

أَسْمَاءُ اللَّهِ الْحَسَنَى

اللَّهُ



The name الله is the first name mentioned in the Qura'an. There are two opinions regarding the first ayah of Surah Al-Fatiha, but this principle stands for both the opinions, whether it is بِسْمِ اللَّهِ or الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ .

Linguistically, the root of the name الله is from another name of Allah : الإله , the deity, something that is worshipped. There is only One True God. All others are false. So الله means المعبود , the One towards whom the worship is directed, the One who is worshipped. What is worship? It is related to الخضوع and الذل , submitting to and humbling yourself before your إله . A perfect example of this is sujood.

The name الإله gives us a صفة , an attribute, which is the same as with the name الله العبودية or الألوهية . This means divinity, godliness, the One who deserves to be worshipped; this is الله .

The name الله comes from the same linguistic origin as الإله , but there is more to it. The name الله gathers together all the names of Allah together in one place. They all relate to His Majesty and Divinity. Only He has these attributes.

So الله , the only One who deserves to be worshipped, has the characteristics deserving the worship. He gives us from His فضل , His favours and bounties. He gives us رزق , provisions. He controls the universe. In His hands are life and death. No one else but Allah has these and other countless perfections. Therefore, no one else deserves our worship, because of the perfections in His names and attributes.

Abū Bishr 'Amr ibn 'Uthmān ibn Qanbar Al-Baṣrī (760–796), known as Sībawayh or Sībawayhi, a leading grammarian of Basra and author of Arabic linguistics, said that the word الله is أعرف المعارف , the single most defined noun that exists. The defining 'ال' cannot be separated from the word.

There are many things which have been taken as objects of worship, but nothing has taken the name الله , and none can. It is تحير العقول , it confounds the intellect to think of giving anyone this name. It is a unique name, which is never given to anyone else, in truth or falsehood. The word الله cannot be manipulated, it cannot have derivatives. It cannot be made plural, masculine or feminine.

If you go to a roomful of people of different faiths, and they all have to describe their gods. But when a Muslim says الله , no one has the tiniest doubt who he is referring to. There is no need for an explanation or description. You can't say Allah and mean an elephant or a tree or stone, or even Eisa عليه السلام . Only Allah is رب العالمين .

The scholars differ over which name of Allah is the greatest, اسم الله الأعظم , which, إذا سئل به أعطى , if He is invoked by, He will respond, and if He is asked for, He will bestow. There are three strongest opinions. Some of the scholars say it is الله , some say it is الحي القيوم , the Ever living, the One who never dies, the One who makes things upright, and some say it is not one word, it is جنس الأسماء , all the names which have a comprehensive meaning. Some names of Allah have a vast and general meaning, and some have one very specific one.

The correct opinion, according to Ustadh Tim Humble, is that the greatest name is الله , which gathers every single name meaning Divinity, beauty and supremacy. All other names come under إلهية and ألوهية . How can we implement this in our lives? The name الله has an attribute, His Lordship. So don't direct your worship to anyone but Allah. This is the fundamental message.

The Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم walked the streets of Makkah, and said : يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ! قُولُوا لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ : *Oh people! Say there is no one worthy of worship but Allah.* The Quraysh responded by saying : أَجْعَلُ الْإِلَهَةَ إِلَهًا وَاحِدًا إِنَّ هَذَا لَشَيْءٌ غَجَابٌ : *Has he made the gods [only] one God? Indeed, this is a curious thing (38:5).* They understood this one name to understand the entire message of Islam. This name indicates that there is none who deserves to be worshipped, loved, humbles before, hoped in, feared, but Allah.

Worship is with the heart, tongue and limbs. Worship of the heart is khashyah, humbling and submitting,

hoping for His reward, etc. Your love and desire to achieve His pleasure is the peak of your belief. Worship of the tongue is dhikr, good words, recitation of the Qura'an, etc. Worship of the limbs is salah, fasting, giving charity, etc.

All these acts of worship must be done for Allah alone. Allah is الغني, He is Self Sufficient, He doesn't need anyone, particularly the one who associates with Him. He will abandon the one who commits shirk.

Where will be if Allah abandons us? How will we exist without Him?

Every time you do an act of worship, something Allah loves, do it only for His sake. When you bow and prostrate in salah, placing your forehead on the floor, when you hope for His reward, and fear His punishment, do it only for Allah, no one else. Recognize the greatness of Allah.

All the names of Allah are الحسنى, the peak of perfection. This is a principle. When you say the name الله, all His names and attributes should come to mind. Call Allah by this name, use this name frequently in your du'a. Recognize His right to be worshipped.

The Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم said :

قَالَ اللَّهُ تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى أَنَا أَغْنَى الشُّرَكَاءِ عَنِ الشُّرْكِ مَنْ عَمِلَ عَمَلًا أَشْرَكَ فِيهِ مَعِيَ غَيْرِي تَرَكْتُهُ وَشُرَكَهُ

Allah the Most High and Exalted said : I am the One, One Who does not stand in need of a partner. If anyone does anything in which he associates anyone else with Me, I shall abandon him with one whom he associates with Allah.

صحيح مسلم ، حديث #2985

[Source : The Most Beautiful Names of Allah by Ustadh Mohammad Tim Humble, Dar Al-Ber Society]