

Book 1 of 3
33 Names



أَسْمَاءُ اللَّهِ الْحُسْنَى

ALASMAA UL HUSNAA
HOW TO LIVE BY THE NAMES OF ALLAH

أَسْمَاءُ اللَّهِ الْحُسْنَى

AL ASMAA UL HUSNAA

HOW TO LIVE BY THE NAMES OF ALLAH

Practical knowledge and tips on how to live by
the names and attributes of Allah

Book 1 - 33 names



Index

Allah	8	Al-Hakam	112
Ar-Rahmaan	13	Al-Lateef	117
Ar-Raheem	17	Al-Haleem	121
Al-Malik	22	Al-‘Adheem	126
Al-Quddoos	27	Al-Ghafoor	131
As-Salaam	32	Ash-Shakoor	136
Al-Mu‘min	37	Al-‘Aliy	141
Al-Muhaymin	42	Al-Kabeer	145
Al-‘Azeez	46	Al-Hafeedh	150
Al-Jabbaar	51	Al-Muqet	155
Al-Mutakabbir	55	Al-Haseeb	159
Al-Khaaliq	60	Quizzes	164
Al-Baari’	65	Answers	173
Al-Musawwir	69		
Al-Ghaffaar	73		
Al-Qahhaar	78		
Al-Wahhaab	83		
Ar-Razzaaq	88		
Al-Fattaah	93		
Al-‘Aleem	97		
As-Samee’	102		
Al-Baseer	107		

INTRODUCTION:

Do You Live By the Names of Allah?

We feel every Muslim should know 99 of Allah's names. How can we develop a relationship with Allah if we don't know Him well, and how can we know Him well, love Him, and feel awe for His greatness unless we know His attributes?

The Messenger of Allah said: *Allah has ninety-nine names; whoever memorizes [contemplates, understands and acts according to] them will enter Paradise.* [Muslim] That's why we're introducing a special learning experience that includes not only memorising 99 names of Allah but also learning how to live by them!

The content

The most important knowledge is that of the oneness of Allah, His names, and His attributes (*tawheed*), and the best book on this knowledge is the Quran.

We will introduce the beautiful names of Allah, *Al Asmaa ul Husnaa*, one by one. This first part of the series covers 33 of the beautiful names of Allah mentioned in the Quran.

You'll find an introduction to each of the names of Allah, discussing the meaning, linguistic facts, examples from the *seerah*, and Quranic knowledge related to the name, as well as a set of practical tips on how to live by this name.

Each chapter opens with a visual in which you'll find the name in Arabic, transliteration, and English. At the end of the book are quizzes to help you review your knowledge of the beautiful names of Allah.

4 Study Goals

Our goals for studying the names of Allah are:

1. to get closer to Him through knowledge of His names and attributes
2. To better love Him, fear Him, obey His orders, and submit to His decree

3. to link every second of our lives to the most beautiful names of Allah by understanding these names with our hearts and by pursuing excellence in all our deeds
4. to actively use these names for prayers as Allah mentions: *And to Allah belong the best names, so invoke Him by them.* [Quran, 7:180] The more names you know, the easier it will be connect oneself to Allah by remembering the relevant names and to get solace and relief in times of stress and worries. If we know Allah, we'll know the very purpose of our own lives.

Truly in the heart there is a void that can not be removed except with the company of Allah. And in it there is a sadness that can not be removed except with the happiness of knowing Allah and being true to Him. And in it there is an emptiness that can not be filled except with love for Him and by turning to Him and always remembering Him. And if a person were given all of the world and what is in it, it would not fill this emptiness. [Ibn Qayyim al Jawziyyah]

O Allah, accept this work, done for Your sake only, from all those involved in researching, writing, editing, and proof-reading. May it be a source of reward and forgiveness, and may it be of benefit to all those who read it, ameen.

The Understand Quran Academy Team

Rajab 1435 / May 2014

Glossary

In this book calligraphy icons are used. It is highly recommended for Muslims to fully pronounce the following expressions and not abbreviate them; this is to receive the rewards of showing respect.

عَزَّ وَجَلَّ (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) ‘azza wa jall (transliteration)

Meaning: *Mighty and The Majestic*

Explanation: A commonly used expression after the name of Allah is mentioned, indicating His attributes of might, power, greatness, and reverence.

