

Al-Haqqah [69:17]

وَالْمَلَكُ عَلَىٰ أَرْجَائِهَا وَيَحْمِلُ عَرْشَ رَبِّكَ فَوْقَهُمْ يَوْمَئِذٍ ثَمَنِيَّةٌ ﴿١٧﴾

And the angels will be on its sides, and eight will, that Day,
bear the Throne of your Lord above them.

MUHAMMAD HUSAIN TABA TABAI (AR)

And the angles shall be at its sides, and eight angels will that day, bear the throne of your Lord above them.

Raghib in Mafradat says “Be at its sides” means the end of everything, and its plural is the word “Irja’ or surroundings as is used in the Qur’an.

“And the angels will be at its sides.”

The word “Malak” is used as singular and plural but in this verse it is used in the plural form. Here the words mean that the angels on the side or surrounding will raise the throne. Here it mentions angels but some have opined that it means all the creations.

From the words of God we learn that those who will carry will be the angels as in verse seven of Surah Mumin, “ Those angels who bear the throne and those around it.”

The traditions tell us that there will be eight creations amongst whom four will be angels or others; but the verse is silent about it; but it also is true that the verse is not devoid about the hint for angels.

As I have said, it may also mean the breaking of heavens, the presence of the angels who surround it, the presence of eight creations that will carry the throne may all mean that on that day the angels will be visible to mankind. Verse 75 of Surah Zumur confirms it with the words, “ And you will see the angels surrounding the Throne.”

A Discussion on Hadith

In Durre Manthur, Jareer has quoted Ibn Zayd that,

The Messenger spoke about the words , “ *And eight angels on that day will bear the throne of your Lord*”. He said,

Today those who carry the Arsh are four but on the Day of Judgment they will be eight.

The Compiler’s Words

The word today has been used in the verse to stress that on that Day there will be eight carriers of the Throne or Arsh.

MIR AHMED ALI (AR)

The arsh is the symbol of His power and authority, of His justice and mercy (see commentary of Zumar: 75). The eight angels represent manifestation of the glory of the attributes of Allah.