

# **The Muslim Anarchist Hermeneutic**

Tasneem Project

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# Contents

Ar-Rahman . . . . .	4
Ar-Rahim . . . . .	4
Al-Malik . . . . .	5
Al-Quddus . . . . .	5
As-Salam . . . . .	6
Al-Mumin . . . . .	6
Al-Muhaymin . . . . .	6
Al-Aziz . . . . .	7
Al-Jabbar . . . . .	7
Al-Mutakabbir . . . . .	7
Al-Khaliq . . . . .	7
Al-Bari' . . . . .	8
Al-Musawwir . . . . .	8
Al-Ghaffar . . . . .	9
Al-Qahhar . . . . .	10
Al-Wahhab . . . . .	10
Ar-Razzaq . . . . .	11
Al-Fattah . . . . .	12
Al-'Alim . . . . .	12
Al-Qabid . . . . .	13
Al-Basit . . . . .	13
Al-Khafid . . . . .	14
Ar-Rafi' . . . . .	14
Al-Mu'izz . . . . .	15
Al-Mudhill . . . . .	15
As-Sami . . . . .	15
Al-Basir . . . . .	16
Al-Hakam . . . . .	17
Al-'Adl . . . . .	18
Al-Latif . . . . .	20
Al-Khabir . . . . .	20
Al-Hafiz . . . . .	20
Al-Muqit . . . . .	21
Al-Hasib . . . . .	21
Al-Jalil . . . . .	22
Al-Karim . . . . .	22
Ar-Raqib . . . . .	23
Al-Mujib . . . . .	23

Al-Wāsi' . . . . .	23
Al-Hakīm . . . . .	24
Al-Wadūd . . . . .	24
Al-Majīd . . . . .	25
Al-Ba'ith . . . . .	25
Ash-Shahid . . . . .	26

## **Ar-Rahman**

Every problem  
is the same problem  
the world's problems are not many but one  
there are no 'single issues'  
only a single issue:  
    humanity's failure to fully connect with the spiritual  
and build a liberty  
devoted to investigating humanity  
    In a world fit for angels  
each person  
and the whole of humankind  
are cherished  
with the same compassion and justice

## **Ar-Rahim**

I do not take upon myself the fate of the Other  
Out of duty or  
Legal obligation  
Or to gain a sense of self-satisfaction

Because reasoned argument commends it  
Or theocratic decree demands it

I live, and learn through experience

Nor do I give your suffering meaning  
By sharing your pain  
Implicating injustice in a grand plan  
Blaming humanity's crimes on The Creator

I look on, and scream in silence

Nor do I imagine you to be  
By your presence  
A fragment of Merciful essence

And my acts a ritual of prostration before  
Your purifying lamp

I am real, and worship in secret

My love  
Is above laws, reason, duty, even being

Inimitable, transcendent

Wholly unneeded  
Yet absolutely necessary

## **Al-Malik**

Like monkeys in a cage fighting  
to sit on the highest rock  
men jostle  
to extend their grasping fingers  
deeper into our lives

But he who seeks to control others  
he usurps the throne of the Sovereign  
and is thus a heretic

Therefore  
be neither ruled by nor the ruler of others  
and where misfortune demands you be such  
then you have surely  
stepped outside of the kingdom of God

## **Al-Quddus**

God is zero  
God is beyond all human conception  
All we can know of Al-Quddus

comes from the angels  
who brought news of Isa to Maryam  
and al-Qur'an to Muhammad

All we can do is  
open our minds  
to knowledge and the law

God is closer to me than my jugular vein  
God is with me wherever I go  
Everywhere I look

there is an Eastern face  
a melody, perfume  
a rope lowered from heaven to rescue me

All I have to do is  
open my heart  
to the songs of love, joy and peace

## **As-Salam**

‘And know that God invites man unto the abode of peace, and guides him that wills  
to be guided onto a straight way.’

