

Appendix 4

The Ninety-Nine Names of Allah

The names in the following list are the revealed names of Allah, known as the 'Beautiful Names of Allah', most of which are found in the Qur'an. Sometimes an alternative meaning is given, which indicates difficulty of translation from the Arabic. Usually, one example reference from the Qur'an is given. Also be careful not to interpret the meaning of a name from a Christian perspective, for this is often misleading.ⁱ

	Arabic Name	The Meaning	Reference in Qur'an (example only)
1	Ar Rahman	The All-Compassionate, The Beneficent, The Gracious	1:1
2	Ar Rahim	The All-Merciful	1:1
3	Al Malik	The King, the Absolute Ruler	20:114, 59:23
4	Al Quddus	The Most Holy One. The Pure One	62:1, 59:23
5	As Salam	The Source of Peace, The All- Peaceful	59:23
6	Al Mu'min	The Faithful One, The Inspirer of Faith	59:23
7	Al Muhaymin	The Protector, The Guardian	59:23
8	Al 'Aziz	The Mighty, The Incomparable	59:23
9	Al Jabbar	The Almighty, The Compeller	59:23
10	Al Mutakabbir	The Great One, The Proud One, the Greatest	59:23
11	Al Khaliq	The Creator, The Maker	59:24
12	Al Bari'	The Maker (of Perfect Harmony)	59:24
13	Al Musawwir	The Fashioner, The Shaper of form	59:24
14	Al Ghaffar	The Forgiver, The Forgiving One	20:82, 40:42
15	Al Qahhar	The Dominant, The Subduer	12:39, 40:16
16	Al Wahhab	The Bestower	3:8
17	Ar Razzaq	The Provider, The Sustainer	51:58
18	Al Fattah	The Opener,	34:26
19.	Al 'Alim	The All Knowing	2:29, 158
20.	Al Qabid	The Restrainer, The Constrictor, The Withholder, The Controller	2:245
21.	Al Basit	The Expander, The Reliever	2:245
22.	Al Khafid	The One Who Humbles, The Abaser	56:1-3
23.	Ar Rafi'	The One Who Exalts, The Exalter	56:1-3, 58:11
24.	Al Mu'izz	The Bestower of Honours	3:26

	Arabic Name	The Meaning	Reference in Qur'an (example only)
25.	Al Mudhil	The Destroyer, The One who Dishonours	3:26
26.	As Sami'	The all- Hearing, The Hearer of All	2:127, 3:35
27.	Al Basir	The All-seeing, The Seer of All	4:58
28.	Al Hakam	The Judge, The Arbiter	6:62, 22:69
29.	Al 'Adl	The Just	6:115, 16:92
30.	Al Latif	The Knower of subtleties, The Subtle One	6:103
31.	Al Khabir	The All-Aware	6:18, 35:14
32.	Al Halim	The Forbearing	2:235, 64:17
33.	Al 'Adhim	The Incomparably Great, The Magnificent	2:255, 2:105
34.	Al Ghafur	The Forgiving, The Forgiver and Hider of Faults	2:173
35.	Ash Shakur	The Rewarder of Thankfulness, The Appreciative One	35:30
36.	Al 'Ali	The Most High, The Highest	4:34, 87:1
37.	Al Kabir	The Most Great, The Greatet	13:9
38.	Al Hafiz	The Guardian, The Preserver	11:57, 34:21
39.	Al Muqit	The Sustainer, The Maintainer, The Nourisher	4:85
40.	Al Hasib	The Reckoner, The Accounter	4:86
41.	Al Jalil	The Majestic, The All-glorious, The Revered, The Sublime, The Mighty (Understood to summarise many positive attributes)	55:27
42.	Al Karim	The Bountiful, The Generous	23:116, 27:40
43.	Ar Raqib	The Watchful One, The Vigilant	4:1
44.	Al Mujib	One Who Hears Prayer, The Responder to Prayer	11:61
45.	Al Wasi'	The All Comprehending, The All Embracing	2:115, 268
46.	Al Hakim	The Perfectly Wise	2:32, 31:27
47.	Al Wudud	The Loving One, The Kind One	11:90
48.	Al Majid	The Most Glorious, The Majestic One (Combines: The Majestic, The Bestower and The Generous)	11:73
49.	Al Ba'ith	The Awakener, The Resurrector	22:7
50.	Ash Shahid	The Witness (applied attribute of The Knower)	4:166
51.	Al Haqq	The Truth	6:62, 22:6
52.	Al Wakil	The Guardian, The Ultimate Trustee, The Advocate	3:173
53.	Al Qawi	The Most Strong, The Possessor of All Strength	11:66, 22:40
54.	Al Matin	The Firm One, The Forceful One, the Authoritative	51:58
55.	Al Wali	The Friend, The Governor, The Protector	2:107, 2:257, 4:45, 47:11
56.	Al Hamid	The Praiseworthy, The All Praised One	14:8, 22:64

