

What Islam Is

by IMAM QAADIR AMIN

With the name Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful. All praises be to Allah Guardian Evolver and Substainer of All the Worlds. Peace be upon Muhammad and all the righteous servants.

AS—SALAAM—ALAIKUM

He is God, the Creator
The Evolver
The Bestower of Forms
(or Colours)
To Him belong
The Most Beautiful Names;
Whatever is in
The heavens and on earth;
Doth declare
His praises and Glory,
And He is the Exalted
In Might, the Wise.

Holy Quran Yusuf Ali Translation. Sura LIX Verse 24
To Him belong the Most Beautiful Names. What a beautiful passage. To God belongs the most beautiful names in creation. Our mere existence should be to please Him and our names should honor Him and His Benevolence.

In the movie presentation "Roots" Kunte Kinte suffered and fought to hold on to a name that had meaning and purpose to him. He rejected with all his might a name that would pay tribute to man instead of to God. Today we also offer a equally diligent fight for names. But our fight is for names that were forced upon us at the point of a whip. Names that are as meaningless as they are degrading. Names that honor a long dead oppressive slavemaster.

Doubtless, names are of vital importance in one's life. Names as it were, are commonly regarded as symbols but there are various meanings connected with them. A name has a reality that goes beyond ink, paper or mere sound. If names were sheer means of identification, people could have used numbers instead to call their children, as we see in some movies and novels of the science fiction genre, which ominously foresee future man as a souless, mechanized and dehumanized being. Names generate a certain energy, an aura, so to speak, that surrounds and gives us a sense of direction. Unfortunately, should a name be inappropriate, it would be likely to impart an unfavorable influence to its bearer, and a negative vibration to the people in his or her circle. A man with a woman's name for instance, may unconsciously lack the aggressively masculine traits associated with a man's name. Equally funny or meaningless names may adversely affect its bearer, as he or she may lose the sense of direction and purpose that emanate from appropriate and meaningful names. The so-called names that many of us have are not completely bad. But some are meaningless and degrading.

Some represent a long gone oppressive era that should have long been put to rest. These are the ones we should get rid of for ourselves and reframe from passing them on to our children. Society has made their chances of being successful slim enough without us burdening them with names that offer them no selfassertiveness. The following are a list of self assertive names that honor God and not man.

MALE FIRST NAMES

Ahmad	Most praseworthy
Abuwi	Fatherly
Ameer	Prince, ruler
Abdullah	Servant; Man of Allah
Akbar	Greater; Bigger, more imporetant
Amin	Trustworthy; Dependable
Asmar	Brown-skinned (Beautiful) Spear
Bilal	First minister of Prohphet Muhammad Ethiopian Slave
Bahir	Brilliant; Splendid
Fatih	Conqueror, Victor
Faheem	Intelligent, Learned
Farah	Joy, happiness
Hamid	One who praises
Hamzah	Historically significant personage
Hasan	Handsome, agreeable
Hassan	The one who improves, beautifies, or makes better
Husnee	My beauty
Ibrahim	Historical personage, Abraham
Ismail	God heard
Jabir	Kind, sympathetic
Jamal	Beauty

Jameel	Handsome
Karam	Generosity, nobility
Muhammad	Praiseworthy, much praised
Mikal	Angel
Musa	Moses
Mustafa	Appointed, chosen or selected
Osman	Historical
Omar	Surviving, Long living
Qasim	Divider, distributor, judge
Qadir	One who is patient and steadfast
Saleem	One who maintains a peaceful state; not easily upset
Wazir	Secretary, minister (political sense)
Yusuf	Joseph
Zakariyya	The Prophet Zacharias
Zakee	pure, intelligent, charitable


















FEMALE FIRST NAMES
From the word Ali; Lofty sublime,
High, excellence

Aaysha	Alive, prosperous, not dying
Arifah	Knowing; Aware of
Aneesah	Friendly, delightful

Afrah	Joys
Anjail	Angela
Bekkah	Same as Mecca
Basmah	A Smile
Daarina	Our dwelling (foundation)
Fareedah	Unique; Precious gem
Fadeelah	Virtue
Sameerah	Pleasant companion in conversation
Saleemah	Safe, sound, faultless
Taheerah	Pure, chaste
Tarajee	Hopes, supplications
Tarajee	Jasmine
Yasmeeen	Elegant; witty
Zarifa	Of God
Zarina	Flower
Zahrah	

These are only a few of the wonderful names of God. A complete book can be obtained by writing this paper. Let's use these names and give our children a real "HEAD START".
children a real "HEAD START".
AS—SALAAM—ALAIKUM

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