

Poem  
**16**

## God's Attributes

Jalaluddin Rumi (Translated by Dr. Nicholson)

### Words and Expressions

scare	–	terrify; become frightened	ڈرنا
sin	–	do something against religious or moral law	گناہ کرنا
discourse	–	talk; speech	گفتگو، تقریر
plot	–	plan; make an evil plan, design	سازش کرنا، برا منصوبہ بنانا
accidental	–	happening by chance; unplanned	حادثاتی۔ اتفاقی
camphor	–	a white aromatic plant substance	کافور
derive	–	obtain; draw	نکالنا، حاصل کرنا، اخذ کرنا
attributes	–	qualities	صفات۔ صفاتی نام
vain	–	proud; pointless; empty	خالی، بے معنی، بے مقصد
titles	–	names	نام

### Multiple Choice Questions

Choose the correct synonym.

- His eye may **scare** you from sinning.  
A) terrify B) spur (Board 2007)  
C) know D) avoid
- You may close your lips against **foul** discourse.  
A) constant B) secret  
C) evil D) loud
- You may close your lips against foul **discourse**.  
A) accusation B) deed  
C) talk D) plan
- You may be afraid of Him to **plot** an evil.  
A) commit B) foil  
C) shun D) plan
- These are not **mere** accidental names of God.  
A) just B) exceptional  
C) clear D) unclear
- So are these names **derived** from God's attributes.  
A) thrust B) obtained  
C) adorned D) remembered
- So are these names derived from God's **attributes**.  
A) plans B) signs  
C) actions D) qualities
- And not mere **vain** titles of First Cause.  
A) proud B) meaningful  
C) great D) common
- And not mere vain **titles** of the First Cause.  
A) visions B) remembrances  
C) talks D) names

### Answers

- |      |      |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1. A | 3. C | 5. A | 7. D | 9. D |
| 2. C | 4. D | 6. B | 8. A |      |



## Questions and Answers

**Q.1 Why does God call Himself "Seeing"?**

**Ans.** God calls Himself "Seeing" with the purpose that we may keep from doing evil deeds. The feeling that one is being watched by God can restrain one from committing sin. There is no hiding-place for the sinners.

**Q.2 Why does God call Himself "Hearing"?**

**Ans.** God calls Himself "Hearing". He is the Hearer. With this knowledge in mind, one will never speak ill of others, and will abstain from back-biting and passing slanderous remarks.

**Q.3 Why does God call Himself "Knowing"?**

**Ans.** God calls Himself "Knowing" to reform our character and to keep us from plotting evil against our fellow beings.

**Q.4 How many attributes of God are mentioned in the poem?**

**Ans.** The poet has mentioned three attributes of Allah in the poem, i.e. 'Seeing', 'Hearing' and 'Knowing'.

**Q.5 What makes one scared of sinning?**

**Ans.** When a man realizes that Almighty God is seeing him all the time, he refrains himself from doing any sin or committing any evil.

**Q.6 How do the attributes of God affect a man's character? OR (Board 2010)**

**What are the effects of the attributes of God?**

**OR**

**How do the attributes of God help in refining the character of a person?**

**Ans.** The attributes of God are purposeful and meaningful. When we realize that God is aware of our speech, action, and thought, we will be scared of sinning. God's attributes thus help us to be good and virtuous.

**Q.7 Mention three more attributes of God.**

**Ans.** Three more attributes of God are the Beneficent, the Merciful, and the Sustainer.

**Q.8 Do you think we remember the attributes of God in our daily life?**

**Ans.** The moral decadence around us shows that most of us do not remember these names of God in our daily routine. There are very few people who honour these attributes. If we make certain that God is 'Seeing', 'Hearing' and 'Knowing', we will certainly keep from doing, saying or planning an evil.

**Q.9 Who is the author of "God's Attributes"?**

**Ans.** Jalal-ud-Din Rumi is the author of "God's Attributes".

## Explanation with Reference to the Context

**Lines 1-4:**

God calls Himself 'Seeing' to the end that  
His eye may scare you from sinning.  
God calls Himself 'Hearing' to the end that  
You may close your lips against foul discourse.

**Reference:**

These lines have been taken from the poem "God's Attributes", written by Jalal-ud-Din Rumi and translated by Dr. Nicholson.



**Context:**

The attributes of God are purposeful and meaningful. When we realize that God is aware of our speech, action, and thought, we will be scared of sinning. God's attributes thus help us to be good and virtuous.

**Explanation:**

In these lines, the poet says that God's attributes describe His power and qualities. His attribute of "Seeing" means that God is everywhere and He sees each and everything we do. Nothing is hidden from Him. The belief that God sees each of our actions, keeps us from doing any bad deed. The poet says that God is "Hearing". If we believe that God hears everything, we will certainly stop talking non-sense and saying foul things.

**Lines 5-6:**

God calls Himself 'Knowing' to the end that  
You may be afraid of Him to plot an evil.

**Reference:**

These lines have been taken from the poem "God's Attributes", written by Jalal-ud-Din Rumi and translated by Dr. Nicholson.

**Context:**

The attributes of God are purposeful and meaningful. When we realize that God is aware of our speech, action, and thought, we will be scared of sinning. God's attributes thus help us to be good and virtuous.

**Explanation:**

God's attributes mean that His power to see, hear, and know is infinite. In these lines, the poet says that God knows whatever we say or think. Our belief in God's unlimited power to know should keep us from making an evil plan. The poet emphasizes that our belief in God's attributes should serve to refine our character and make us good members of society.

**Lines 7-10:**

These are not mere accidental names of God  
As a negro may be called camphor;  
So are these names derived from God's attributes,  
And not mere vain titles of the First Cause.

**Reference:**

These lines have been taken from the poem "God's Attributes", written by Jalal-ud-Din Rumi and translated by Dr. Nicholson.

**Context:**

The attributes of God are purposeful and meaningful. When we realize that God is aware of our speech, action, and thought, we will be scared of sinning. God's attributes thus help us to be good and virtuous.

**Explanation:**

The attributes of God are not the chance names. They are meaningful and show God's unlimited power to see, hear, and know everything we do, say and think. A black man may accidentally be named camphor – a strong smelling white substance. It bears no truth and is just a chance name. But as far as God's attributes are concerned, they are undeniable facts and not mere names. Allah deserves all praise and He stands true to these names.

*(camphor: a white gummy volatile substance with a strong smell obtained especially from the wood and bark of the camphor tree and used in certain medicines)*