

## The Prophet's names

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

It is a sign of greatness to have many honourable names and epithets. Those which have been bestowed upon the Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*) all hold sublime meanings, yet the most superb is his proper name "Muhammad," with which Allaah (*Exalted be He*) addresses him in the Glorious Qur'aan. Allaah (*Exalted be He*) says:

**[Muhammad (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*) is the Messenger of Allaah. And those who are with him are severe against disbelievers, and merciful among themselves.]**

And:

**[Muhammad (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*) is not the father of any of your men, but he is the Messenger of Allaah and the last (end) of the Prophets.]**

And:

**[But those who believe and do righteous good deeds, and believe in that which is sent down to Muhammad (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*) - for it is the truth from their Lord - He will expiate from them their sins, and will make good their state.]**

And:

**[Muhammad (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*) is no more than a Messenger, and indeed (many) Messengers have passed away before him. If he dies or is killed, will you then turn back on your heels (as disbelievers)? And he who turns back on his heels, not the least harm will he do to Allaah; and Allaah will give reward to those who are grateful.]**

This is the loftiest name of the Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*). Hassan ibn Thabit (*may Allaah be pleased with him*) said in a poetic verse:

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Granting him reverence with that derived epithet, Mahmoud (The All-Praiseworthy) is the Lord and Muhammad (the praised one) is the Prophet

This verse, originally said by Aboo Taalib, was included in a poem by Hassan (*may Allaah be pleased with him*).

"Ahmad" is another of the Prophet's names, which `Eesaa (Jesus, *peace be upon him*) mentioned when he heralded his coming. The Glorious Qur'aan says:

**[...and giving glad tidings of a Messenger to come after me, whose name shall be Ahmad.]**

The Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*) is also named "Al-Mutawakkil (the one who relies on Allaah, Alone, for each and everything), as stated in the Hadeeth narrated on the authority of `Abdullah ibn `Amr ibn al-`As (*may Allaah be pleased with him*) concerning the description of the Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*) in the Torah; in the part that says: You are My Servant and My Messenger. I have named you "Al-Mutawakkil"...<sup>1</sup>

Other names of his are given in the Hadeeth narrated on the authority of Jubair ibn Mut`im (*may Allaah be pleased with him*) who heard the Messenger of Allaah (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*) say:

**"I have (several) names: I am Muhammad and I am Ahmad, and I am Al-Mahy (the Eraser) by means of whom Allaah erases Kufr (disbelief), and I am Al-Hasher (the Gatherer) after whom the people will be gathered (on the Day of Resurrection), and I am Al-`Aqib (the Last of the Prophets), after whom there shall be no prophet."**<sup>2</sup>

Also, Aboo Moosa Al-Ash'aree (*may Allaah be pleased with him*) narrated: The Messenger of Allaah (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*) called himself before us by many names, some of which we remembered and some we did not. He (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*) said,

**"I am Muhammad, I am Ahmad, I am Al-Muqaffa (the Last of the Prophets), I am Al-Hasher, I am the Prophet of Repentance, and I am the Prophet of Mercy."**<sup>3</sup>

Muhammad "محمد" is derived from the Arabic root "حمد" (Hamd) meaning "praise." It is originally a passive participle of the root "Hamd" which contains the meanings of extolling, loving, and revering the one praised. It follows the pattern "مفعّل" (Mufa`al) like ("معظم" Mu`zham [most honoured] - "محبب" Muhabab [most beloved] and so on), which is a superlative construction indicating quantitative or qualitative superiority. Accordingly, the active participle, when derived from the root, means one who praises again and again; and

<sup>1</sup> Related by Al-Bukhaaree

<sup>2</sup> Agreed upon by Al-Bukhaaree and Muslim

<sup>3</sup> Related by Muslim

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the passive participle, when derived, means one who is praised or deserves to be praised again and again. Thus, Muhammad is the one much praised or deserving of praise again and again.

His names Al-Mahy, Al-Hasher, and Al-`Aqib are explained in the Hadeeth on the authority of Jubair ibn Mut`im (*may Allaah be pleased with him*) mentioned above.