سَلَامٌ عَلَى اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ (ﷺ) Sallal-laahu ‘alayhi wa sallam (transliteration)

Meaning: *peace and blessings of Allah be upon him*

Explanation: This expression follows specifically after mentioning the name of the Prophet Muhammad.

Quranic reference: *Indeed, Allah confers blessing upon the Prophet, and His angels [ask Him to do so]. O you who have believed, ask [Allah to confer] blessing upon him and ask [Allah to grant him] peace. [Quran, 33:56]*

Hadith reference: The Messenger of Allah said: *Whoever sends one salah upon me, Allah will send ten upon him. [Muslim]*

رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ (ﷺ) radiyallaahu ‘anhu (for males), (transliteration)

رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا (ﷺ) radiyallaahu ‘anha (for females) (transliteration)

Meaning: *may Allah be pleased with him / her.*

Explanation: This expression is most commonly used when the name of a companion of the Prophet Muhammad is mentioned.

سَلَامٌ عَلَىهِ السَّلَامُ (ﷺ) ‘alayhis-salaam (transliteration)

Meaning: *peace be upon him*

Explanation: A commonly used expression after the name of the prophets and some of the angels.



الله
ALLAH

The Only One God

﴿ He is Allah, other than whom there is no deity,
Knower of the unseen and the witnessed. He is
the Entirely Merciful, the Especially Merciful. ﴾

﴿ هُوَ اللَّهُ الَّذِي لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ عِلْمُ الْغَيْبِ

وَالشَّهَادَةِ هُوَ الرَّحْمَنُ الرَّحِيمُ ﴾

[Quran, 59:22]

Allah

Allah mentions Himself by His name *Allah* on 2699 occasions in the Quran. *Allah* is the Being Who comprises all the attributes of perfection. He is the one who possesses the best and the noblest qualities imaginable in the highest degree!

The One who is worshipped, The One who possesses the attributes of divinity

Allah has the root *Hamza-Laam-Haa*. It refers to the One to whom the whole creation is enslaved, the One who is worshipped and adored, and the One to whom all attributes of divinity belong.

This root appears 2851 times in the Quran in three derived forms. Examples of these forms are *ilaaha* (God), *Allaahu* (is) Allah) and *Allahumma* (O Allah).

Linguistically, the word *Allah* belongs to the true God— it is not derived from anything, and the *Al* is inseparable from it; the word *al-ilah* (the god) is a different word. The word *Allah* is unique, the name which refers to the Being Himself as His personal name and it encompasses all of the divine names and attributes of perfection.

Allah Himself says: *He is Allah the Creator the Evolver the Bestower of Forms. To Him belong the Most Beautiful names: Whatever is in the heavens and on earth declare His Praises and Glory: and He is the exalted in Might the Wise.* [Quran, 59:24] . . . *Allah! there is no god but He. To Him belong the Most Beautiful names.* [Quran, 20:8]

Worship: a combination of love and obedience

The verb *‘abada*— from the root *‘ayn-baa-daal*— means to worship. But what is worship? Worship is a combination of love and obedience; love without obedience isn’t worship and neither is obedience without love.

Who deserves mankind’s utmost love and obedience? It is *Allah* (ﷻ), the One who created, in perfection, mankind, the seven heavens and the earth, and all they contain. Therefore no one but *Allah* (ﷻ) has the right to be worshipped.

And the only way to love and obey Him is to know Him through what He has revealed about Himself in His book, the Quran, and the sunnah of His Messenger, Muhammad (ﷺ).

Most Beautiful Names and Attributes

The names of Allah (ﷻ) are all husnaa (Most Beautiful), as He says: *And to Allah belong the best names, so invoke Him by them.* [Quran, 7:180]. Al-Husnaa refers to the utmost beauty and each and every name or attribute includes the quality of perfection.

The name Allah is the only name of Allah (ﷻ) and the rest all refer to His divine attributes (*sifaat*). The first and the last word of the *adhaan* (call to prayer) is *Allah*, the first word of salah (prayer) is *Allah* and in a typical prayer the word that comes most is *Allah*. As well, the beginning of our life starts with *Allah* (*the adhaan*) and our life should end by us saying: *laa ilaaha illAllah*—there is no god but Allah.

