

GOD IS ETERNAL

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The Arabic words used to denote eternity in the following verses of the Qur'an are:

- *al-'awwal*, which means "the first without beginning"
- *al-'akhir*, which means "the everlasting"
- *al-hayy*, which means "the ever-living"

AL-'AWWAL & AL-'AKHIR

هُوَ الْأَوَّلُ وَالْآخِرُ وَالظَّاهِرُ وَالْبَاطِنُ ۚ وَهُوَ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ ﴿٢٥٦﴾

He is the First and the Last, the Most High and the Most Near. And He is the All-Knower of everything.¹

AL-HAYY

اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ ۚ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ ۚ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ ۚ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ ۚ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ ۚ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ ۚ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ ۚ وَلَا يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا ۚ وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ ﴿٢٥٥﴾

Allah [swt]! None has the right to be worshipped, but He, **the Ever-Living**, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except with His Permission? He knows what happens to them in this world and what will happen to them in the Hereafter. And they will never compass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His footstool extends over the heavens and the earth and He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great.²

اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ ﴿٢٥٥﴾

Allah [swt]! None has the right to be worshipped but He, **the Ever Living**, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists.³

¹ Surah Al-Hadid Chapter 57 Verse 3

² Surah Al-Baqarah Chapter 2 Verse 255

³ Surah Al-'Imran Chapter 3 Verse 2

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وَعَنْتِ الْوُجُوهُ لِلْحَيِّ الْقَيُّومِ وَقَدْ خَابَ مَنْ حَمَلَ ظُلْمًا ﴿١١١﴾

And [all] faces shall be humbled before **the Ever Living**, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. And he who carried [a burden of] wrongdoing will be indeed a complete failure [on that Day].⁴

وَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى الْحَيِّ الَّذِي لَا يَمُوتُ وَسَبِّحْ بِحَمْدِهِ ۚ وَكَفَىٰ بِهِ بُذُنُوبِ عِبَادِهِ خَبِيرًا ﴿٢٨﴾

And put your trust [O Muhammad (saws)] in **the Ever-Living** One Who dies not and glorify His Praises and Sufficient is He as the All-Knower of the sins of His slaves.⁵

هُوَ الْحَيُّ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ فَادْعُوهُ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ ۚ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ ﴿٢٦﴾

He is **the Ever-Living**, none has the right to be worshipped but He; so invoke Him making your worship pure for Him Alone. All the praises and thanks are to Allah, the Lord of the worlds.⁶

The Qur'an confirms the rationally derived attribute of God - eternity.

GOD IS TIMELESS-ETERNAL

وَهُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ وَالشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ ۚ كُلٌّ فِي فَلَكٍ يَسْبَحُونَ ﴿٢٢﴾

And He [God] it is Who has created the night and the day and the sun and the moon each in an orbit floating.⁷

God created the night and the day.

⁴ Surah Ta Ha Chapter 20 Verse 111

⁵ Surah Al-Furqan Chapter 25 Verse 58

⁶ Surah Ghafir Chapter 40 Verse 65

⁷ Surah Al-Anbiya' Chapter 21 Verse 33

وَجَعَلْنَا اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ آيَتَيْنِ ۖ فَمَحَوْنَا آيَةَ اللَّيْلِ وَجَعَلْنَا آيَةَ النَّهَارِ مُبْصِرَةً لِّتَبْتَغُوا فَضْلًا مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَلِتَعْلَمُوا عَدَدَ السِّنِينَ وَالْحِسَابَ ۚ وَكُلَّ شَيْءٍ فَصَّلَنَاهُ تَفْصِيلًا ﴿١٢﴾

And We have appointed the night and the day as two signs. Then We have obliterated the sign of the night[with darkness] while We have made the sign of the day illuminating that you may seek bounty from your Lord and **that you may know the number of years** and the reckoning. And We have explained everything with full explanation.⁸

God created the night and the day so that we may know the time, *the number of years*.

God, therefore, created time, which He transcends.

وَقَالُوا مَا هِيَ إِلَّا حَيَاتُنَا الدُّنْيَا نَمُوتُ وَنَحْيَا وَمَا يُهْلِكُنَا إِلَّا الدَّهْرُ وَمَا لَهُم بِذَلِكَ مِنْ عِلْمٍ ۖ إِن هُمْ إِلَّا يَظُنُّونَ ﴿١٣﴾ وَإِذَا تُتْلَىٰ عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتُنَا بَيِّنَاتٍ مَّا كَانَ حُجَّتَهُمْ إِلَّا أَن قَالُوا اتُّتُوا بِبَابَائِنَا إِن كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ ﴿١٤﴾ قُلِ اللَّهُ يُحْيِيكُمْ ثُمَّ يُمِيتُكُمْ ثُمَّ يَجْمَعُكُمْ إِلَىٰ يَوْمِ الْقِيَمَةِ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ وَلَٰكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ ﴿١٥﴾

And they say, "There is nothing but our life of this world, we die and we live **and nothing destroys us except time**. And they have no knowledge of it: they only conjecture. And when Our Clear Verses are recite to them, their argument is no other that that they say, "Bring back our [dead] fathers if you are truthful!" Say [to them], "**Allah** [swt] gives you life **then causes you to die** then He will assemble you on the Day of Resurrection about which there is no doubt. But most of mankind know not."⁹

Therefore, it is God, not time, Who destroys mankind. It is He, not time, that causes mankind to die.

The Qur'an confirms the rationally derived attribute of God – timeless eternity.

⁸ Surah Al-Isra' Chapter 17 Verse 12

⁹ Surah Al-Jathiyah Chapter 45 Verse 24