

HIS IS THE LOFTIEST DESCRIPTION IN THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH (30, 27)

usurping Rights or falsify Truth/Justice because these are His Names, His Attributes.

Dhikr inspires wonder and respect for the physical world and for our own intellect. Dhikr can be called the science of human life because of the wisdom and beauty that has inspired billions to live loving, pious lives. It is an unfortunate modern bias that worship is considered irrelevant. Only a person totally devoid of spirituality would not engage in daily dhikr. Although we **worship at the shrine of modern technology**, this is still a very human world.

Dhikr allows the reciter to experience a new reality. It creates experiences that elevates our level of consciousness. It increases self understanding & awareness. It teaches us the timelessness of ideas & morality. Dhikr is full of substance & applicability. Time spent invoking the Names of God cultivate intelligence & wisdom & is a labor that yields continuous benefits over a lifetime.

The reading of the Names of God produces a feeling that cannot be adequately described, a feeling of awe and reverence for the power of spiritual words. Invocation takes the vibratory effect of each of our molecules into the Infinity of the Cosmos. "Calling" on God's Names **is not something small, it has awesome power**. It is the mind vibration in relationship to the Cosmos. The science of invocation is based on the knowledge that sound is a form of energy having structure, power & **a definite predictable effect on the soul & the human psyche**. The whisperings of His Names is the fusion of sweet music & deep meaning. They open us to a marvelous universe of Divine Beauty. Through these gems, traditionally called "The Most Beautiful Names," **we ourselves are ultimately beautified**.

Reciting the Names of God creates a human being of an extraordinary simplicity & charm & are the best expression of a personality which in its ardour, purity of motive, breadth of sympathy, and clear spiritual insight, will give such a one a place among the uncanonized saints of humanity.

The conception of God's greatness is so central to the Islamic way of life that it is a virtuous act for a Muslim to know and recite God's Ninety-Nine Beautiful Names. These Names are meant to approximate in the mind of the believer who God is and what He does. The fact that God has such attributes and is described in those "Names" comes from the Quran itself: **Allah is He besides Whom**

There is **no other god**; Who knows all things both secret & open; He, Most Gracious, Most Merciful. The Sovereign, the Holy One, the Source of Peace & Perfection, the Guardian of Faith, the Preserver of Safety, the Exalted in Might, the Irresistible, the Supreme: Glory to Allah! High is He above the partners they attribute to Him. He is Allah, the Creator, the Evolver, the Bestower of Form or Colours. **To Him belong the Most Beautiful Names**: whatever is in the heavens and on earth declare His Praises & Glory. He is the Exalted in Might, the Wise. (Sura 59:22-24)

He whose tender mercies are over all His works has placed a principle in the human mind, which incites to exercise goodness towards every living creature. This "calling" singly attended to, makes people become tender-hearted & sympathizing; **but when frequently & totally rejected, the mind becomes shut up in a contrary disposition**.

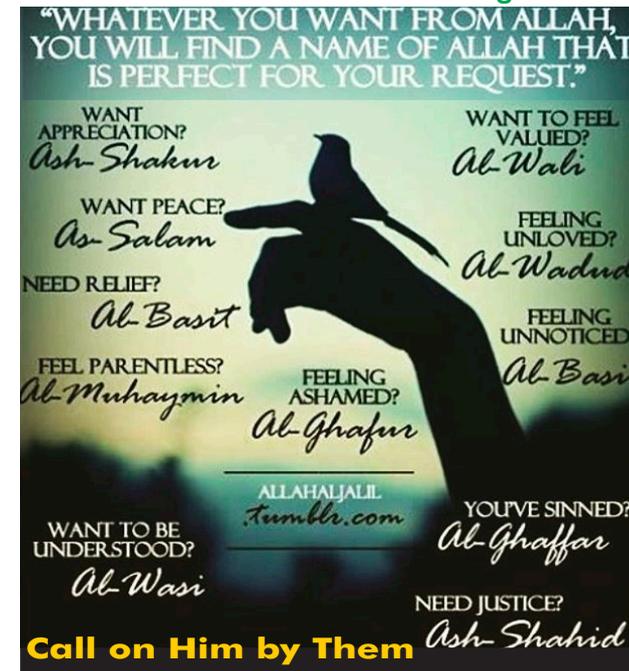
The Names which are as a fire **will dissolve rebellious hearts**; in the multitude of God's mercies we will find inward relief. All the cravings of sense must be governed by a Divine principle. The mind that is moved by an inward principle to love God as an invisible, incomprehensible Being, so, by the same principle, it is moved to love Him in all His manifestations in the visible world.

