

Eight Angels that govern the laws of Allah in the Universe! **Khalid M. Sheikh PhD, Los Angeles (September 10, 2015)**

“On that day the great Event will come to pass.
And the heaven will cleave asunder, and it will become frail that day.
And the Angels will be standing on the side thereof, and above them on
that day EIGHT Angels bear the Throne (Arsh) of thy Lord.” **(Verses 16-18, of Sura Al Haqqa)**

One morning, while I was reciting the Holy Quran **verses 16-18, of Sura Al Haqqa**, I came across the verse referring to “eight Angels” and made an effort to understand the meaning of eight Angels and sought help from the scholars of Quran.

A number of scholars in translating the Quran, over the years have presented their interpretation of “Eight Angels” in this verse. I present some of the references, I find interesting, here under:

“Quran is silent as to who or what “the eight” are on whom this manifestation rests. Some of the earlier commentators assume that they are eight Angels, while still others frankly admit that it is impossible to say whether “eight or eight thousand” are meant (Al Hassan Al Basri, as quoted by Zamakhshari).-Possibly, we have here an illusion to eight (unspecified) attributes of God or aspects of His Creation ----“(The Message of Quran, translation by Mohammad Assad.)

“The Angels represent manifestations of Divine Glory. The number eight has perhaps no special significance, unless it is with reference to the shape of the “Throne”. The Oriental Throne is often octagonal and its bearer would be one on each corner. Or it is a square Throne , there might be four bearers and four in relief at any given time, making eight in all -----“

(The Holy Quran- Text, Translation and commentary by Abdullah Yusuf Ali. The American International Printing Company, Washington D.C. page 1599)

“-----God’s attributes of similitude which have been described here as the bearer of the Divine Throne are

Rab bul Alamin	Creator and sustainer of the World
Al Rahman	The Gracious, fulfils the needs of man
Al Rahim	The Merciful
Malik-e Yomuddin	Master of the Day of Judgment

These are the Divine attributes by which the world subsists and which mainly concerns man’s life and destiny. In view of their majesty, awfulness and greatness these four Divine attributes will have double manifestations on the Day of Judgment. As Divine attributes are manifested through Angels, therefore eight Angels are mentioned to be the bearers of the Throne of God on that great day.”

(The Holy Quran- with English translation and commentary, Published under the auspices of Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad, (RA), vol. 5 Page 2676).

While describing “Angels” in general, I find the following description of Angels intellectually very informative:

“--- In fact the administration of the huge universe, right from its inception through the entire course of the billions of years of its evolutionary history, requires an enormous organization of constant attention and control. This is performed by innumerable angels, who literally govern the vast universe and its intricate system of laws, as agents of God”

**“An Elementary study of Islam” by Mirza Tahir Ahmad.
Islam Independent Publications, Islamabad, Tilford, Surrey; 1985, 1997, 2003, 2010**

While pondering on these explanations for “Angels” in the present verse my thoughts went to four fundamental forces, we read in physics class. Where we were told that **the physical make of the universe, in which we live, consists of matter including rocks, trees, air, water etc.**

There are four known forces that interact with matter to define our universe. The four fundamental forces, as these are commonly known, have been identified in our present Universe, namely, electromagnetism, weak nuclear force, strong nuclear force and gravity (or gravitational force). Each of the forces has different properties. These four fundamental forces play central role in making the Universe what it is today, without these forces, all matter in the universe would fall apart and float away.

In some other verses of Quran, Allah also points out that every entity in this universe, whether biological or physical, has been created in pairs:

“And We created pairs of everything that you may contemplate. (51; 50)

“And who has created everything in pairs” (43; 13)

“Holy is He Who created all things in pairs, of what the earth grows, and of themselves, and of what they know not.” (36; 37)

“He Who created pairs of everything -----”(43; 12)

In light of the above verses, if each fundamental force has a pair (or negative force) then there are a total of “eight forces” that govern the whole universe. May be the Quran in the verse under discussion is referring to these four fundamental forces and their pairs (negative forces) that makes eight forces or “eight Angels”?

I wonder if it makes sense?