How can you live by this name?

1. Believe in Allah.

Islam means you submit to your Creator and is based on five concepts. Performing five daily prayers, fasting in *Ramadhan*, pilgrimage to Makkah (*Hajj*) and paying *zakat* (charity for the poor) over your wealth are pillars of Islam. The first pillar is the testimony of faith (*shahaada*) which means believing in the existence and oneness of Allah (ﷻ) and that Muhammad (ﷺ) is the last Messenger. This faith—*emaan*—includes faith in Allah's angels, His revealed books, His messengers, and the afterlife and belief in pre-destination. Daily renew your faith by saying *laa ilaaha illAllah* and know that Allah (ﷻ) instructed you to worship Him only, and He did so after He reassured you that He is the only One in control of all your affairs and the One closest to you: *And We have already created man and know what his soul whispers to him, and We are closer to him than [his] jugular vein.* [Quran, 50:16]

2. Say and feel *laa ilaaha illAllah*.

Allah says: *So know, that there is no deity except Allah and ask*

forgiveness for your sin.[Quran, 47:19] Do you truly feel it when you say *laa ilaaha illAllah*? This statement brought you into the safe threshold of Islam and your Creator chose you to be of those who are willing to utter it, unlike many others on this earth. The Prophet (ﷺ) said: *The best dhikr (remembering Allah) is laa ilaaha illAllah and the best supplication is al-hamdulillah.* [At-Tirmidhee, An-Nasaa'i, Ibn Maajah] Each time you say there is no god but Allah – *laa ilaaha illAllah*— in prayer, or as remembrance outside prayer, think about the real meaning of these words; increase in using this invocation and say it from your core!

3. Say **Bismillah**.

The Prophet (ﷺ) said: *Any significant act that does not begin 'in the name of Allah' is severed (of blessings).* [An-Nasaa'i] When you say the *basmalah*— the saying of *bismillah*— in the name of Allah— or *bismillaahir rahmaanir raheem* - it makes you conscious of Allah (ﷻ) because you are invoking Him. When you say *bismillah* before beginning something, it means you are seeking Allah's blessings and help in what you are going to do next.

Make it a habit and teach it to your children; if they say the *basmalah* throughout their lives and teach it to their offspring until the Day of Judgement, it will be an ongoing reward for you. This practice also helps you to refrain from sinful deeds, as how can you start something wrong in the name of Allah? So say the *basmalah* when you eat, drink, undress, travel, etc., and make it your most productive habit.

4. Turn to Him.

Allah (ﷻ) describes the beautiful and direct relationship between Himself and the believer in a hadith qudsi: *O son of Adam, so long as you call upon Me, and hope in Me, I shall forgive you for what you have done, and I shall not mind. O son of Adam, were your sins to reach the clouds in the sky and were you then to ask forgiveness of Me, I shall forgive you. O son of Adam, were you to come to Me with an earthful of sins and were you then to face Me, without having associated anything with Me, I shall grant you an earthful of pardon.* [At-Tirmidhee] Turn to Him in times of ease and hardship and you will find happiness and tranquillity that cannot be found in anything other than Him.

O Allah, we know that you are the One and Only God and you have no partners. Guide us to firm belief in you and aid us in acting upon this belief by doing deeds that will lead to your Pleasure. Make us of those who remember You often and make us turn to You at all times. Bless us with faith in You until our last moment and make us of those who will gaze at your beautiful Countenance in Paradise, ameen!

And Allah knows best.



الرَّحْمَنُ

AR-RAHMAAN

The Most or Entirely Merciful

﴿ He is Allah, other than whom there is no deity, Knower of the unseen and the witnessed. He is the Entirely Merciful, the Especially Merciful. ﴾

﴿ هُوَ اللَّهُ الَّذِي لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ عِلْمُ الْغَيْبِ

وَالشَّهَادَةِ هُوَ الرَّحْمَنُ الرَّحِيمُ ﴾

[Quran, 59:22]

Ar-Rahmaan

Allah calls Himself *Ar-Rahmaan*— The Most Gracious, the intensely Merciful— on 55 occasions in the Quran and 133 times in the *basmalah*. *Ar-Rahmaan* is the One whose intense and perfect Mercy embraces the whole creation!