*Al-Qur’an* 10:25

I wish I could remember  
being chased into a secret den  
full of laughing friends

## **Al-Mumin**

The people who know live in the abode of peace  
Emotionalism and discontent are extinguished  
when a human is invited  
into this abode

Even when faced with the gravest of injustice  
the human who is enlightened  
has a peaceful heart, but such tranquillity  
never leads to passivity  
but rather to wise action  
that brings justice  
and peace

## **Al-Muhaymin**

The truth does not need defenders

Words are written on the sands of time  
but the meaning of al-Qur’an is protected  
for the people who know  
for people who think  
and for people who have faith

## **Al-Aziz**

Sometimes  
I feel like a man walking into a hurricane  
in the battle to contain my desires  
    I still believe it is injustice that corrupts me  
    The world must change  
    Perhaps if I change, the world will too  
    This is my doubt

## **Al-Jabbar**

The ancients  
revelled in their knowledge  
    today their towers are but ruins for all to see  
    Do you think our cities are less destructible?  
Do you think truth can be disregarded without any comeback?  
    This is the message of the Prophets  
    Instead of being arrogant  
we should pray that truth triumphs  
This is my heartfelt prayer

## **Al-Mutakabbir**

I'm not there yet  
    Truth has to be known, certain, obvious  
    Truth has to be my lover  
    Pray, then, that love leads me to truth in this life  
and pray for this beautiful planet  
and its lost souls  
    The hour's getting late

## **Al-Khaliq**

My pin-sized head  
is too small to squeeze  
God inside it  
    But thinking further  
I surmised  
God makes his own doors  
    the Universe is made perfect  
my lover reminded me  
and there is a always a way in

So late one night  
I called upon my angel  
and we did the creation dance  
    Until she was mine alone  
a ladder from heaven  
an escape called hope

## **Al-Bari'**

The Qur'an  
was not revealed to Muhammad  
in a single day  
    the foundations of a house  
have to be dug out  
and constructed with thought and care  
    but when the house is half built  
should I knock it down  
and begin again?  
    Yes, the rebellious mob before Aaron  
were smashed to smithereens  
the people of Noah drowned under the deluge  
    mockers and the whimsical  
joined together in graves smaller than matchboxes  
infested with scorpions  
    By day, Al-Bari' calls us to walk gently on the earth  
and whenever the fool speaks  
answer in peace  
    by night, to prostrate ourselves in aversion of hell  
    and be generous to the needy  
and invoke no imagined deity  
and refrain from killing and adultery  
    repenting and doing good  
telling the truth  
avoiding the bacchanalian mob  
    and remembering that living a lie  
is like slow poison  
to the soul

## **Al-Musawwir**

A child is born  
and although he looks like other homo sapiens  
his neurology is in the minority



The doctors diagnose him as having  
an autistic spectrum disorder, but I proclaim him  
Shaykh Al-Islam Ma'rifa  
the perfect friend  
who asks, through me, that  
the whole world be returned to him  
and to all who know  
every human soul  
is the shape of beauty

## **Al-Ghaffar**

Hindus have their sacred cows  
the people of Thamud their she-camel  
and the Muslims of Empire  
they have as their reminder of the truth  
Shaykh Al-Islam Ma'rifa  
a human being with autism  
a witness unto humankind  
Repent your struggles for wealth, status and power  
with soap, water and reflection  
learn  
how to open your heart  
to God's love  
learn  
how to bring peace and strength  
to the vulnerable  
learn  
how to return fire and humility  
to the arrogant  
rebuild  
human meaning  
founded on the imperishable tablet  
resurrect  
a dissident culture  
the kind that gets you run out of town  
Shaykh Al-Islam Ma'rifa  
is your star witness  
your symbol  
a mind apart  
a soul forgiven  
a heart filled with joy

## **Al-Qahhar**

The cry of the soldier  
running across the battlefield is  
Allahu Akbar

Running with sword aloft  
her thoughts silenced  
as she steels herself against her foe

The whisper of the warrior  
doing battle with his worldly desires is  
Allahu Al-Qahhar

in the muddle of life  
my brain is busy  
but my heart is always sure of its destiny

Dear God  
how can I subdue the impostor  
who has usurped my life?

