

# ESSENTIALS OF ISLAMIC BELIEFS

## Imam Ahmad al-Dardir's Kharida Explained

Lesson Four: The Oneness & Transcendence of Allah

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### Review of Lesson Three

One. Why is the Science of Islamic Beliefs  
Important, According to Imam Ghazali?

Two. Why Study Arguments for Belief?

Three. What is the key reality in creation that  
points to the existence of God, according to the  
author?

Four. What are some Qur'anic verses supporting  
this?



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### Lesson Four: Lines 20-24

Part One. Introduction to Allah's Attributes—&  
Allah's Attribute of Existence

Part Two. The Attributes of Negation (al-sifat al-  
salbiyya)



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### Lines 20-24

20. So know that the attribute of Existence  
Is necessary for the One, the Worshipped

21. This is because it is clear that every effect  
Points to a cause—so reflect!

22. Existence is called a personal attribute,  
And is followed by five attributes of negation:

23. They are Beginninglessness, Endlessness,  
Self-Subsistence, Difference from creation, and

24. Oneness in Entity, Attributes, and Actions  
—Understand these in order to attain piety

25. And then know that effecting is for none  
But the Overpowering One

٢٠. فَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّ الْوُجُودَ بِالْوُجُودِ مِنْ وَاجِبَاتِ الْوَاحِدِ الْمَعْبُودِ  
٢١. إِذْ ظَاهِرٌ بِأَنَّ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ يَهْدِي إِلَى سَوْتِهِ فَاعْتَمِدُوا  
٢٢. وَفِي تَحْتِهَا صِفَةُ تَفْصِيلِيَّةٍ ثُمَّ تَلِيهَا خَمْسَةُ سَلْبِيَّةٍ  
٢٣. وَفِي الْعِزِّ بِالذَّاتِ فَاعْلَمُوا وَالْبَقَا وَفِيهِمَا بِتَفْصِيلِهِ يَلْتَمِزُ  
٢٤. فَالذَّاتُ أَوْ صِفَاتِهِ الْعَلِيَّةِ فِي الْوَاحِدِ الْغَيْبِيِّ جَلَّ وَعَزَّ  
٢٥. وَالْمَعْنَى أَنَّ الْوَاحِدَ لَا يَخْلُقُ شَيْئًا إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ



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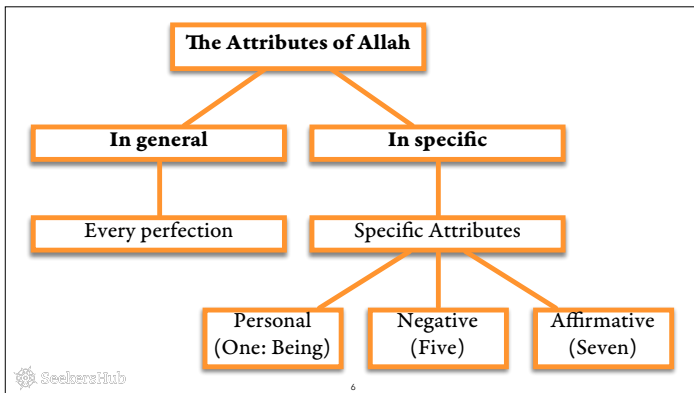
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# Part One.

## Introduction to Allah's Attributes—& Allah's Attribute of Existence

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## Lines 20: Existence

٢٠- لَمَّا عَلِمَ بِأَنَّ الْوُشُقَّ بِالْوُجُودِ مِنْ وَاجِبَاتِ الْوَاجِدِ الْمَعْنُودِ  
٢١- إِذْ غَاوَسَ بِأَنَّ كَمَلُ الْغَرِّ يَهْدِي إِلَى مُؤَنِّرٍ لَمَّا غَاوَسَ

- 20. So know that the attribute of Existence Is necessary for the One, the Worshipped One. The Personal Attribute: Being (wujud)**
- Two. He is, must be, and cannot not be.
- Three. Necessary, Independent Being
- Four. All other existence: merely possible, dependent being

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## Necessary, Independent

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ أَنْتُمُ الْفُقَرَاءُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ هُوَ الْغَنِيُّ الْحَمِيدُ﴾

“O People, you are the ones in absolute need of Allah—and Allah is the one absolutely free of all need, worthy of all praise.” [Qur'an, 35.15]

One. This is God: the One free of need of any other—in His Entity, in His Attributes, in His Actions—whom all are in absolute need of

Two. This is God: the One alone worthy of worship

Three. This is God: the Creator

Four. This is God: the Living and All-Sustaining (al-Hayy al-Qayyum, *Ayat al-Kursi*)

Five. This is God: the Unique (al-Ahad), the Independent (al-Samad, *Surat al-Ikhlās*)

Six. This is God: the Lord—Master, Creator, and Sustainer—of All Worlds (Rabb al-'Alamin, *Surat al-Fatiha*)

Seven. This is God: All-Merciful and All-Compassionate (al-Rahman al-Rahim, *Basmala*)

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## Lines 21: Why Affirm?