The Most Gracious, Most Lovingly Beneficent

Rahmaan comes from the root *Raa-Haa-Meem*, which points to four main meanings. The first meaning is to have gentleness and to love, and the second is to have mercy. The third meaning is to show favour, and the fourth meaning is to have all that is required for beneficence.

This root appears 339 times in the Quran in nine derived forms. Examples of these forms are *rahima* (“bestows mercy”), *al-arhaam* (the wombs”) and *rahmatan* (“mercy”).

Linguistically, *rahmaan* shows intensity (thus the ending is *-aan*). For example *ghadbaan* means extremely angry. *Ar-Rahmaan* points out to the intensity, abundance, and vastness of the mercy (*rahmah*) of Allah (ﷻ), and the attribute of grace is inseparable from the Almighty.

Allah first mentioned His name - Allah - that is exclusively His and described this name by Ar-Rahmaan, which no one else is allowed to use, just as Allah said, Say (O Muhammad) invoke Allah or invoke Ar-Rahmaan, by whatever name you invoke Him (it is the same), for to Him belong the Best names. [Quran, 17:110] [Tafseer ibn Katheer]

Ar-Rahmaan Himself says: [This is] a revelation from the Entirely Merciful, the Especially Merciful . . . [Quran, 41:2] That Day, no intercession will benefit except [that of] one to whom the Most Merciful has given permission and has accepted his word. [Quran, 20:109]

The mercy of Allah

Explaining the mercy of Allah, *Ar-Rahmaan*, the Prophet (ﷺ) said: *Allah has divided mercy into 100 parts, and He retained with Him*

99 parts, and sent down to earth one part. Through this one part creatures deal with one another with compassion, so much so that an animal lifts its hoof over its young lest it should hurt it. [Al-Bukharee]

Be amazed at the fact that the other 99 parts are yet to come and they are with Allah Himself. You will not enter Jannah because of your deeds, but by the *rahmah* of Allah only.

The Prophet (ﷺ) also said, *When Allah created the creatures, He wrote in the Book, which is with Him over His Throne: Verily, My Mercy prevailed over My Wrath. [Al-Bukharee]*

How can you live by this name?

1. Never despair.

No matter how many sins you commit, He can have mercy on you if you just turn to *Ar-Rahmaan*. Every mistake or sin is an opportunity and a sign that it's time to get closer to Him! Whenever you commit a sin, call Him by this name to have mercy on you and remind yourself of one of the most optimistic *ayaat* in the Quran: *Say, O My servants who have transgressed against themselves [by sinning], do not despair of the mercy of Allah. Indeed, Allah forgives all sins. Indeed, it is He who is the Forgiving, the Merciful. [Quran 39:53].*

2. Be merciful to others.

Be merciful to not only the needy but also to your family if you want the mercy of *Ar-Rahmaan*! The Prophet (ﷺ) said: *Allah will not be merciful to those who are not merciful to the people. [Al-Bukharee]* The Prophet (ﷺ) gave a simple formula on how to deal with others: *Whoever wishes to be delivered from the fire and enter the garden should die with faith in Allah and the Last Day and should treat the people as he wishes to be treated by them. [Muslim]* So no matter how big or small, think how you would like to be treated in the same situation.

3. Keep family ties.

Be active in being in touch with your family: regularly visit, call, and exchange gifts, and never abandon your family. The Prophet (ﷺ)

said: . . . *The womb (rahm) is derived from the Merciful, so whoever keeps relations with his family then Allah will keep relations with him, and whoever abandons his family then Allah will abandon him.* [At-Tirmidhee] Be the first to make up after an argument. The Prophet (ﷺ) said: *It is not permitted for a Muslim to forsake his brother for more than three (days); whoever does this and dies, he will enter Hell.* [Abu Dawud]

4. Be good to your parents.

Daily ask Ar-Rahmaan to have mercy on your parents! Ar-Rahmaan instructs you: *And your Lord has decreed that you not worship except Him, and to parents, good treatment. Whether one or both of them reach old age [while] with you, say not to them [so much as], “uff,” and do not repel them but speak to them a noble word. And lower to them the wing of humility out of mercy and say, “My Lord, have mercy upon them as they brought me up [when I was] small.* [Quran, 17:23-24]

5. Recognize mercy and be grateful.

Reflect upon Allah’s mercy when you see all the blessings around you; food, water, oxygen. Only Ar-Rahmaan can make it rain and He made the rain sweet and not salty. When you love someone or are loved, know that this feeling was manifested by the mercy of Allah. Think about the mercy of Ar-Rahmaan in sending the Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) to you, and be intensely happy and grateful to have such a merciful Lord.

