

The difference between al-Rahmaan and al-Raheem

What is the difference between al-Rahmaan and al-Raheem?.

Praise be to Allaah.

Al-Rahmaan and al-Raheem are two of the names of Allaah which refer to Allaah ' s attribute of Mercy.

Al-Rahmaan refers to the vastness of Allaah ' s mercy, and al-Raheem refers to its effect on His creation. So al-Rahmaan is the Owner of vast Mercy, and al-Raheem is the Owner of Mercy that encompasses His creation.

Shaykh Ibn ' Uthaymeen (may Allaah have mercy on him) said: " Al-Rahmaan is the Owner of vast mercy, because the fa ' laan form in Arabic indicates vastness and abundance, as it is said rajal ghadbaan (a very angry man) when he is filled with anger.

Al-Raheem is a name which refers to the action, as the fa ' eel form refers to the doer of an action. So the phrase al-Rahmaan al-Raheem indicates that the mercy of Allaah is vast, as is understood from the name al-Rahmaan, and that it encompasses His creation, as is understood from the name al-Raheem. This is what some of them meant when they said that al-Rahmaan refers to mercy in a general sense and al-Raheem refers to mercy that is specifically for the believers. But what we have mentioned is more accurate. "

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And Allaah knows best.