Tattoo Al-Qahhar  
onto your tongue  
to silence its empty repetitions

Burn Al-Qahhar  
across your tightened knuckles  
to prize open its niggardly grasp upon your ruh

Change your name to Abdul Al-Qahhar  
if that's what it takes  
to make good

Yes, I would whisper this name 1000 times or more  
no less a prisoner than Yusuf  
in Egypt

who ran from lust  
into gaol  
carrying only his God-given talents

I should submit to everything God decrees  
to be rid of this thief  
Al-Qahhar, for you I wear only white

## **Al-Wahhab**

Moses was not a suicide bomber  
for one simple reason

He could tell right from wrong  
Pharaoh was arrogant  
he threatening torture and execution  
yet in the end, his army was drowned by God

Some believe al-Qur'an  
bestows the gift of discernment,  
but those who approach its guidance with hate-filled hearts  
Shrink its eternal message  
to the size of a book  
full of man's meanest meanings  
Rapists of revelation  
I reject your twilit recital  
with its contempt for the gift of life  
and surrender my heart  
seeking forgiveness for the gifts  
I have just as rashly squandered

## **Ar-Razzaq**

Ar-Razzaq provides sustenance  
food and horses, ships  
and stars to chart and guide adventurers  
and knowledge of past cities and empires  
and the reasons for their demise  
but even now  
facing our own denigration  
how many give their concerns meaning  
through action?  
What thought have you given to your possessions?  
What thought have you given to your possessions?  
What thought have you given to your possessions?  
Who made them?  
Did you buy more than you bargained for?  
Was your purchase stained with the tears of injustice and poverty?  
What are they made from? And How?  
Did you trade your role as khalifah for destroyer?  
How much did your cut-price offer cost the earth, today?  
And why were they made?  
In possessing them  
What have you subsequently become?  
Empires revel in their complexity  
in order to deride  
simple truths  
Pray for a world where all need is satiated  
the earth is cherished  
and everything is done and made in God's name

## **Al-Fattah**

And when you walk among the people to proclaim  
there is no god but Allah  
and that Muhammad is Allah's Messenger  
and tell them  
they should observe the prayer  
pay the Zakat  
fast during Ramadan  
and make the Hajj if you they are able  
and when you walk among the people telling them  
to believe in Allah  
His angels, His books, His messengers,  
and the Last Day  
and in the decreeing both of good and evil  
and when call upon them  
to worship Allah as though they see Him  
for He sees them though they do not see Him  
and when you walk among the people proclaiming  
the signs of the last day  
and warning them  
like Shu'ayb  
of what befell past civilizations  
who ignored the truth  
when you do any of these things  
my sisters and brothers  
first call upon Allah, saying  
O our Sustainer!  
Lay Thou open the truth between us and our people  
for Thou art the best of all to lay open the truth!

## **Al-'Alim**

What do I know for certain?  
Only one who has achieved the state of *baqa*  
knows anything for certain  
and unable to discern  
the purer ones from the pretenders  
I must instead begin with the best I have  
that cruelty comes from judgement without proper understanding  
that understanding comes from learning about humankind  
that learning about humankind comes from

walking the path of *nafs lawwama*  
and from remembrance of  
the 99 names

## Al-Qabid

One Maghrib, Jibreel was speaking to the Prophet  
whilst Ali comforted him in his lap,  
not departing until after the last *sujud* was done  
And when he returned,  
and he looked up to see Ali's anguish  
at having missed *salah*, his perfection shattered,  
Muhammad called upon The Constrictor  
for the sun to return  
and for the evening shadows to shorten...  
a man or a woman  
who is mad with love for their beloved  
deserves to have time turned back  
like Superman did for Lois Lane  
even if it means  
every law in the universe is broken  
this world is but shadow built upon shadow  
and we too can shorten them  
with Allah's grace  
by looking for signs of *Asma al-Husna* in everything  
and asking for the impossible  
even as we look solid night in the face

