

«the Ever-Living, the Self-Sustaining and All-Sustaining» these two divine names inherently imply all the other divine names. The Ever-Living (al-Ḥayy) is the One Who has perfect life, which implies all attributes of His essence, such as hearing, sight, knowledge, power, and so on. The Self-Sustaining and All-Sustaining (al-Qayyoom) is the One Who is self-sustaining and Whom others need to exist. This implies all the actions of the Lord of the worlds, Who does whatever He wills of rising above, descending, speaking, creating, granting provision, giving life and death, and all types of control. All of that is included in the concept that He is Self-Sustaining and the Sustainer of others. Hence some of the scholars said that these two are the greatest names to which, if Allah is called upon by them, He will respond, and if He is asked by them, He will give. The perfect nature of His being Ever-Living, Self-Sustaining and All-Sustaining means that «Neither slumber nor sleep overtake Him». The word translated here as «slumber» implies drowsiness.

«To Him belongs all that is in the heavens and on earth» that is, He is the Sovereign, and everything other than Him belongs to Him. He is the Creator, the Provider, the Controller, and everything other than Him is created, provided for and controlled; it does not possess for itself or for anyone else the weight of an atom in the heavens or on earth. Hence Allah says: «Who is there that can intercede with Him except by His leave?» That is, no one can intercede with Him without His permission. All intercession belongs to Allah (ﷻ), but when He wants to show mercy to whomever He will among His slaves, He gives permission to whomever He wants to honour among His slaves to intercede for him. The intercessor does not initiate intercession before permission is given.

«He knows what was before them» that is, what is past of all things «and what will be after them» that is, what lies ahead in the future. His knowledge encompasses all details, past and future, apparent and hidden, seen and unseen. People have no control over their affairs at