

## **Attributes of Allah in the Holy Quran**

**HOW** do we know Allah? First there is a subjective evidence within ourselves. Since we all were created by God, there is within all of us a fine sense of awareness that exists a Creator.

There is more evidence outside. This perfectly ordered universe and everything contained therein and the functioning of the universe governed under an integrated system of rules reveal themselves about a Divine Force behind all this without Whom such a perfect functioning of the world and earth would not have been possible. It would be absurd to conceptualise anything otherwise.

Then we have the Holy Quran which encompasses various aspects of life. Starting from the vouching of the Oneness of God and that He is omnipotent and through His powers He regulates the universe. It is He, Who has created men and women, animals and vegetables, mountains and rivers etc.

The Holy Quran is a self-explanatory guide for mankind which appeals to common sense and evolves the spirit of the search and enquiry and an urge to finding the Truth and certain things which Allah wishes to be searched and found by the human beings. The idea behind this is one should not accept Quranic teachings by force but by applying one's own thinking. Iman (Belief) should be grasped by following the road map leading towards truthfulness and righteousness as explained in the Holy Quran.

Islamic scholars and the authorities of Sunnah (the holy Prophet's sayings and actions) have interpreted the Holy Quran on three counts.

- The entity and attributes of Allah as highlighted in the Holy Book.
- Prophet Muhammad's (peace be upon him) role as the Last Prophet, his mission as directed through the Holy Quran and the holy Prophet being the nearest and dearest of all His creations as confirmed by the Holy Quran.
- What the Holy Quran tells and verifies about itself - a proof of sustenance and originality.

Allah's entity, authority and total and unshared control over conducting the affairs of the universe and creatures therein have been explained through relevant attributes.

The Holy Quran contains some very significant qualities of God in terms of attributes, figures and references to the context, which, though read by tens of millions of Muslims all over the world, remain unheeded in respect of their meanings and deeper sense.

Some of the attributes of God mentioned in the Holy Quran are as under.

- Allah, has been used for 4626 times in the Holy Quran, the attribute Allah encompasses the total authority and powers of the Lord.
- Rabb, meaning Master, Benevolent and Caretaker, has been used 971 times.
- Rahman and Rahim; meaning compassionate and merciful has been used 216 times.
- Baseer, which mans Observer of everything, anywhere and at all times, however, minute or small it may be, has been used 37 times.
- Qadeer, meaning empowered and capable of exercising total control and command, has been used 45 times.
- Azeez, a quality which cannot be attributed to any mortal. It is an attribute unequivocally and exclusively reserved for Allah. Only this word which glorifies God being above needs appeared for 99 times.

The main thrust of the Holy Quran, which has been time and again stressed in it, is Khulaq and Amar, that is Allah's creation. His total control and command over the universe which is "unshareable" phenomenon - the sun, the moon, stars, water, rivers, seas, mountains, minerals, trees, flowers, fire, lightning - all have been made/created by God to serve and support the human beings but each by itself is not worth worshipping or used as a plank to win the favour of or to please Allah.

The abovementioned life supports are all subservient and regulated by God. They cannot guarantee salvation on the Day of Judgement hence not worship-worthy.

The Holy Quran tells us that Allah is Kind, Beneficent, Just and Merciful, Lord and Provider, Sovereign and Law-Giver, Wise and True, He is Original, He is Eternal. He does not retire or sleep. He has no partners or kins. He is All knowing and All seeing.

No one can escape His reckoning and He will reward and punish each one according to his/her deeds.

His Justice is blended with Mercy and His mercy is blended with Justice.

God does not impose Himself. People are free to believe or disbelieve. Those who do not believe invent their own deities and worship their own desires. Naturally there are consequences to both belief and disbelief.