Note: We have to be careful if translating the names of Allah (ﷻ) into a different language. The name Ar-Rahmaan is most commonly translated as *The Most Merciful, The Entirely Merciful, The Most Gracious.*

O Allah, Ar-Rahmaan, we know that Your mercy is perfect. Let us never despair of Your mercy, guide us to be merciful to others, to maintain our family ties, and to seek Your pleasure. Enable us to reflect on Your mercy around us, adorn us with gratefulness, and enter us into Paradise by Your mercy, ameen!

And Allah knows best.



الرَّحِيمِ

AR-RAHEEM

The Bestower of Mercy

﴿ And He is Merciful (Raheem) to the believers. ﴾

﴿ وَكَانَ بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ رَحِيمًا ﴾

[Quran, 33:43]

Ar-Raheem

Allah calls Himself *Ar-Raheem*— The Bestower of Mercy, The Most Compassionate— on 93 occasions in the Quran, 112 times in the basmalah. *Ar-Raheem* is the One who bestows His continuous mercy on all of creation and who bestows even more grace and greater rewards in response to the good deeds of the believers!

The Most Compassionate, the Bestower of Mercy

Both *raheem* and *rahmaan* come from the root *Raa-Haa-Meem*, which points to four main meanings. The first meaning is to have gentleness and to love, the second is to have mercy. The third meaning is to show favour, and the fourth meaning is to have all that is required for beneficence.

This root appears 339 times in the Quran in nine derived forms. Examples of these forms are *turhamoona* (“receive mercy”), *ruhman* (in affection”), and *ar-raahimeena* (“[of]those who show mercy”).

Linguistically, *raheem* shows continuity or repetition (the ending of *-ee(m)*). For example *jameel* means beautiful and *kareem* means honourable or generous, which reflect characteristics or states. Related to Ar-Rahmaan, Ar-Raheem refers to the action or the effect of Allah’s intense mercy on creation, indicating how this mercy encompasses creatures. Imagine a shower of blessings, and imagine the shower as very intense and continuous. Allah is the intensely and the continuously Merciful.

Ar-Raheem Himself says: *He said, “I will ask forgiveness for you from my Lord. Indeed, it is He who is the Forgiving, the Merciful [Quran, 12:98] . . . [O Muhammad], inform My servants that it is I who am the Forgiving, the Merciful [Quran, 15:49] and. . . And indeed, your Lord - He is the Exalted in Might, the Merciful. [Quran, 26:9]*

The merciful of the creation

Certain names Allah ‘azza wa jall uses only to describe Himself. He says: *Say: Invoke Allah or invoke Ar-Rahmaan, by whatever name you invoke Him (it is the same), for to Him belong the Best names. [Quran, 17:110]*

As for Allah's name Ar-Raheem, Allah (ﷻ) has described others by it: *Verily, there has come unto you a Messenger from amongst yourselves. It grieves him that you should receive any injury or difficulty. He (Muhammad) is anxious over you (to be rightly guided) for the believers kind and merciful.* [Quran 9:128]

Being kind to others is a blessing

Know that kind and compassionate treatment is liked by Ar-Raheem and is in fact His blessing from Him to you. A person who is hardhearted is deprived of this divine blessing and mercy. Aishah (رضي الله عنها) reported that some Bedouins came to the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) and asked, 'Do you kiss your children?' He replied, 'Yes.' They then said: 'By Allah, we do not kiss them.' He then replied, 'I cannot help you if Allah has snatched kindness from your hearts.' [Al-Bukharee, Muslim] So open up your heart to others and constantly warm your heart with the remembrance of Allah (ﷻ).

How can you live by this name?