Some glances of real beauty may be seen in their faces who dwell in true meekness. There is a harmony in the sound of that voice to which Divine love gives utterance, and some appearance of right order in their temper and conduct whose passions are regulated by the daily remembrance of God.

Recitation of the Beautiful Names of God will preserve us **from all taint and corruption in public employment**. Vanities would not be agreeable. We would not have the occasion to bewail the follies of times past. **We would not contract a familiarity with libertine people to become entangled in their snares**. We will not become fodder for the front-pages of the newspapers. Our strength will be renewed as we call upon The Most Intensely Merciful. The Most Compassionate will be a succor to us through a sea of conflicts, and our hearts will be enlarged in this heavenly principle of Dhikr.

Truly in the heart **there is a void** that cannot be removed except with the company of Allah. And in it **there is a sadness** that cannot be removed except with the happiness of knowing Allah & being true to Him. And in it **there is an emptiness** that cannot be

The Most Beautiful Names belong to Allah



Call on Him by Them

filled except with love for Him & by turning to Him & always remembering Him. If a person were given **all of the world & what is in it, it would not fill this emptiness**.

Quietly Muslims say *bismillah*. They invoke the name of Allah to bless a meal. They invoke His name before opening a book. They invoke His name to anticipate an action. They invoke His name to mark a ritual slaughter. *Bismillah* is a sound, a sight, a taste, a touch, and a smell. But first, above all, *bismillah*, in the name of Allah, is the opening phrase of what Muslims recognize to be the Noble Book: the Quran.

If we go through life relatively unconscious, numb, unappreciative, ungrateful, and absorbed with our petty desires, we are **forfeiting** our chance to share in God's ecstasy & love. Only when one decides to follow God **undividedly** does life begin to become **whole**. A successful spiritual life **cannot** be lived on auto-pilot. It takes **intentional** effort to remember God & let those powerful memories guide us.

Have we not all had the experience of looking at the ocean & sensing by analogy God's infinity? To contemplate these wonderful attributes of God is to grow more in love with Him. The great work of our lives is to love & serve Him more & more, and... Call on Him!

The deeper resonance of Allah's invocation is daily underscored in the recitation of the Quran.

In the Name of God, Most Intensely Merciful...

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL NAMES BELONG TO GOD

CALL ON HIM BY THEM



"He is God, the Creator, the Maker, the Fashioner: the Bestower of forms. To Him belong the Best Names." Quran: 59:24

The invocation of God allows us to probe the outer edges of the human imagination. The 99 attributes of God are **Maximally PERFECT**. They have **no deficiencies or flaws**. They are qualities that attempt to describe God who has come near enough to reveal who God is: **"I am closer to you than your jugular vein"** (Q:50:16). These self-revealed attributes

cannot be taken individually, removed from one another like garments in a great wardrobe, or **chosen preferentially** like items in a buffet. They are **not** traits that exist independently but **simultaneously**, at times in paradoxical mystery to us. The Divine Canopy of the 99 Names allows us to explore the pervasive tones of a God so close yet so far from human reckoning. BUT Allah is more than 99. (Q 18:109) Say, "Even if the ocean were ink for writing the words of my Lord, the ocean would be exhausted before the words of my Lord were exhausted, even if We were to add another ocean to it." (Q 31:27) "If all the trees in the earth were pens & the ocean, with seven more oceans, were ink still these could not suffice to **record all the Words of God**. God is Majestic & All-Wise." The oft-repeated name

Ar-Rahman is **weakly** translated as The Merciful. But it has 3 mighty connotations...The **Intensely** Merciful; the **Immediately** Merciful; The **Powerfully** Merciful. Now call on Ar-Rahman...and see **MERCY** in action.

