
Sources of information about Names and Attributes of Allaah

Based on the works of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan (حفظه الله)

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

QUESTION: What are the sources from which the Muslims take their knowledge of the Names and Attributes of Allaah?

ANSWER:

Muslims believe that Allaah's Names and Attributes are tawqeefiyyah. Put simply, this means that the Names and Attributes are taken only from the Qur'aan and/or the Sunnah (the statements of Muhammad (peace be upon him)).

There is no role for the intellect and human mind in determining what Allaah is like.

So Muslims accept what comes in the Qur'aan and the Sunnah telling them about Allaah, and they do not add anything to this, change anything from this or take anything away from this.

Hopefully this stands to reason. What role can there possibly be for our very limited intellects in deciding what the Creator of the Universe is like?

Islam very strongly opposes the idea of speaking without knowledge, i.e. according to personal opinions and tastes.

The Qur'aan states:

**And do not follow what you have no knowledge of.
Indeed the hearing, the sight and the heart – (you) will be questioned (about each of these).**

[Soorah Al Israa (the 17th Soorah) aayah 36]

One of the famous Islamic scholars of the earliest times, Imam Ahmad ibn Hanbal said:

'Allaah may not be described except with what He has described His own Self with, or what His Messenger has described Him with. This cannot go beyond the Qur'aan and the hadeeth.'

So the sources for information about Allaah are the Qur'aan and the authentic hadeeths (statements of Muhammad – peace be upon him).