

- 3:2. Allah: there is no god but He, the Ever-Living, the Self-Sustaining and All-Sustaining.
- 3:3. He has sent down to you the Book in truth, confirming what came before it; and He sent down the Torah and the Gospel
- 3:4. before this, as a guide to humankind, and He sent down the criterion [between right and wrong]. Then those who disbelieve in the revelations of Allah will suffer a severe punishment, and Allah is Almighty, an Avenger.
- 3:5. From Allah, verily nothing is hidden on earth or in the heavens.
- 3:6. He it is Who shapes you in the wombs as He wills. There is no god but He, the Almighty, the Most Wise.

Allah (ﷻ) begins this soorah by telling us of His divinity and that He is God and there is no god but He; no devotion or worship should be directed to anyone but Him. Everything other than Him that is worshipped is false; Allah is the true God Who has the divine attributes that are inherently implied in these two names. The Ever-Living is the One Who has life in the most perfect sense, which implies all attributes without which life cannot be complete or perfect, such as hearing, seeing, power, strength, greatness, eternal life, and unsurpassable might. The Self-Sustaining and All-Sustaining is the One Who sustains Himself and has no need of any of His creation, and the One Who sustains all others. All created beings need Him to be brought into existence, to be formed and shaped, and to be sustained. He is the One Who controls the affairs of all creatures, body, mind and soul. One aspect of His sustaining and caring for His slaves and showing mercy towards them is that He sent down to His Messenger Muhammad (ﷺ) the Book, which is the greatest and holiest of the Books, containing truth in its stories, commands and prohibitions. What He says is truth and what He ordains is justice. He sent it down in truth so that people would worship their Lord and learn His Book.

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= they were not revealed in vain, and that there is wisdom behind them of which we are not aware.