"Praise to Allah FILLS the Scales"

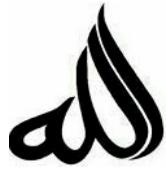
By calling, by invoking, you
experience the radiance of love
behind all phenomena.

Allah is implanted
in the deepest recesses of
the Muslim imagination—across time,
space, race, gender, & geography.

Each of the 99 Names
makes Allah at once
more accessible & subtle as the
bedrock of Muslim self-expression.

For Muslims, the Names of God inspire reverence, awe and humility. *Allahu Akbar*, as the briefest expression of the absolute superiority of the One God, is used in Muslim life in different circumstances, in which the idea of God, His greatness & goodness is suggested.

Many Muslims use the words to express delight when surprised by a pleasant turn of events. And when told of bad news, perhaps that they or a loved one are facing a grave illness, they say *Allahu Akbar* as a declaration that God is greater than their daunting circumstances. So to Muslims, the *Takbir*, the proclamation that God is greater, is both an expression of praise & a short prayer. Those words express the most elemental beliefs of every Muslim, not just that God is great **but that he is greater** than anything we can conceive. He is the Greatest Possible Being. Why is there an urge to call on God? The Problem: Humanity is stuck in a grandiose view of the ego-self & has forgotten about the God reality. **EGO IS A BARRIER TO GOD'S MERCY.** It causes people to suffer from **excessive individualism**. Ego has led most of humanity to



*Allah: THE MOST BEAUTIFUL OF
NAMES, THE TRUEST
COMBINATION OF LETTERS & THE
MOST PRECIOUS OF WORDS.*

seek self-worth on social media (Whatsapp, Facebook, Instagram, etc.). Many have come to the sad realization that it just leads to emptiness & intense boredom. Human beings generate **primary narcissism through the experience of disconnectedness** from God. All the ego knows is that there is something fundamentally missing. It doesn't know what is missing & it doesn't know how to get it. In time, with the aid of divine compassion, we see that we have this blind spot. By accepting the need & making the journey through pain & anguish, we can return. The sincere desire is developed to seek back to the Source of all. The pain of separation creates the longing. And since it requires us to acknowledge that we don't really know what we need, it leads to real humility.

The **deepest narcissistic wound in the ego structure is this sense of failure, worthlessness & shame.** Such a deep wound can ultimately only be healed by the God reality. But humanity seeks it wrongly on social media. Only via the gracious touch of the Loving Being of God (*Al-Wadud*) can there be a healing for our alienation from the divine source & for our shame at having gotten stuck in the lesser identity at this deepest layer of narcissism...which is exploited by Facebook.

Then grace comes with a healing touch of love and divine generosity. Then the layer of ego containing the inner person feels that he or she is being loved all the time. We experience constantly being created by God. We are valued. Now there is a profound sense of the preciousness of our soul, right in this very embodiment. It is an individual light of empowerment. It is the light of self-value or inner worth.

Al-'Aziz (one of the Names of Allah) is the true value & strength that comes directly from God and needs no intermediary. Real strength comes from our sense of inner worth. If we have no sense of self-value, we can't feel strong. When we feel full of worth & value, because we have identified our self with the eternal reality of the soul, strength arises spontaneously from within. It is

something to be cherished, and it gives us the courage to be, the strength & dignity to protect the divine quality within, & to honor it throughout our life. When we let down our ego defenses, we are able to see that we don't personally have the power to do what needs to be done in order to heal the wound of being disconnected from God. The dawning of this light of self-value comes when we truly surrender the healing into God's Hands.

