

The names of Allah — and how to use them

The Qur'an does not list His names for memorising. It tells you to call on Him by them.



Invoke Him by them

وَلِلَّهِ الْأَسْمَاءُ الْحُسْنَىٰ فَادْعُوهُ بِهَا

“And to Allah belong the best names, so invoke Him by them.”
The names are given to be used, not only admired.

Qur'an 7:180

Ninety-nine

The Prophet ﷺ said Allah has ninety-nine names, and whoever takes them in enters Paradise. The hadith itself gives no fixed list.

Sahih Muslim 2677

Whichever name you call

“Call upon Allah or call upon ar-Raḥmān — whichever name you call, to Him belong the best names.”

Qur'an 17:110

A page full of them

al-Malik, al-Quddūs, as-Salām, al-Mu'min, al-Muḥaymin, al-‘Azīz, al-Jabbār, al-Mutakabbir, al-Khāliq, al-Bārī', al-Muṣawwir.

- Read the closing verses of Surah al-Hashr slowly

Qur'an 59:22-24

The Ever-Living

اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ

Ayat al-Kursi opens with two names: al-Ḥayy, al-Qayyūm — the Ever-Living, who sustains everything else.

Qur'an 2:255

Match the name to the need

Carrying a sin: al-Ghafūr, ar-Raḥīm — “do not despair of the mercy of Allah.” Asking in private: as-Samī', al-Baṣīr.

Qur'an 39:53 · 42:11

Mercy comes first

Surah after surah opens with ar-Raḥmān, ar-Raḥīm. You meet His mercy before you meet anything else about Him.

Qur'an 1:1 · 2:163

What not to do with them

“And leave those who practise deviation concerning His names.” Do not deny them, twist them, or hand them to anyone else.

Qur'an 7:180

Use one today

“Call upon Me; I will respond to you.” Learn a few names well and put them at the front of your du'a'.

Qur'an 40:60 · 7:180