	Arabic Name	The Meaning	Reference in Qur'an (example only)
57.	Al Muhsi	The Appraiser, The Reckoner	58:6, 72:28
58.	Al Mubdi	The First Cause, The Originator	10:34, 85:13
59.	Al Mu'id	The Restorer to Life	10:34, 85:13
60.	Al Muhyi	The Life-Giver, The Giver of Life	2:28, 7:158
61.	Al Mumit	The Causer of Death, The Slayer, The Taker of Life	2:28, 7:158
62.	Al Hayy	The Ever-Living One	2:255
63.	Al Qayyum	The Self-Existing One by whom all subsist, The Subsisting	2:255
64.	Al Wajid	The Resourceful, The Self-Sufficient, The Finder (Allah's quality of lacking nothing)	38:44
65.	Al Majid	The Magnificent, The Glorified One, The Noble	85:15
66.	Al Wahid / Al Ahad	The Unique, The Single / The One, the Indivisible	2:163, 13:16, 112:1-2
67.	As Samad	The Eternally Besought, The Satisfier of All Needs	112:1
68.	Al Qadir	The Able, The All-Powerful One, The Omnipotent	6:65, 18:45
69.	Al Muqtadir	The Prevailing, The All Powerful	6:65, 18:45
70.	Al Muqaddim	The Expediter, The Promoter	16:61, 50:28
71.	Al Mu'akhkhir	The Delayer, The Postponer	11:8, 71:4
72.	Al Awwal	The First	57:3
73.	Al Akhir	The Last	57:3
74.	Az Zahir	The Evident, The Manifest One	57:3
75.	Al Batin	The Hidden One	57:3
76.	Al Wali	The Governor, The Protecting Friend	13:11, 42:9
77.	Al Muta'ali	The Most Exalted, The Supreme One	13:9
78.	Al Barr	The Source of All Goodness, The Doer of Good	52:28
79.	At Tauwab	The Granter and Acceptor of Repentance, The Guide to Repentance	2:37, 128,
80.	Al Muntaqim	The Avenger, The Lord of Retribution	32:22
81.	Al 'Afuww	The Pardoner, The Forgiver	4:99, 22:60
82.	Ar Ra'uf	The Clement, The Most Kind	2:207, 3:30
83.	Malik al Mulk	The Ruler (Owner) of the Kingdom, The Ruler of All	3:26
84.	Dhu-al-Jalal- wa-al-Ikram	The Lord of Majesty and Bounty, The Possessor of Majesty and Honour	55:27
85.	Al Muqsit	The Impartial One, The Equitable, The Just	3:18, 7:29
86.	Al Jami'	The Assembler, The Gatherer	3:9
87.	Al Ghani	The Rich One, The All-Sufficient	3:97, 47:38
88.	Al Mughni	The Enricher	9:28

	Arabic Name	The Meaning	Reference in Qur'an (example only)
89.	Al Mu'ti	The Giver	108:1
90.	Al Mani'	The Preventer of Harm, The Protector	67:21
91.	Ad Darr	The Afflicter, The Punisher, The Creator of the Harmful	6:17
92.	An Nafi'	The Benefactor, The Benefiter, The Creator of Good	30:37
93.	An Nur	The Light	24:35
94.	Al Hadi	The Guide	25:31
95.	Al Badi'	The Originator	2:117
96.	Al Baqi	The Everlasting One	6:101
97.	Al Warith	The Ultimate Inheritor, The Inheritor of All	15:23
98.	Al Rashid	The Righteous Teacher, The Guide	11:87
99.	Al Sabur	The Patient One	8:46

N.B: There are slight discrepancies of some lists, and therefore those between nos. 68 and 89 may be offset with the names in red being those that differ.

Some authorities mention the possibility of a hundredth name, but that 'Allah' is not given as that name. The greater majority of Muslim sources believe that this name is hidden with Allah – that only he knows it, and only he can reveal it. It is often referred to as *Isma al A'zam*, 'the Exalted Name' which no human being knows.

The names of Allah are claimed by some commentators to be categorised into 6 categories. These are debatable, and those listed below are only those that are so defined. ⁱⁱ



- 1) 7 names describe the absolute being and unity of Allah.
- 2) 5 names present him as the Creator of all.
- 3) 4 names present his special moral attributes.
- 4) 18 names refer to his general attributes:

42	al Karim (Generous, Noble),	99	Ya Sabr (Patient),
47	al Wadud (Loving),	46	Ya Hakim (Wise),
2	al Rahim (Merciful),	5	al Salam (Peace, Soundness),
19	al 'Alim (Knowing),	32	al Halim (Forebearing),
68	al Qadir (All-Powerful),	4	al Quddus (Holy, Pure),
36	al 'Ali (Most High),	16	al Wahhab (Bestowing),
62	al Hayy (Ever-Living),	17	al Razzaq (Sustainer),

- 5) The *isma-e-jamaliya* – 24 names are described as 'the beautiful (or glorious) names' representing him as merciful and gracious. Note however that all the 99 names are also referred as the 'beautiful names'.

