Nigh

1 O God,
as for the Bearers of Your Throne - 47, who
never flag in glorifying You,
never become weary of calling You holy,
never tire of worshipping You,
never prefer curtailment over diligence in Your command,
and are never heedless of passionate love for You;

2 Seraphiel,
the Owner of the Trumpet,
fixed in his gaze,
awaiting Your permission
and the descent of the Command,
that he may arouse through the Blast
the hostages thrown down in the graves;

3 Michael,
possessor of standing with You
and a raised up place in Your obedience;

4 Gabriel,
entrusted with Your revelation,
obeyed by the inhabitants of Your heavens,
distinguished in Your Presence – 48,
brought nigh to You;

5 the spirit who is over the angels of the veils – 49;

6 and the spirit
who is of Your command - 50
bless them and the angels below them:
the residents in Your heavens,
those entrusted with Your messages,

7 those who become not wearied by perseverance,
or exhausted and flagged by toil,
whom passions distract not from glorifying You,
and whose magnification of You is never cut off
by the inattention of heedless moments;

8 their eyes lowered,
they do not attempt to look at You;
their chins bowed,
they have long desired what is with You;
unrestrained in mentioning Your boons,
they remain humble before Your mightiness
and the majesty of Your magnificence;

9 those who say when they look upon Gehenna,
roaring over the people who disobeyed You:
'Glory be to You,
we have not worshipped You
with the worship Thou deservest!'

10 Bless them,
and Your angels who are the Reposeful,
those of proximity to You,
those who carry the unseen to Your messengers,
those entrusted with Your revelation,

11 the tribes of angels
whom You have singled out for Yourself,
freed from need for food and drink by their calling You holy,
and made to dwell inside Your heavens' layers,

12 those who will stand upon the heavens' borders - 51
when the Command descends to complete Your promise,

13 the keepers of the rain,
the drivers of the clouds,

14 him at whose driving's sound is heard the rolling of thunder,
and when the reverberating clouds swim before his driving,
bolts of lightning flash;

15 the escorts of snow and hail,
the descenders with the drops of rain when they fall,
the watchers over the treasuries of the winds,
those charged with the mountains lest they disappear,

16 those whom You have taught the weights of the waters
and the measures contained by torrents and masses of rain;

17 the angels who are Your messengers to the people of the earth
with the disliked affliction that comes down
and the beloved ease;

18 the devoted, noble scribes – 52,
the watchers, noble writers – 53,
the angel of death and his helpers,
Munkar and Nakir – 54,
Rumaan, the tester in the graves – 55,
the circlers of the Inhabited House – 56,
Malik - 57 and the guardians,
Ridwan - 58 and the gatekeepers of the gardens,

19 those who disobey not God in What He commands them
and do What they are commanded – 59;

20 those who say, Peace be upon you, for that you were patient
- and fair is the Ultimate Abode – 60;

21 the Zabaniya, who, when it is said to them,
take him, and fetter him,
then roast him in hell – 61,
hasten to accomplish it,
nor do they give him any respite – 62;

22 him whom we have failed to mention,
not knowing his place with You,
nor with which command You have charged him;

23 and the residents in the air, the earth, and the water,
and those of them charged over the creatures;

24 bless them on the day when every soul will come,
with it a driver and a witness – 63,

25 and bless them with a blessing that will add
honour to their honour
and purity to their purity.

26 O God,
and when You bless Your angels and Your messengers
and You extend our blessings to them,
bless us through the good words about them
which You have opened up for us!
You are Munificent, Generous.

47. The bearers of the Throne are said to be four angels, one on each corner of the Throne, who will be aided by four more on the Day of Resurrection. Hence the Qur'an says: Upon that day eight shall bear above them the Throne of Your Lord (69: 17). On the various kinds of angels, see S. Murata, 'The Angels,' in S.H. Nasr (ed.), *Islamic Spirituality: Foundations* New York, 1987, pp. 324-44.

48. Cf. 81:20.

49. The veils meant here are those referred to in the hadith often quoted in Sunni sources: 'God has seventy' - or 'seventy thousand' - 'veils of light and darkness; were they to be removed, the glories of His face would incinerate everything perceived by the creatures' eyes.' Shi'ite sources add several parallel hadith from the Prophet and the Imams (see *Bihar al-Anwar* v, 39-47, Bab al-hujub wa l-astar wa l-suradiqat). Cf. Supplication 50.5, where mention is made of God's 'splendour masked by the veils'.

50. Cf. 17:85.

51. Cf. 69:17.

52. Cf. 80:16.

53. i.e., the scribes and writers who record peoples' deeds in this world, cf. 82:11.

54. The two angels, mentioned in many hadith who question the dead on the first night in the grave.

55. An angel who, according to some hadith is the first to enter the grave with the dead person, telling him to write out his deeds on his shroud with his saliva as ink and his finger as pen.

56. A house in the celestial spheres mentioned in 52:4 and located directly above the Ka'ba.

57. The angel in charge of the Fire.

58. The angel in charge of paradise.

59. 66:6.

60. 13:24.

61. 69:30.

62. Cf. 16:85.

63. 50:21; the driver and witness are also angels.