

L5

Topic: God's Qualities and Attributes

God does not resemble anything we have ever seen or heard. Thus the first condition to recognize God's qualities is to negate all the qualities of creatures from Him such as having time or space or dimensions and forms. We can never come to know God's essence and we should not expect that we could because such an expectation is like expecting to contain the endless seas in a glass.

### **The Qualities (attributes) of Majesty and Beauty**

Most often, God's qualities are divided into two groups: those which God has (qualities of beauty or *thubutiyyah*) and those which God is free from (qualities of majesty or *salbiyyah*).

### **The Most Well-Know Qualities of God**

1. God is the **knower** ('Aleem); He knows all things.
2. God is **powerful** (Qadeer) over all things.
3. God is the '**Living**' (Hayy); something which is living has wisdom and power; God is wise and powerful, thus He is 'Living'.
4. God is the '**Willer**' (Mureed)
5. God is **perceiving** (Mudrik) of each and everything.
6. God is **primordial and eternal** (Qadeem and Azaly) i.e., He always was and His existence has no beginning or end.
7. God is the **Speaker** (Mutakallim) i.e. He speaks to the angles and His prophet, not that God has a tongue or lips.

8. God is **truthful** (Sadiq) i.e. whatever He says is the truth because lying is out of ignorance or weakness and it is a defect.

**The most well-known negated Qualities from God are:**

1. He is **not composite** to be in need of His parts or elements.
2. God **does not have a body**; bodies are limited, unstable and they accept annihilation.
3. God is **not visible**.
4. God has **no place** because he has no body to require a place.
5. God has **no partner** because he is not limited or weak.
6. **His qualities are exactly like His essence**; He is not a composite entity.
7. God is needless and **self-sufficient**; He is an endless being in knowledge, power and so on.