

Chapter – 08

Names and Attributes of God

(اسماء وصفات الهية)

❖ *Attributes of God:**God's attributes are of three kinds.*

1. First kind of attributes is related to Allah (SWT) in Persona. These are eternal and everlasting. These attributes do not require any specific thing to relate. For example; **حياة** (Lifespan). The name **الحي** (the Everlasting) is the predecessor of all the names. The names **عليم** (All-Knowing), **سميع** (All-Hearing), **بصير** (All-Seeing), **قدير** (All-Powerful) are all enlightenments of the same. Such attributes are called **صفات كمالية** (Integral Attributes).
2. The second kind of God's attributes is that which are integral itself but for these attributes annexation and connection exists with Allah (SWT). For example; **عليم** (the All-Knowing). Knowledge is the personal Attribute of God but it has connectivity and relation with **معلوم** (granted one). For the appearance of such attributes, the existence of Creatures (human beings) is also essential.
3. In the third kind of attributes, the individual himself does not have that specific attribute but if any connectivity is created with the individual then an attribute is generated. For example; Zaid was standing ahead for some time, so an attribute of '**ahead**' was there. But after that he stood behind, then another attribute of '**behind**' appeared.

All the attributes of God are well distinguished. Everyone has its own meaning. Every one of them has own effects. Quran says:

هُوَ اللَّهُ الَّذِي لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْمَلِكُ الْقُدُّوسُ السَّلَامُ الْمُؤْمِنُ الْمُهَيْمِنُ الْعَزِيزُ الْجَبَّارُ الْمُتَكَبِّرُ

{He is Allah, except whom there is no God; the King, the Pure, the Giver of Peace, the Granter of Faith, the Protector, the most Honorable, the Almighty, the Majestic (59:23)}

Allah says in the next verse that:

هُوَ اللَّهُ الْخَالِقُ الْبَارِئُ الْمُصَوِّرُ

{He is Allah, the Creator, the Inventor, the Shape Giver (59:24)}

The greatness of Attributes of God is also known as **جبروت** or “Authoritarianism”. Some attributes are integral itself but they are auxiliary as well. For example; **عليم** (the All-Knowing) is an attribute of Persona and Reality but it has annexation and connection with **معلوم** (granted one – Human being) as well.

Some attributes are categorically supportive. For example: the First, and the Last etc. Quran says for Allah (SWT):

هُوَ الْأَوَّلُ وَالْآخِرُ وَالظَّاهِرُ وَالْبَاطِنُ

{He is the First and the last, the Evident and the Concealed (57:03)}

Allah (SWT) is “the First” with respect to His Persona. Allah (SWT) is “the Last” with respect to His Attribute. He is Evident with respect to His Effects. He is concealed with respect to His Persona.

❖ *Good Names of Allah (SWT):*

Name is the combination of person and attribute. If the attributes of God are considered then His good names come forward.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

{(I begin with) the name of Allah, who is the Most Gracious and the Most Merciful (01:01)}

Allah is Persona. Mercifulness is an Attribute. **الرَّحْمَنِ** and **الرَّحِيمِ** are the good names of Allah. Once the word Allah is said against attributes, like **اللَّهُ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ**, it will be the name of ‘Persona’. And second time the word Allah is said against ‘His Servant’ and then His Persona represents the Integral Attributes.

The good names of Allah are **توفيقى** (Reconciling). In other words all the names Allah that came in Quran and Hadiths we can tell them as the Attributes of God. That is why it is said that all the names are respectable, all are decent. God says in Quran that:

اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ لَهُ الْأَسْمَاءُ الْحُسْنَىٰ

{Allah – there is no worship except for Him, His only are the excellent names (20:08)}

Some names of God are **وجودی** (existential) and **اثباتی** (evidential). For example: **حَیِّ** (the Everlasting) **عَلِیْمٍ** (the All-Knowing) and **قَدِیْرٍ** (the All-Powerful).

Some names of God are **عدمی** (nihilist) and **سلبی** (predatory). These names express that God is free from all defects. For example: **سُبْحٰنٌ** (the Most Clean) **قُدُّوسٌ** (the Most Pure) and **صَمَدٌ** (the Self-sufficient).

Many people consider that God's names are only Ninety Nine (99). But there are more names that appeared in Quran and Hadiths. For example; **قَدِیْرٍ** (the All-Powerful). This name is not included in those well-known 99 names.

This point is to be noted that there are some names that show some relations and are interdependent. For example: "Brother". This name would not be applicable until there is some brother of him. Other examples are: father & son, husband & wife, teacher & pupil, king & common people, and God & His Servant etc.

