

The Divine Names of God

Allah Almighty is Infinite. Being finite human beings, we are limited in our understanding of God, but He has given us names for ninety-nine of His Divine Attributes so we may have a glimpse of His All-encompassing, All-pervading, All-powerful nature.

These attributes are called Al-asma' al-husna, the Beautiful Names. The explanations of each Divine Name are from the inspirations of Maulana Shaykh Nazim al Haqqani, Master of the Naqshbandi Sufi Order.

AR-RAHMAN: The Beneficent

"He is the one who wills mercy and good for all creation, at all times.

He doesn't distinguish between the good and the bad one, the obedient and the disobedient, believer or unbeliever. Through His Divine Justice He gives a chance to everyone to reach everything through this life.

He is Compassionate and Beneficent to all creatures.

Ar-Rahman is mercy upon the nafs, the worldly being, giving sustenance in this world.

AR-RAHIM: The Merciful

"He is the one who rewards the good servants, the obedient ones, the believers. That is also signing His justice, because the ones putting their ego under their feet are not like those dominated by their ego. Ar-Rahim is mercy upon the heart, giving eternal salvation in the Hereafter."

AL-MALIK: The Supreme Ruler or The Sovereign Lord

"He is the absolute Owner and Ruler of the universe.

Absolute greatness for Him. He is not in need of anything or anyone. No one reaches to understand His divine essence."

AL-QUDDUS: The Holy

"He is absolute pure, devoid of blemish, shortcoming, weakness, heedlessness or error. His essence, attributes, names, words, actions and justice are pure. He is not resembling His creation in anything and free from anything anyone may imagine about Him."

AS-SALAM: The Savior or The Source of Peace

"He is absolutely perfect in His essence and attributes and all. His works have sense and wisdom. He is the one who saves believers from dangers and trouble."

AL-MU'MIN: The Guardian of Faith

"He is Illuminator of the light of faith in hearts, making us believers. He is the Comforter and Protector of the ones who take refuge in Him."

AL-MUHAYMIN: The Protector

"He is the Protector and the Guardian. He is the one who sees to the evolution and the growth of His creation, leading them where they are destined to go. Nothing escapes His attention for moment."

AL-AZIZ: The Mighty, the Victorious

"He is the Victorious one whom no force can overwhelm. But He does not hurry to destroy the one who persists in revolt and sin."

AL-JABBAR: The Compeller

"He is the Repairer of the broken, the Completer of the lacking, the one who can enforce His will without any opposition."

AL-MUTAKABBIR: The Majestic, the Greatest

"He is the Greatest, and greatness belongs only to Him. He will humiliate the proud, making him lowest of low, and bless the humble one."

AL-BARI: The Inventor or Evolver

"He is the one who orders His creation with perfect harmony. Everything is harmonious within itself and in accordance with everything else. He gave to you intelligence and freedom of will and choice."

AL-GHAFFAR: The Forgiver

"He is the one who accepts repentance and forgives. Repentance is between you and Allah and must be accompanied by the firm intention not to do the sinful act again. The sign of acceptance of your repentance and the accordance of forgiveness by Allah is that he will not let you repeat that sinful act again."

AL-QAHHAR: The Subduer

"He is the Ever-Dominating one, who has surrounded all His creation from without and within with His irresistible power. Nothing can escape Him."

AL-WAHHAB: The Benefactor or The Bestower

"He is the donor of all, without conditions, without limits, without asking any benefit or return, giving everything to everyone, everywhere, always. He gives money to the poor, health to the sick, children to those who are barren, freedom to the trapped, knowledge to the ignorant. When He gives to you, no one can prevent that good from coming to you."

AL-RAZZAQ: The Sustainer or The Provider

"Sustenance is needed to maintain the creation. There is a physical and a spiritual Sustenance."

AL-FATTAH: The Opener

"He is the Opener and the Solver, the Easer of all that is locked, tied and hardened."

AL-ALIM: The Knower or All-Knowing

"He is the one who knows all.....past, present and future, and there is no limit to His knowledge."

AL-QABID and ALL-BASIT: The Constrictor and The Expander

"He is the one who constricts and He is the One who releases. At the times of constriction, your nafs or ego and your flesh will suffer, but your essence should balance that state with patience, which is the companion of faith. That time may strengthen your faith and bring you closer to Him. In periods of comfort and ease, when all is going well you should be thankful to Allah. Keep a balanced state with the knowledge that all good and bad comes from Allah and that a fine wisdom is in His judgment."

AR-RASHID: The Guide to the Right Path

"He is the ultimate teacher who leads one to the straight path and salvation. He does not enforce what He teaches, but leaves it to men's will to act upon what he is taught.

Man, as the student, has to be aware and conscious of what is being taught. Then he has to use his intelligence to discipline and educate himself, his ego. With the divine laws he must drive the machine of his material being."

AS-SABUR: The Most Patient One

"In everything He is in perfect measure and time. He does everything in its proper time and in just the manner it ought to be done. Everything has to run its course. A patient man refuses things that his flesh and ego desire and which are unacceptable to reason and the religion.

No success and perfection can be achieved easily and without pain. The pain is the pain of the flesh, which is hasty in things that it wants, lazy in working for it and doesn't know the measure, always asking more than it needs.

The meaning of Islam is submission: to forego one's appetites, desires and will in favor of the will of Allah. To be able to submit, one has to be patient, which is a sign of faith."

AL-WA'LI: The Governor

"He is the sole manager and governor of the whole creation. Prior to your creation, He prepared a program for you.