1	ar Rahman (Merciful),	47	al- Wudud (Loving)
2	ar Rahim (Compassionate),	32	al Halim (Forbearing)
14	al Ghaffar (Forgiver),	20	al Jalil (Benificent)
17	Ar Razzaq (Provider),	42	Al Karim (Bountiful)
30	Al Latif (Gracious),	55	al Wali (Nearest Friend)

6) *The isma-e-jalaliya* – 41 names that are ‘glorious and awe-inspiring’, also known as the ‘terrible names’, that represent Allah as the all-powerful and absolute Sovereign. These include:

68	al-Qadir (the Powerful),	29	al-Adl (the Just),
9	al-Jabbar (the Strong),		al-Rabb (the Lord)
40	al-Hassib (the Reckoner),		- <i>not among the ‘99 Names’</i> ,
37	al-Kabir (the Great),	20	al-Qabiz (the Controller).

What then is the Hundredth Name of Allah? Some describe it as ‘the hidden name’; yet others deny there is such a name. “Allah” is his overall name, and the 99 names are his defined attributes. There are supposed benefits and merits earned by reciting various names ascribed by certain commentators, as is discovered by going online to [this web-address](#).

How different from the Christian view, where God openly reveals Himself to Moses as YHWH, “*I am who I am*” (Exodus 3). The Holy Bible is full of the God who reveals Himself openly with the desire to enjoy a living relationship with those whom He has created in His image (Genesis 2-3). His revelation is not limited in that He declares through His Word that this is His heart’s desire: “*God, who at various times and in different ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they*” (Hebrews 1:1-4). This is He who has spoken as gloriously described by the apostle John, as He who “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men*” (John 1:1-4). As the living Word of God Himself proclaimed: “*I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. ... Peace I leave with you, My peace [I] give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid*” (John 14:6, 27).

Muslims are denied such a relationship, for Allah is wholly unknowable, and none can associate with him – he is only known by his names. But we have an advocate, a great High Priest, who deals with our sins, and takes away all that stands between us and God’s holiness, so that we have hope, peace, life, and joy in knowing Him – with a guaranteed promise of being with Him in glory.

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Are Mohammed's Names Important?

Not only is there great significance given to the 99 'Beautiful Names' of Allah, but Muslims also delight to refer to the names (attributes) given to the prophet of Islam in the Qur'an and Hadith. These far exceed the number of attributed names to Allah, some lists giving 201 ([Asma-un-Nabi.htm](#)), others referring to more than 416 ([alahazrat.net](#)).

In spite of the fact that Muslims categorically claim not to hold Mohammed in any elevated position other than the prophet of Islam, yet they do address honour to him in a way that is never given [to] any other person. He is not supposed to be deified, as the claim is strenuously made that he was only the receiver of the messages given by Allah through the intermediary of the Angel Jibra'il (Gabriel).

However, consider how he comes across in this typical assessment of Mohammed and his role:

"The life of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) is full of countless examples that show his status as a role model for Muslim societies and individuals. His life is one that was dominated by a superior morality, good habits, noble and gentle feelings and superior skills, all of which are characteristics that help prevent people from getting entangled in a web of sin. The rich and the prosperous, the poor and the needy, the ruler and the ruled, the weak and the lonely, the conqueror and the victorious commander, the teacher and the student, the preacher and the mentor, the merchant and the craftsman, the employer and the employee - in other words, every sort of person can find truths in Prophet Muhammad's life that constitute an example for them to follow.

Prophet Muhammad's status as a role model is an issue based on the Holy Quran and the sunnah. Islamic scholars, as with many other issues, have examined the status of the Prophet as a role model and leader not in a sectional framework, but from a unified perspective, and they have reached the conclusion that the best method is to examine the verses of the Holy Quran that determine and demonstrate the status of the Prophet as a whole. For this reason, when discussing the status of the Prophet as a role model, issues such as believing in the Prophet, obedience to the Prophet, following the Prophet, and disagreeing with the Prophet also come to the fore." ⁱⁱⁱ

Muslims would vigorously deny that Mohammad's role is any greater than that of messenger of God, or prophet - yet it speaks volumes that he is to be thought of as 'role model' and his greatness is extolled. To allow him to have so many names (attributes) that exceed the number given to Allah appears to give him a status beyond that which is claimed for him. Care must be taken on how Mohammed is referred to - note how every time Muslims use his name that they also add: "alayhi as-salam" - 'peace be upon him'. Giving him honorific status.

The *Wikipedia* article '[Names and titles of Muhammad](#)' give a general listing of 53 common names and titles given that is quite enlightening, that includes such names as *The Chosen One*, *The Perfect Man*, *The Light-Giving Lamp*, and even *The Comforter*.

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ⁱ See **Ergun Mehmet Caner, and Emir Fethi Caner**, *Unveiling Islam*, Monarch Books, London, 2003, pp.110-118

ⁱⁱ See **L Bevan Jones**. *The People of the Mosque*, Delhi: ISPCK Madras: Christian Literature Society, 1980 (First edition 1932) p.87-88.

ⁱⁱⁱ **LastProphet.info** : [Article](#): *The Importance of Prophet Muhammad and His Status As A Role Model*