With my very limited knowledge of science and hardly any knowledge of Quran and Arabic language, I tried to seek support from Quran for the concept of four fundamental physical forces governing the Universe. While searching through the Islamic literature, I came across that the Islamic scholars have presented following verses from Quran that point to the entity and nature of Angels:

- 1. The Angels obey Allah and do not do anything without Allah's will or permission; Chapter; 66; verse 7;**

“O ye, who believe, save yourselves and your families from a fire whose fuel is men and stones, over which are appointed angels, stern and severe Who disobey not Allah in what He commands them and do as they are commanded”

So do these four fundamental forces. Every force always does the same function assigned to them.

**2. The Angels are divided into classes and are ranged in ranks;
In Chapter 37; verse 1;**

“By those who range themselves in ranks,

Again in chapter 37, verse 166:

“And verily we are those who stand ranged in ranks”,

So are these four fundament forces. These forces have variations in their strength and speed.

3. The Angels occupy a definite position, and serve a definite purpose, In chapter 37, verse 165;

“And there is not one of us but has an appointed station”

So do these four fundamental forces. Every force has their assigned function.

**4. The Angels do not commit sin nor do they behave arrogantly,
In chapter 16; verses 50-51:**

“And whatever is in the heavens and whatever creature is in the earth submits (humbly) to Allah, and the angels too, and they do not behave proudly. They fear Allah above them and do what they are commanded.”

So do these four fundament forces. They perform their functions as prescribed to each wave length.

**5. The Angels do not have knowledge of unseen or future,
In chapter 2; verse 33,**

“They said: Holy art thou! No knowledge have we except that thou hast taught us; surely thou art all Knowing and Wise.”.

These four fundamental forces also do not have the knowledge of unseen. They execute exactly what they are meant for.

**1. The Angels executes the commandments of the Creator.
In Chapter 79, verse 6;
"....Then they managed the affair entrusted to them".**

These four fundament forces also execute the actions assigned by nature.

**2. The Angels possess varying types of qualities or characteristics, some perform two or thee or four different functions; In
Cahapter 35; verse 2,
"..... Who employs messengers, having wings 2,3 or 4....."**

These four fundament forces are also of varying strength and speed.

Is it possible that the scholars of Islam, over the years, had been stressing the spiritual and moral aspects of the Quranic teachings and did not look into the physical aspects? Whereas Quranic knowledge, revealed by the Creator of the universe, encompasses both spiritual and physical aspects of the Universe and it make sense to interpret Quran for both these aspects. If this is the case, in my opinion, then the modern Science is very much in tune with the teachings of Quran revealed to our beloved prophet Mohammad (Sul lul elahe wassallaum) around fourteen hundred years ago.

On further research I found that Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, Messieh Maoud , (Alahe salam) wrote extensively on cosmic forces and Angels in "Ayena-e-Kamalat-e Islam" I present hereunder some of his Quotes:

"By the command of All Mighty Allah, the reigns of all natural activities in the universe are given to Malaika. All the time, the Malaika are busy bringing about the changes in the universe to facilitate the basic needs for the betterment and nourishment of the humanity. "

“All cosmic bodies including the Sun, the moon and the stars are actively involved in the development, growth and nourishment of all the non-living and living beings on the earth and the universe. It is a known fact that cosmic bodies exert their influence all the time on all that is present in the universe, including non-living, plants and animals and humans. As physical world is benefiting from these forces similarly our spiritual world is also affected by these forces.”

“Not only human development but the development of whole of the universe, including their physical and spiritual aspects, require resources and mean to accomplish their existence in this universe. **Some Quranic verses prove that those forces are named as Malaika (Angels).** Though forces are diverse, but have a very close connection with cosmic bodies. Some of these forces bring winds, some help in rains and some bring about quite a few other universal phenomenon.”

These quotes were written more than hundred years ago when the concept of Four Fundamental Forces was probably in its inception but Hazoor (as) very clearly pointed towards these forces as “closely related to the cosmic bodies” and called these forces as “Angels”. All Four Fundamental Forces in this universe and their counter parts make it a total of “eight forces” or “eight Angels” supporting the Throne (Arsh) of Allah as mentioned in these verses of Quran. Hazoor (as) did write in Ayena-e-Kamalat-e Islam and I quote **“Some Quranic verses prove that those forces are named as Malaika (Angels)”**.

To me this is a further proof of the truthfulness of Hazarat Massei-e Moud (AS). Hazoor (as) called these cosmic forces as Angels when such scientific information was not prevalent in his times. This was not possible unless Allah had revealed this knowledge to him.