The solution to true self-value is not found in posting pics on social media BUT is encompassed in the Quranic phrase: **Call on Me by My Beautiful Names.** The Names are a spiritual treasure. Each name is a physician of the heart. Historically, the Names have been applied as remedies for **diseased, disconnected & confused** existence. They have been invoked as aids for awakening consciousness of the Divine. Over the centuries, the Names have been a spiritual pharmacopoeia used by true physicians of the heart.

These Names are like formulas which hold our whole existence. To appreciate their interactive power we are invited to pursue the mystical approach. This voyage to self-discovery is a vehicle for understanding the infinite nature of God, and for discovering the divine potential in every soul. This is a mystical road map into the reality of the Only Being, to the One from whence all the 99 beautiful names of Allah spring, and to which they all point. The 99 Names of Allah are manifestations of the qualities of Allah. The attributes lead to the essence, because the attributes are manifestations of the essence—they are invocations of the presence of Allah and evoke relationships that reveal God's presence. The Names all dissolve in Allah. The Names witness to the fact that God is the conclusive argument.

Contemplate, try to understand & practice using God's Names for transformation, healing & wisdom. The 99 names for God is a rich mystical journey that we must dive into daily for deep understanding & experiential nourishment. When their inherent potential is realized, the sacred Names of Allah offer a remedy for each and every human disability. Indeed, they **offer the key to resolving our whole existential dilemma.**

Any complete psychological view should delineate a clear path for human beings to achieve successful integration, & it should also be capable of explaining & addressing the typically wounded and

alienated state of our ego-structures. In each layer of the psyche, human beings identify with an idea of self that they have constructed themselves. This **false idea of the self configures & coalesces around an intense sense of being wounded**, an impression that is stored in the ego. **Each Name of God and each relational cluster or family of Divine Names provides a unique opportunity for psychological & spiritual growth.**

We, as human beings, are limited in our faculties. Repeating and remembering (dhikr) an attribute "activates" & enhances that quality from within since we are attuning to that specific name of Allah – & thus balancing & healing our souls. Dhikr is an expanded dimension of spirituality. Go ahead repeat this Name of God As-Salaam (Peace) & get that "feeling" overwhelming your body & soul...Peace. Dhikr improves our chances of leading prosperous and fulfilling lives.

In Arabic the root is the basis of the word, like a tree. A tree can't stand without roots. Roots provide the Essential nourishment. And just like a tree doesn't have one single root but a group of roots, so are the words. So to make the imagery easier, imagine One tree, with several roots and imagine how each root is connected to another, all deep within the same One earth.

One of the Divine Attributes is Al-HAQ. Al-HAQ can mean Truth, Justice, Ultimate Reality. Which presupposes that both Truth & Justice are intimately tied. When there is Justice, there is Truth & **when there is no Justice, there is no Truth.** Another word that shares the same root as Al-HAQ is Al-Haqeeqa: Reality based on Truth. It implies that one can attain the Reality of "things" through seeking Truth/Justice.

Another derivative word from the Root H.A.Q, is the verb Haqaqa which means to verify/investigate to get to the Truth. Another word is Huqooq which means Rights. (Qanoon in Arabic is legislation/laws). Trampling on Huqooq (rights) is trampling on Justice, is trampling on Truth, is veiling Reality. Falsify Truth, is falsifying Justice, is falsifying Reality, is usurping Rights. The promise God gives is that no human can continue

**ALLAH HAS NINETY-NINE NAMES; WHOEVER
MEMORIZES, CONTEMPLATES, UNDERSTANDS & ACTS
ACCORDING TO THEM WILL ENTER PARADISE.**

Prophet Muhammad (p)

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