

All The Angels Around Us

We all dream; I dream frequently - usually, very abstract combinations of events of the day. When we wake, usually the dream evaporates like a puff of smoke, and we try to hold on to fragments to make sense. Then there are dreams that we remember but make no sense. My latest, is being an orange in a fruit bowl!

Now and then, I have what I call a 'movie dream', where everything is clear and detailed. People in them are so memorable that, when I wake, my entire dream is intact. I can re-watch the dream to try and make some sense of it.

This is one of those dreams...

It had been an average day at the veterinary surgery, and we were just starting to shut down for the evening. It was a specialist surgery, which dealt with unusual cases that were referred to us (so from this part of my dream I must have been watching "Supervet"). Someone walked in to the surgery and I went to talk to him. It was clear that there was no animal to be treated, but the man looked in pain. He asked if there was a room we could use so we went into my office. He closed the blinds and then stated, very casually, "*I wasn't sure where else to go, but I think I can trust you. I have belief in you as you have saved so many animals that would otherwise not be here today.*" He took off his coat and before me were the largest, brightest and most glorious wings I have ever seen, but one wing was obviously damaged and was at a slightly jaunty angle to the other. Before me stood an angel!

Calmly, I asked the angel to wait in the office, I said goodnight to the staff, leaving myself and the angel alone in the surgery.

I don't know why, but I just believed in what I saw, as if it all made sense. "*What happened?*", "*How did you injure your wing?*" He had been hit by a car as he saved a child crossing the road from being run over. Usually, he was fine after such an event as it happened often, but, on this occasion, he came away with a broken wing, which meant that he couldn't operate or get back to heaven. After much discussion it was clear that he was not the only angel stranded with damaged wings and that this was bigger than just us two.

I read up on wing-breaks and how to mend them. Most included the use of a splint, which wasn't practical. The next part of the dream I can only think was inspired by the "Great British Bake Off," as it involved making a croquembouche. I had a brainwave - angels' wings are so bright and white that any colour would cause the wings to be tainted. I knew what would work - clear sugar syrup! Although hot, I applied it to the break. After 5 minutes, the syrup had set solid, the angel's wing was back to normal, and he could continue his role.

The epilogue of the dream was that, quite regularly of an evening, an angel would call needing help after being injured. Word had got around that I could help them continue their job on earth and, in time, return to heaven.

I awoke and promptly told the family, who all thought I was just a bit weird. But, the dream got me thinking about angels...Google... Did you know that angels are, in effect, God's core management team? They have a 9-tier, hierarchical structure, each with its own remit.

Seraphim, angels who are closest to God. They encircle His throne and emit an intense, fiery light representing His love. Not even the other divine beings may look at them. There are only four of them and each has four faces and six wings.

Cherubim (plural of Cherub), the keepers of celestial records. They hold the knowledge of God and are sent to earth with great tasks, such as expelling humankind from the Garden of Eden. Ancient art depicts cherubim as sphinx-like.

Thrones, said to look like great glowing wheels covered with many eyes. They serve as God's chariot and dispense His judgment.

Dominions or **Dominations**. Think of dominions as middle management. They receive orders from seraphim and cherubim, then give out duties to the angels of the lower orders.

Virtues, shaped like sparks of light, are in charge of maintaining the natural world. They inspire living things in areas such as science.

Powers, in their celestial form, appear like brightly-coloured, hazy fumes. Powers are border-patrol agents between heaven and earth. They are the angels of birth and death.

Principalities, shaped like rays of light, they oversee everything. They guide our entire world - nations, cities, and towns. What's more, they are in charge of religion and politics.

Archangels, along with the angels, are guardians of people and all things physical. They are the first order of angels that appear only in human form. Various faiths refer to seven archangels.

Angels, the true intermediaries between God and individual people. They safeguard households and individuals, who believe in God and keep them safe from demons. They nurture, counsel, and heal. We all have a “personal angel”, better known as our “guardian angel”, with us daily.

This topic is so wide and interesting that it may become a “part 2” one day. But just remember, when something happens that feels like someone was there helping, we all have a guardian angel somewhere. When we really need them, they will be with us to help guide and direct us to stay safe and true in our life and faith.

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