



**Let us increase our Taqwa to Allah Almighty by understanding His Most Noble names and attributes.**

**Most of us were taught and are familiar with words glorifying Allah Almighty, we often recite the Basmalah or 'Bismillah Ar-Rahman Ar-Raheem' before we start to do anything; before we leave our house, before we drink or eat, and so forth.**

**In fact, on a daily basis, we will repeat it in every prayer, commencing with the recitation of Al-Fatihah.**

**By: Dr Rateb Jneid, ,AFIC President**

الرَّحْمَنُ

AR-RAHMAN

THE MOST KIND AND GIVING

الرَّحِيمُ

AR-RAHIM

THE MOST MERCIFUL

What is the meaning behind the names “Ar-Rahman” and “Ar-Rahim”?

Both the names al-Rahmân and al-Rahîm are derived from the Arabic word rahmah, meaning mercy.

Ibn Abbas used to say that Ar-Raheem is only for believers, while Ar-Rahman is for all the creatures and everything on earth, because permanent mercy is what you need for Jannah, and that’s only for believers.

By combining these two names together, we get the total meaning of Allah being extremely and permanently merciful, both immediately (right now) and in the future!

This is why we start with “Bismillah Ar-Rahman Ar-Raheem”, because we want Allah’s mercy and blessings both immediately and in the future.

Allah, Ta'ala introduces himself in Surah Fatiha as Ar-Rahman Ar-Raheem. However, a false understanding of mercy can also lead people astray, they’ll do whatever they want. This explains why when you read on, Allah adds “Maliki Yawm Ad-Deen” to keep us balanced between hope and fear.

The name al-Rahmân, like the name Allah, is used only for Allah Almighty and no one else may be called by this name. Allah and al-Rahmân are His exclusive names. Allah Almighty says: "Call upon Allah or call upon al-Rahmân; by whichever name you call upon Him, to Him belong the most excellent names."

The name refers to Allah, who is the Most Compassionate and the Most Merciful. The name refers to Allah's vast mercies that He bestowed upon His creations, the Lord who is the Most Gracious and the Most Loving upon His servants, and the Lord who will forgive all the sins of His *penitent* creation even though they may accumulate as high as the mountains. But they must be penitent. Don't expect forgiveness if you insist on sin, you must change your attitude first.

Through the attribute of 'Ar-Rahman,' we can also associate the characteristic of justice. As the lord who is Most Gracious and Most Loving, Allah Almighty will not allow His servants to live without any guidance from Him. The Justice of Allah Almighty is a result of His compassion for all of His creations.

This is clearly illustrated by the words of Allah in surah Ar-Rahman in verses 1-4:

الرَّحْمَنُ عَلَّمَ الْقُرْآنَ خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ عَلَّمَهُ الْبَيَانَ

Allah Almighty said: "(Allah) The Most Compassionate. taught the Quran. created the human being; taught him to articulate."

**It is clear from this verse how Allah manifested His Love and Grace upon us. Allah Almighty has bestowed on us knowledge so that we are able to reflect upon the proofs of His greatness. In fact, Allah Almighty has revealed the holy Quran as He revealed the previous scriptures so that we remain guided in the right path.**

**In addition to that, Allah Almighty appointed prophets to ensure that His Hidayah (guidance) will reach all people in every generation.**

**Just as Allah loves his servants, in return, we should exhibit similar characteristics of love and compassion towards our fellow human beings.**

**Hence, our faith is not perfected when we claim to be believers and people of Taqwa if we do not have love and compassion for others, for our brothers and sisters in Islam or towards our own family members.**

**Let us be guided by the best example among humanity, Prophet Mohammad, sallallaahu 'alaihi wasallam, who regularly articulated his love to his family and his community.**

**Abu Hurairah r.a. narrated: "The Prophet sallallaahu 'alaihi wasallam kissed (his grandson) Alhassan Bin 'Ali while on his side sat Al-Aqra' Bin Habis At-Tamimi." Al-Aqra' then said: "Verily I have 10 children and I have not even once kissed any of them."**

**The Prophet sallallaahu 'alaihi wasallam then turned to him and said: "He who does not love will not be loved." Hadith narrated by Imam Bukhari and Muslim.**

**I ask Allah to maintain His Mercy and love upon us all. Ameen**

**By: Dr Rateb Jneid, AFIC President**