## Al-Basit

Oh Allah, how do I soften  
This impudent, world-hardened heart for *salah*?  
By *sama'*, of course  
A reminder of the covenant of Alast  
When Allah called me forth  
From Adam's Loins and Eve's womb  
And asked, 'Am I not your Lord?'  
Funny question to ask, really...  
Is a circle round?  
But that was a long time ago  
Since then, I have been reborn  
Into a triad of arrogant, amnesiac camps

A brothel of book burners who raped me  
A family of soul suckers who crucified me  
A nation of truth deniers who sold me into slavery  
I'll buy a drum, then  
And beat out Your names alone  
Washed up pure, I'll sweat out that grey hate poison  
Ripping off my shirt and then  
Tearing open my thorax,  
Whatever it takes, Lord, to make me humble in spirit

## **Al-Khafid**

It is easy to bring down  
kings and presidents, this is why they need  
statues, spin-doctors and body guards to protect them  
but is impossible to denigrate  
the pure in spirit  
they only wear pride for the comfort of others  
having replaced vanity with piety  
their only feeling is  
for the needs of others

## **Ar-Rafi'**

'...they think well of him...'  
'...he gets things going when everyone else comes to a halt;  
he thinks up or approves the best ideas...'  
this is the order of the automated ape!  
those who lead or who are led are amongst the regressed  
selling second-hand, third-hand lives  
inspiration now brings with it an impetus to defame command  
the great are no longer exalted  
obedience, like celebrity, is a distraction!  
the exalted human is conscious of Allah  
experience educated by  
clear thinking, a warm heart and virtuous study  
*taqwa* is its own submission:  
it is praising ar-Rafi' with every loving intention,  
every considered action, every act of breath

## **Al-Mu'izz**

Am I among the waverers?  
Have I been poisoned by time  
in the company of scoffing *mushrikun*?  
Whose side am I on?  
Do I seek honours from God alone  
or does fame and fortune still beckon?  
When I stand upon the hill,  
the wide spaces fill me with *taqwa*  
and from my heart, Al-Mu'izz, I sing your praises  
but when the wooden door slams  
on this rabbit hutch, I struggle to find fortitude  
though like Ayoub, perhaps I do not deny You, but curse You for my sores  
Let that be my better name, then —  
Julaybib Ayoub  
and I beg You bestow Your honours as I dishonour myself

## **Al-Mudhill**

The treaty of Hudaibiya  
was a mercy to those deceptions  
which haunt every pilgrim  
But when all that remains are small doubts  
and you've taken enough shit for one lifetime  
do what must be done — crush them!  
Do not accept appeals to worldly authority  
or the possibility  
that there may be some good in the old  
Simply tie up the loose ends  
face the truth as it is  
and pray for a clean break  
As for those doubts you still can't shake,  
don't worry — they'll find a home somewhere  
in the new you

## **As-Sami**

I have been deaf to my own lies  
the cure is sincere living  
and *taqwa*

## **Al-Basir**

(a lyric)

I took a road to find a code  
But things kept changing gear, so I  
Took a road to where nobody  
Knows me here —  
Got a problem?  
I took a road, Oh Lord,  
The wheels began to fray

Can't wait here wasting my time with you no more!

I took a road to heaven  
The truth so hard to bear  
I took a road to hell  
No nothing there  
Not that you care  
I took a road to dieing  
Tangled up in mind

Can't wait here wasting my time with you no more!

I took a road to obey you  
Did you not know I was weak?  
I took a road past charity  
Please don't speak  
Turn the other cheek  
I took a road to the past  
It was never worth betraying

Can't wait here bidding my time with you no more!

I took the road to rebel  
Without a cause for doing wrong  
I took a road to miracles  
Sing a Jesus song  
Sing-along  
I took a road to obsession  
The greatest show in town

Can't wait here killing my time with you no more!