ASH-SHAHID: The Witness

"He is the one who witnesses all things and events everywhere at all times."

AL-HAQQ: The Truth

"He is the Truth. His being never changed, His essence is valid in itself and is the cause and necessity for all other existence.

Haqq is existent by itself, the only true existence.

Everything except Allah begins, changes, disappears, reappears. The truth is that which needs no proof and whose denial is impossible."

AL-JAMI: The Gatherer

"He gathers whatever He wishes, wherever He wishes. In the universe He gathered spaces, galaxies, stars, earth, seas, plants and animals. He gathered in creatures' bodies fire, water, air and earth, eat, cold, dry and wet.

He gathered 6 million cells in a drop of blood. He will gather the bodies, lives, minds and souls of men on the Day of Judgment."

AL-GHANI: The Self-Sufficient

"He is rich and independent, He doesn't need servants, nor to be served. He needs nothing. It is an honor to be chosen by Him to appear as a means of His service to His servants. In reality by that the servant serves only himself, because he obtains the greatest gift, coming closer to Allah, finding Him and being with Him."

AL-MUGHNI: The Enricher

"He knows what is best for us. Life is a testing ground, where we show our degree of purity.....True riches are knowledge and faith."

AL-MANI: The Preventer, Withholder

"Though we may not know the reason, we must believe that if we do not receive what we will and wish, it is because that is best for us.....Allah is most compassionate."

AD-DARR: The Distressor, or the Creator of Evil

"He creates the harmful and evil as (well as) the good and beneficent. Sometimes what is poison to one is medicine to another. He has given us the power of discrimination, will and freedom to choose. All is a test. The final exam is at the time of the last breath..... Although He created evil, the cause of its coming to you is only yourself."

AN-NAFI: The Favourer

"He creates the good and pours gifts and treasures continuously. We have to be present with our hearts minds and hand to receive it. Our will though cannot bring anything to us that is due to someone else, nor can it prevent what is destined for us."

of what is in our hand. After we are gone everything is left to Him." All existence praises Him with their tongues, by their actions or simply by their very existence, respecting Him and thanking Him. He is the source of all gifts and all perfection."
You are not left on your own."

AL-MUTA'ALI: The Supreme, Most Exalted

"He is great and gives without limits, without losing anything by giving."

AL-BARR: The Doer of Good

"He is the source of all good and bounty and the perfect doer of good. He loves for His servants only good, comfort and ease. He rewards tenfold, but His punishment never exceeds the sin committed. If the servant intends to do good but is unable to actualize it, He rewards the intention as if it was actualized. But if His servant intends to sin and is unable to actualize it, He forgives him."

AL-TAWWAB: The Acceptor of Repentance

"He constantly turns man to repentance, awakening the hearts of believers from the sleep of heedlessness through love of him, with the manifestation of His existence around them, with the words of good advice of those who are close to Him, with promises of rewards and fear of His punishment. The repentance acceptable is the effort of inner cleaning, purification."

AL-MUNTAQIM: The Avenger

"He punishes those who persist in revolting, egotism, creating disharmony and tyrannizing His creation and servants. The own ego is Allah's enemy."

AL-AFUW: The Forgiver, The Pardoner

"He forgives and eliminates sins. The forgiving of sins is an encouragement to deniers to change their way..... His doors are always open."

AZ-ZAHIR: The Manifest One

"Everything is a proof of His existence. Allah is manifest in His attributes. He is hidden from those who seek to see by means of their senses or their imagination.

The apparent and the hidden are also in man. His form, words, actions and works are manifest, His feelings and thoughts hidden. His identity becomes manifest through his actions."

AL-KARIM: The Generous

"In His Generosity He gives help, satisfying your needs before you ask. His greatest generosity is in His Mercy, through which he forgives when He could punish."

AL-RAQIB: The Observer, The Watchful One

"He is the one who watches everything, always. In addition to Him, the loving merciful watcher, there are two other watchers.....deadly enemies.....who ask to harm you and watch you to find a weak spot: the accursed Devil and the insatiable egoist, the nafs. You must be well aware of these enemies and watch their moves."

AL-MUJIB: The Acceptor of Prayer, or The Responsive

"He responds to all the prayers or needs of His servants He is closer to His creatures than they are to themselves."

AL-WASI: The All-Embracing

"His vastness is limitless and all-reaching. His attributes, knowledge, mercy, power, generosity, etc. are infinite."

AL-MU'IZZ and AL-MUZILL: The Honorer and the Dishonorer
"He is the one who honors and the one who humiliates."

AL-KHAFID and AL-RAFI: The Abaser and The Exalter
"He is the Abaser and the Exalter. He exalts the good ones and He makes down those who let their egos ride on them."

AL-HAKIM: The Wise
"He is perfectly wise, in His knowledge and in His deeds and commands. Whoever follows His commands will learn and evolve towards being a perfect man."

AL-WADUD: The Loving
"He is the one who loves His good servants, and the only one worthy of love. He is the sole Beloved of the soul, because all perfection is in Him."

AL-MAJID: The Most Glorious One
"No one reaches to Him, therefore He is respected; yet He is closer to us than our own souls. His state is pure perfection, His acts pure wisdom, therefore He is beloved."

AL-BA'ITH: The Raiser from the Dead, The Resurrector
"He will raise people from their graves and bring out all actions, thoughts and feelings that occurred during their lifetime on this earth. What dies and is revived is only the flesh; the soul is eternal. Whatever you sow here, you will reap in the Hereafter."