

## Chapter – 36

## Allah's Good Names

(اسماء الحسنی)

❖ وَلِلَّهِ الْأَسْمَاءُ الْحُسْنَىٰ فَادْعُوهُ بِهَا وَذَرُوا الَّذِينَ يُلْحِدُونَ فِي أَسْمَائِهِ سَيُجْزَوْنَ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ-

*And for Allah only are the most excellent names; So call on Him by His names; and ignore to those people who depart from the truth regarding His names; They shall soon receive the reward for their deeds. (07:180)*

❖ اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ لَهُ الْأَسْمَاءُ الْحُسْنَىٰ-

*Allah; there is no worship except for Him; He has the best names. (20:08)*

This point has to be remembered that an **attribute** is not a constant feature. For example:

Mercy (رحمت), Mercifulness (رحمانيت), Compassionateness (رحيمت)

The person or thing that is related to any attribute is called **Persona**. It means any Persona is a **source of attributes**. And the combination of attributes and persona is called **Name**. (So the definition of Name comes out as: **Name is a word or set of words by which a person or thing is known, addressed, or referred to**). Thus:

Mercy (رَحْمَتٌ) is an Attribute

Merciful (الرَّحِيمِ) is a Name

Compassionate (الرَّحِيمِ) is a Name

And the Persona related to the Attribute and Names is (اللَّهُ)

The word Al-Husna (الْحُسْنَى) is derived from (الْحَسَنُ), whose meaning is, “The Best”. One thing is to be noted that, to depict any attribute of Allah تعالى و سبحانه, a nominative (اسم الفاعل) cannot be made from any of the verbs. Therefore, Islamic scholars say that all the good names of Allah are “*Taufiquee*”. It means that those attributes which are described by Allah تعالى و سبحانه in Quran can only be considered as documented attributes. That is why Allah says “*And for Allah only are the most excellent names*”. For Allah تعالى و سبحانه, any such name cannot be used which is less than His dignity. Some consider that only 99 names are الْأَسْمَاءُ الْحُسْنَى (the best names of Allah). No doubt these 99 names are the best names, but every name appeared in Quran and Hadiths is good name as well. For example: “قَدِيرٌ”. This name is not included in the 99 names of Asma-ul-Husna, but إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ is met with in Quran in many places. So, Qadeer is also a good name.

One question is generally asked that whether we can use the name of “Khuda (خدا)” for Allah. Yes! It may be used because it is the translation of Allah. The meaning of Khuda is, “Who came by Himself”, and this translation is not decreasing His dignity.

Remember this thing that, if you call any name of Allah very frequently, you will have concentration for the name, and then you will come across a reaction of that particular name and attribute of Allah تعالى و سبحانه as well. Such reaction is called “Aasar, (آثار).

This is also to be noted that calling excessively the name compatible to the requirement solves the problem. For example, if someone does not get food regularly, he should repeatedly recite the name of “يارزاق”. If somebody is sick he should narrate “يا شافي”. If anybody is in need of children, he should repetitively call يا فعال, يا خلاق or يا مصور.

-----

Prophet Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم said: There are 99 Asma-ul-Husna of Allah showing His attributes, and said that all Muslims should use these good names while offering prayer (دعا).

The Prophet also said that he who memorizes these Names by heart, his place may be in Heaven. (Narrated Al-Walid Bin Muslim رضى الله عنه Tirmidhi, and Abu Hurairah رضى الله عنه; Bukhari and Muslim).

