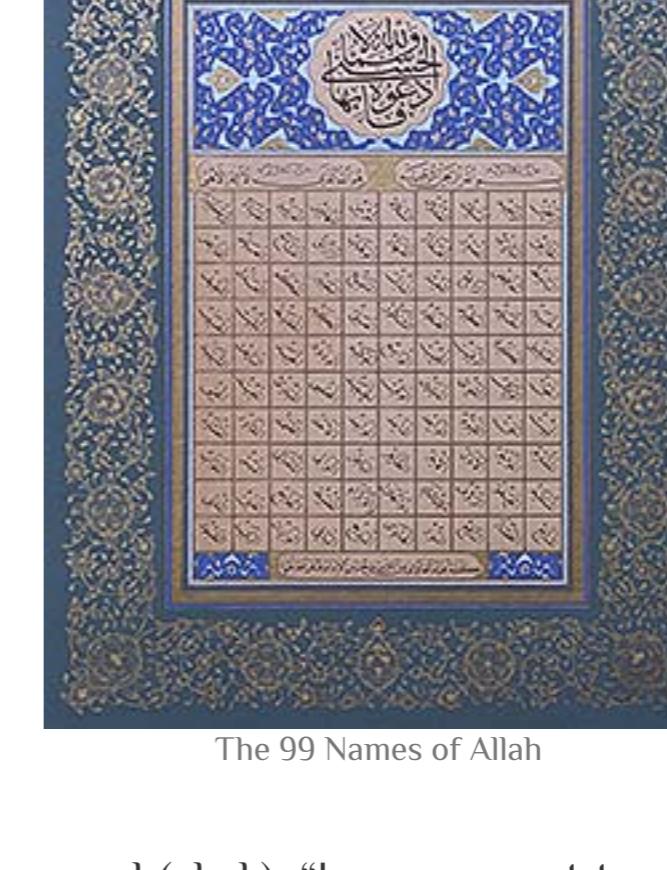




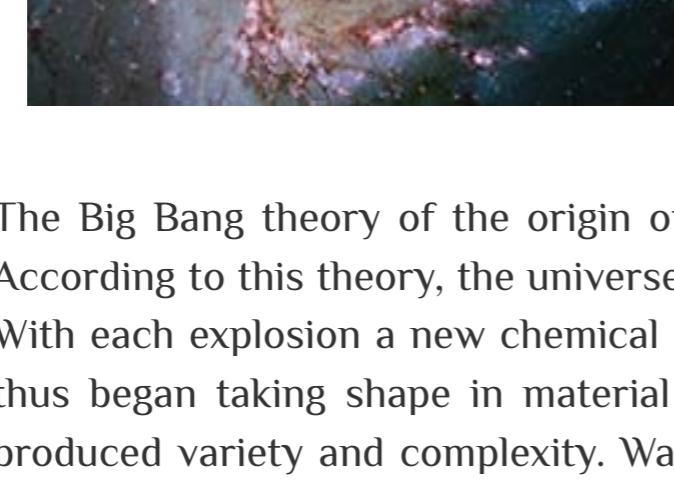
THE BEAUTIFUL NAMES OF ALLAH

All creation consists of Allah's own substance. The basic matter of all things is contained within His singular reality. Sufis call this spiritual/material substance the Ninety-Nine Names or the Beautiful Names of Allah. These names are Allah's diverse attributes, all of which comprise His entire being. Allah's essence holds all of these qualities as potential energy. In the act of creation, His potential energy becomes kinetic.

Most of Allah's names are found in the Holy Qur'an, interspersed in its many suras [chapters]. Sufis see them as Allah's way of describing Himself in the Qur'an, the Word of God revealed to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). For Sufis, Allah's names are the very stuff of creation, as well as the means by which Allah sustains it. The Beautiful Names, as compiled below, are understood by Sufis as a chart of universal elements, which supersedes the periodic table of chemical elements devised by scientists.

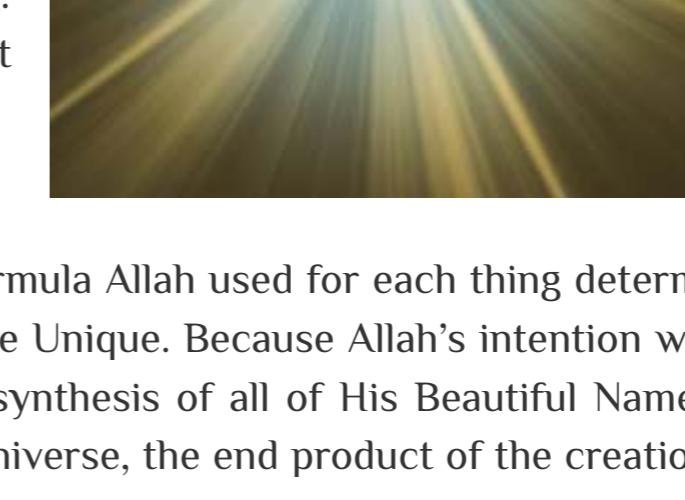


The 99 Names of Allah



In a sacred tradition Allah told Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), "I was a secret treasure and I wished to be known, so I created creation." Allah fashioned the universe or universes from His pure light. His energy existed in a formless state, and He willed the energy to take shape over time. In the act of creation Allah activated some of His inherent attributes, such as *Al Khaliq*, *Al Bari*, *Al Musawir*. Allah began the creation with one word, "Be." At that moment, the creation of the universe started.

