The Ninety-Nine Names of God

Islam insists that there is only one God. But God can be called on by many names, as the Qur’an says: “God has the Most Excellent Names. Call on Him by His Names” (7:180; quoted in N. J. Dawood, translator, The Koran, fifth revised edition [London: Penguin Classics, 1990], page 124; copyright © 1956, 1959, 1966, 1968, 1974, 1990 by N. J. Dawood. Used with permission of Penguin Books, Ltd.).

Traditionally there are ninety-nine names for God, most of which are given in the Qur’an. The names are important in Muslim piety; each name is sometimes repeated dozens of times in prayer, and each of the ninety-nine beads on the Muslim rosary stands for one of the names. After reading the following list of the ninety-nine names of God, complete these tasks:

1. Check off any names whose meanings you do not know. Using a dictionary, look up the meanings of those names and write them below the names.

2. Circle all the names you have not previously thought of as applying to God.

3. From the names you just circled, star the four that you would be most likely to use for God.

   ____ 1. The Beneficent
   ____ 2. The Compassionate
   ____ 3. The King
   ____ 4. The Holy
   ____ 5. The Giver of Peace
   ____ 6. The Guardian
   ____ 7. The Powerful
   ____ 8. The Almighty
   ____ 9. The Compeller
   ____10. The Greatest
   ____11. The Creator
   ____12. The Evolver
   ____13. The Fashioner
   ____14. The Forgiver
   ____15. The Vanquisher
   ____16. The Bestower
   ____17. The Sustainer
   ____18. The Revealer
   ____19. The Omniscient
   ____20. The Restrainer
   ____21. The Munificent
   ____22. The Degrading
   ____23. The Enhancer
   ____24. The Exalting
   ____25. The Abasing
   ____26. The All-Hearing
   ____27. The All-Seeing
   ____28. The Judge
   ____29. The Equitable
   ____30. The Subtle
   ____31. The All-Aware
   ____32. The Forbearing
   ____33. The Magnificent
   ____34. The Remitter
   ____35. The Prodigal
   ____36. The Sublime
   ____37. The Most Great
   ____38. The Preserver
   ____39. The Sustainer
   ____40. The Sufficer
   ____41. The Majestic
   ____42. The Bountiful
   ____43. The Vigilant
   ____44. The Responder
   ____45. The All-Embracing
   ____46. The All-Wise
   ____47. The Kind One
   ____48. The All-Glorious
   ____49. The Resurrecter
   ____50. The Witness
   ____51. The Truth
   ____52. The Champion
53. The All-Powerful
54. The Firm One
55. The Protector
56. The Laudable
57. The Appraiser
58. The Originator
59. The Restorer
60. The Life-Giver
61. The Life-Taker
62. The Ever-Living
63. The Dominating
64. The Entire
65. The Illustrious
66. The One
67. The Sanctuary
68. The Potent
69. The Omnipotent
70. The Advancer
71. The Delay
72. The First
73. The Last
74. The Evident
75. The Hidden
76. The Lord
77. The Transcendent
78. The Benign
79. The Accepter of Repentance
80. The Avenger
81. The Pardoner
82. The Most Kind
83. The Owner of Sovereignty
84. The Lord of All Majesty
85. The Equitable
86. The Gatherer
87. The Absolute
88. The Endower
89. The Averter
90. The Distressor
91. The Harmer
92. The Enricher
93. The Splendid
94. The Guide
95. The Superb
96. The Everlasting
97. The Heir
98. The All-Knowing
99. The Patient One