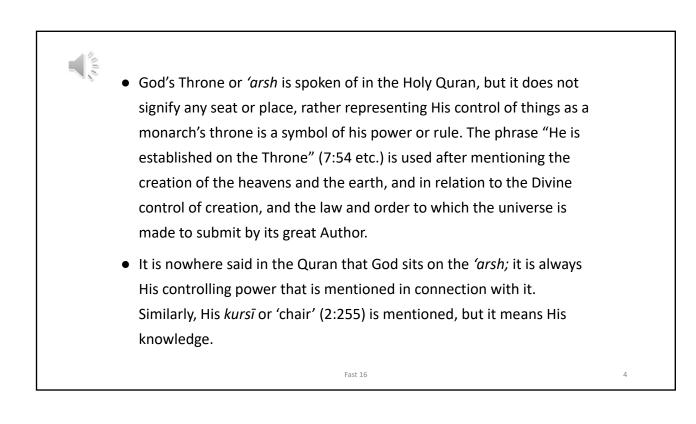




 God sees and hears, but that does not mean He has eyes and requires light to see things, or has ears and requires some medium, such as air, to convey sound to Him. God creates, but that does not mean He has hands like a man and needs material with which to make things.

The "hands" of God are spoken of in the Holy Quran (5:64), but it is simply to give expression to His unlimited power in bestowing His favours on whom He will, and this is in accordance with the Arabic idiom.

Fast 16





Proper name of God: Allāh (الله) is the proper or personal name of God, as distinguished from all other names which denote His attributes. It is also known as the greatest name of God (*ism a'zam*). Being a proper name it does not carry any significance, but being the proper name of God, it comprises all the attributes which are contained separately in the attributive names. Hence the name Allah is said to gather together in itself all the perfect attributes of God:

ٱللهُ لَآ إِلٰهَ إِلَّهُ هُوَ لَهُ الْأَسْمَآ ءُا خُسْنى ٢

"Allah — there is no God but He. His are the most beautiful names." — 20:8

The words *al-asmā'-ul-ḥusnā (*الْأَسْمَاَّ الْحُسْنَى), "best names" or "most beautiful names", about Allah also occur in three other places in the Quran.

Fast 16

هُوَاللَّهُ الْخَالِقُ الْبَارِئُ الْمُصَوِّدُ لَهُ الْاَسْمَآءُ الْحُسْلَى "He is Allah, the Creator, the Maker, the Fashioner: His are the most beautiful names. ..." — 59:24 (See also 7:180 and 17:110.) • The word Allāh is not derived from any other word. Nor has it any connection with the word *ilāh* (god or object of worship). The word ilāh is widely used in the Quran to mean an object of worship, for example: وَإِلْهُ كُمْ إِلْهُ وَاحِنٌ أَلَا إِلْهَ إِلَّهُ هُوَ الْتَحْمُنُ الرَّحِيمُ شَ "And your God is one God; there is no God but He! He is the Beneficent, the Merciful." -2:163Fast 16 6