1. Obey Ar-Raheem, hold onto the Quran.

And He is Merciful (Raheem) to the believers [Quran, 33:43]. Allah (ﷻ) mentions ways for you in the Quran to receive His special mercy as a believer. He says: *and obey Allah and His Messenger so that you all may receive Mercy* [3:132]. This mercy is only reserved for those who try their best to hold on to the guidelines, prohibitions, and commandments mentioned in the Quran and Sunnah. *And this is a book, We have sent it down as one blessed, so follow it and fear Allah so that you all may receive Mercy* [6:155].

2. Strive for taqwa.

O you who have believed, have taqwa of Allah and believe in His Messenger; He will [then] give you a double portion of His mercy and make for you a light by which you will walk and forgive you; and Allah is Forgiving and Merciful [Quran, 57:28]. Taqwa can be described as consciousness which inspires you to be on guard against wrong action and eager for actions which please Allah (ﷻ) and to

stay away from those actions which displease and anger him. Tips to increase your taqwa are: be alert to whatever may divert you from Allah, and be alert to your desires that may lead you to the forbidden. Ascribe each success, material or spiritual, to Allah only, and long for His pleasure in everything you do, big or small. Renew your emaan by reflecting on Ar-Raheem's creation and remember death by living each day with the knowledge it can happen anytime.

3. Pray four units (rak'aat) of prayer before 'asr.

The Prophet (ﷺ) said: *May Allah have mercy on one who prays four raka'aat before the 'asr Prayer* [At-Tirmidhee].

4. Listen to the Quran attentively.

And when the Quran is recited, listen to it with attention, that you may receive mercy [Quran, 7:204]. Have you noticed the effect on your heart when you sit and listen to the Quran with your ears and heart, with no distractions around you? The more you respect and honour the Book of Allah, the more cure, guidance and mercy you will receive through it.

5. Turn to Ar-Raheem.

Whenever Ar-Raheem gives you a trial, know that no one can give you a way out but Him, so turn to Him as soon as hardship hits you. *And if Allah should touch you with adversity, there is no remover of it except Him; and if He intends for you good, then there is no repeller of His bounty. He causes it to reach whom He wills of His servants. And He is the Forgiving, the Merciful* [Quran, 10:107]. No matter what sin you commit, Allah (ﷻ) forgives you if you repent of it. That's the beauty of Al-Ghafoor Ar-Raheem.

6. Ask Ar-Raheem for compassion.

The Prophet (ﷺ) said: *He who is not merciful to our young (people) and who shows no respect to our elderly is not one of us.* [At-Tirmidhee] Ask Allah (ﷻ) to bless you with a soft heart and to enable you to feel compassion towards your relatives, friends, and the whole Muslim nation. How many do not feel responsible or attached to the ummah? The Prophet (ﷺ) said: *The similitude of believers in regard*

to mutual love, affection, fellow-feeling is that of one body; when any limb of it aches, the whole body aches, because of sleeplessness and fever. [Muslim]

O Allah, Ar-Raheem, we know that You bestow Your mercy perfectly and continuously on all that exists. Guide us to hold onto Your book and the sunnah so we may attain your special mercy and adorn our actions, speech, and thoughts with a deep sense of taqwa. Make us turn to You at all times, asking for Your Mercy, and make us compassionate so we will enter through the gates of Your paradise by Your mercy, ameen!

And Allah knows best.

If you want to read the complete book, then..

[Click here to order](#)

How to live by the names of Allah goes beyond explaining the meanings of the names and attributes of Allah. This unique publication is focussed on delivering tips on how to apply the classic knowledge of Allah in order to help you improve as a person on every single front.

In this first part of the series 33 of Allah's names are discussed one by one, with explanations of the meaning, linguistic facts, proof from the Quran and Prophetic traditions, as well as a rich set of instant, practical tips and reflections on how to live by the name.

Not only unique in content, this book contains beautifully illustrated quizzes to aid in the memorization of both meanings and tips, leaving the reader with a thorough and unforgettable learning experience.

Based on the renowned Understand Quran Academy "Names of Allah" online series, this book is a valuable asset to read and carry, and as a reference it is a rich source of tips, reflections, and memorization tools to use in daily life.



www.understandquran.com

ISBN 9781483533131



9 781483 533131