The Big Bang theory of the origin of the universe corroborates the Sufi viewpoint. According to this theory, the universe came into being through a series of explosions. With each explosion a new chemical element was created. In Sufi terms, Allah's light thus began taking shape in material form, and the interaction of Allah's attributes produced variety and complexity. Waves, subatomic and atomic particles, molecules, cells, organisms, the development of all that exists began as energy and continues to exist as energy in various states of formation, from wave particles to the human being. For the Sufi, the universe has long been understood as a multilayered totality, light wrapped in sheaths of increasingly more dense matter.



Allah's names are manifest in various combinations at each point of creation. The formula Allah used for each thing determines its unique character. This uniqueness itself is an expression of Allah's name *Al Ahad*, The Unique. Because Allah's intention was to be known, He created a being who could know Him intimately, as a living, conscious synthesis of all of His Beautiful Names. Allah designed only one creature to manifest all of His divine attributes. This fruit of the universe, the end product of the creation of the worlds, is the human being.

THE NINETY-NINE NAMES OF ALLAH DELINEATED



Allah: God

Al Rahim: The One Who Acts with Mercy

Al Rahim: The Source of Mercy

Al Malik: The Ruler; The King; The Owner of the Dominion

Al Quddus: The Holy One

Al Salaam: The Peaceful One

Al Mu'min: The Acceptor of the Truth; The One Who Acts With the Truth

Al Muhyamin: The Protector; The Guardian; The Giver of Security

Al Aziz: The Mighty with Benevolence; The Revered One

Al Jabbar: The Compeller

Al Mutakabbir: The Possessor of Greatness

Al Khaliq: The Creator

Al Bari: The Shaper

Al Musawir: The Detailer

Al Ghaffar: The Oft-Forgiving One

Al Qahhar: The Overpowering One

Al Wahhab: The Bestower

Al Razzaq: The Provider

Al Fattah: The Opener; The Presider

Al Alim: The All-Knowing One

Al Qabid: The Constrictor

Al Basit: The Reliever; The Expander

Al Khafid: The Abaser

Al Rafi: The Exalter

Al Mu'izz: The Bestower of Honors

Al Mudhill: The Humiliator

Al Sami: The Hearer

Al Basir: The Seer

Al Hakam: The Judge

Al Adl: The Just One

Al Tawwab: The Acceptor of Repentance

Al Latif: The Subtle and Kind One

Al Khabir: The All-Aware One

Al Halim: The Soft and Gentle One Who Gives Ease

Al Azim: The Magnificent One

Al Ghafur: The Purifying and Tolerant One Who Overlooks Sins

Al Shakur: The Source of Gratitude

Al Ali: The Exalted One

Al Kabir: The Incomparably Great One

Al Hafiz: The Preserver and Protector

Al Muqit: The Caretaker

Al Hasib: The One Who Keeps Accounts and Measures of All Things

Al Jalil: The Mighty One

Al Karim: The Generous One

Al Raqib: The Vigilant Supervisor

Al Mujib: The Responsive One

Al Wasi: The All-Encompassing One

Al Hakim: The Wise One

Al Wadud: The Loving One

Al Majid: The Glorious One

Al Ba'ith: The Resurrector

Al Shahid: The Witness

Al Haqq: The Truth

Al Wakil: The Trustee; The Representative; The Guardian

Al Qawi: The Strong One

Al Matin: The Enduring One

Al Wali: The Protecting Friend

Al Hamid: The One Who Deserves All Praise; The One Who is Glorified

Al Muhsi: The Doer of Good

Al Mubdi: The Originator

Al Mu'id: The Restorer

Al Muhiy: The One Who Is Able to Revive

Al Mumit: The Giver of Death

Al Hayy: The Alive, Continuously Existing One

Al Qayum: The Caretaker

Al Wajid: The One Who Forms

Al Majid: The Glorious One

Al Wahid: The One and Only

Al Ahad: The Unique

Al Samad: the Receiver of Requests

Al Qadir: The One Who Is Able to Do All Things

Al Muqtadir: The Creator of All Power

Al Muqaddim: The One Who Puts His Creatures Ahead

Al Mu'akhkhir: The One Who Puts His Creatures Behind

Al Awwal: The Former

Al Akhir: The Latter

Al Zahir: The Outer

Al Batin: The Inner

Al Waali: The Governor

Al Muta'ali: The Highly Exalted One

Al Barr: The Pure One

Al Muntaqim: The Avenger

Al Afu: The Forgiver

Al Ra'uf: The Clement One; The One Full of Kindness

Malik al Mulk: Owner of All

Dhu'l-Jalali Wal-Ikram: The Lord of Majesty and Bounty

Al Muqit: The Equitable One

Al Jami: The Gatherer

Al Ghani: The Self-Sufficient One

Al Mughni: The Enricher

Al Mani: The Preventer

Al Darr: The Creator of the Harmful

Al Nafi: The Creator of Good

Al Nur: The Light

Al Hadi: The Guide

Al Badi: The Originator

Al Baqi: The One Who Remains

Al Warith: The Inheritor

Al Rashid: The One Capable of Right Judgment

Al Sabur: The Patient One