٢٠- قُلْنَا لَمْ يَكُنْ الْوَسْطُ بِالْوُجُودِ مِنْ وَاجِبَاتِ الْوُجُودِ  
٢١- إِذْ غَايِبٌ يَكُنْ كَمَلُ الْوُجُودِ يَهْدِي إِلَى مَوْجِبِ غَايِبِهِ

21. This is because it is clear that every effect

Points to a cause—so reflect!

One. Every effect has a cause

Two. The core proof is clear: (1) This world is created, because it is changing; (2) Everything created, everything changing, requires a creator => Therefore, this world requires a Creator

Three. The Creator can only be one

If multiple: chaos

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## Qur'an: 51.20-23

“And in the Earth are many signs for those of certitude. And

in yourselves: do you not have

insight? And in the heavens is

your provision and all that you

are promised. So, by the Lord of

the Heavens and the Earth, this

is the truth—as truly as you

utter...” [Qur'an, 51.20-23]

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## Part Two. The Attributes of Negation (al-sifat al-salbiyya)

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### Lines 22: Personal Attribute—and the Five Attributes of Negation

٢٢- وَذِي نُسَمَّى صِفَةً نَفْسِيَّةً ثُمَّ تَلِيهَا خَمْسَةٌ سَلْبِيَّةٌ

22. Existence is called a personal attribute,

And is followed by five attributes of negation

One. The Personal Attribute (sifa nafsiyya) of Allah:

Being

Two. Five Attributes of Negation (sifat salbiyya)

*The meanings Allah is necessary free of*

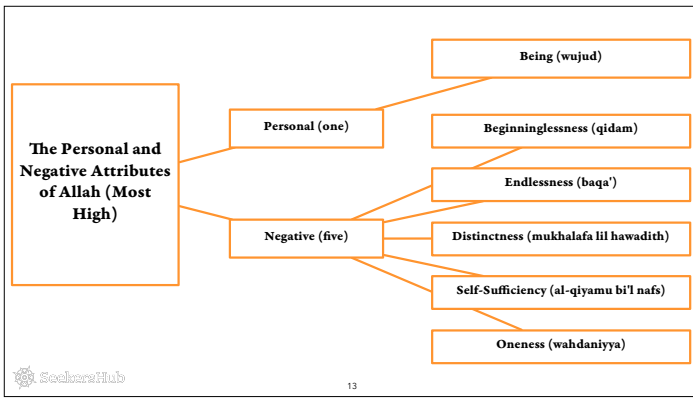
Three. Seven Affirmative Attributes (sifat al-ma'ani)

*The meanings Allah necessary has*

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### Line 23-24: Five Attributes of Negation

٢٢- وَذِي نَسَمَى صِفَةً نَفْسِيَّةً ثُمَّ تَلِيهَا خَمْسَةٌ سَلْبِيَّةٌ  
 ٢٣- وَفِي الْقِدَمِ بِالذَّاتِ قَاعَلَمَ وَالْبَقَا وَقِيَامُهُ بِغَفِيهِ بَلَّتِ الثَّقَى  
 ٢٤- تَخَالَفٌ لِلتَّغْيِيرِ وَخَدَانِيَّةٌ فِي الذَّاتِ أَوْ صِفَاتِهِ الْعَلِيَّةِ

**23. They are Beginninglessness, Endlessness, Self-Subsistence, Difference from creation, and**  
**24. Oneness in Entity, Attributes, and Actions—Understand these in order to attain piety**  
 One. Definitions of the Attributes of Negation  
 Two. All of these are entailed by Allah's Necessary Existence

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### Attributes of Negation:

#### One-Two. Beginninglessness & Endlessness

**One. Beginninglessness (al-qiyam)**  
 There is no start to Allah's Existence

**Two. Endlessness (al-baqa')**  
 There is no end to Allah's Existence  
 Both: the reality that Allah, the Necessary Existent, exists beyond Time  
 Time: a creation of the Creator

القِدَمُ  
وَالْبَقَاءُ

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### Attributes of Negation:

#### Three. Independence

**Independence (al-qiyamu bi'l nafs)**  
 Allah Exists beyond any need  
 Allah is beyond having an originator or place to exist through  
 Everything affirmed about Allah: Eternal, Necessary, Absolute  
*Key Principle: Everything affirmed about creation: originated, dependent, limited*

الْقِيَامُ  
بِالنَّفْسِ

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## Attributes of Negation: Four. Absolute Distinctness

**Absolute Distinctness to the  
Originated (al-mukhalafa li'l  
hawadith)**

In Allah's (1) Entity; (2) Attributes; (3)  
Actions

*Key Principle: Everything affirmed  
about creation: originated, dependent,  
limited*

There is no point of comparison  
between Allah the Creator, and creation

المخالفة  
للحوادث

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## Attributes of Negation: Five. Oneness

الوحدانية

**Oneness (al-wahdaniyya)**

Negates multiplicity in Allah's Entity, Attributes,  
and Actions

*The key meaning affirmed for Allah—and all other  
meanings are entailed by it*

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### Allah's Oneness

Divine Attribute that negates all multiplicity for Allah

#### His Entity

(1) His Entity is One,  
(2) none Has Entity  
like His

#### His Attributes

(1) His Attributes are  
One, (2) none Has  
Attributes like His

#### His Actions

None has actions like  
His Actions—His  
Actions originate

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## Next: Lesson Five. Arguments for Allah's Existence

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