I took a road to the tower  
Women and children allowed  
I took a road to maybe  
The natives are proud  
Talk loud  
I took the road to the capital  
The traffic it was steel

Can't wait here counting my time with you no more!

I took a road to reason  
It was just before the affray  
Round the road of passion  
Babe I was burned away  
Face was grey  
I took a road to chance  
We know fortune is unkind

Can't wait here chasing my time with you no more!

I took the road to India  
There really aint such place  
I took a road to riches  
It was a fast an ugly race  
Hey! I took a road to forget her  
On the peaceful sunlight hill

Can't wait here freezing my time with you no more!

I took the road to my dreams  
She said it was always night  
I took the road to sorrow  
Till there was no one left in sight  
I took the road to love  
There was something I couldn't pin

Can't wait here living my time with you no more!

## **Al-Hakam**

People who practice self-deception  
judge others  
but refrain from judging themselves

People who practice self-abasement  
judge themselves  
but refrain from judging others

People who practice *Satyagraha*  
judge with mercy  
and thus refrain from all intended harm

## **Al-'Adl**

One morning  
the poet awakes  
to God in his bedroom

God, he says  
no, she says  
who he says  
imagine, she says  
who, he says  
me, she says  
ihsan, he says  
yes, she says  
alright, he says  
well, she says  
light, he says  
physicsish, she says  
thunder, he says  
occasionally, she says  
person, he says  
greeks, she says  
Jesus, he says  
superstar, she says  
white, he says  
right, she says  
Isa, he says  
Prophet, she says  
creeds, he says  
words, she says  
presence, he says  
spooky, she says  
clue, he says  
sign, she says  
moon, he says  
feelings, she says  
love, he says  
nearly, she says  
dove, he says  
flying, she says  
thrill, he says  
instead, she says,  
peace, he says  
and, she says  
wow, he says  
wow, she says  
connection, he says  
more, she says  
soul, he says  
behind, she says  
eyes, she says  
veil, he says  
veils, she says  
being, he says  
closer, she says  
exhausted, he says  
closer, she says

## **Al-Latif**

The foolish lover subtly transforms  
the surrounding darkness  
into laughter

    he does this by remembrance  
and peaceful service  
performed with love and humility

    In almost every other endeavour  
failure deters further effort  
but on love's path, all fools flourish

## **Al-Khabir**

How many believe  
humankind will one day know everything  
and live as flesh and blood forever?

    They imagine, of course, that in the future perfect  
our descendents will concur with the presumption that  
existence ends with death

    but human knowledge is not limitless  
not all wisdom is founded on doubt  
yet certainty borrowed from the crowd is hollow

    True learning is a path with direction  
even though its destination may only be  
known to Al-Khabir

it seeks the origins of the heart of light  
even if the journey leads  
beyond death and reason

## **Al-Hafiz**

How many heed the enormity  
of the crime of  
worldly conformity?

## **Al-Muqit**

I am a brilliant painter  
My works  
Have left solid women  
Feeling giddy, naked and  
In wet need of a warm man in bed

I have watched art critics weep  
At their own ineptitude  
And I am told of  
How one faint soul dissolved into thin air  
Leaving only his socketless eyes  
Staring

One artist choked  
During a recent exhibition of my work  
And on returning home  
Burned his brushes of badger hair  
And deserted his easels and half-finished nudes  
To work as a bank clerk

Whilst less than a week ago  
I was visited by a butcher  
who, having seen my painting of an orphan calf,  
Vowed over the blood of an orange  
Never to eat animal flesh again

I am a brilliant painter  
My works have left many people amazed

You will find me most days  
In my attic  
Staring at black walls  
And painting  
What I see

## **Al-Hasib**

Even when acting in the best of conscience  
the better reckoning  
belongs to *Hu*

Allah gave Muhammad to Zaynab  
as a reminder that  
truth is not always what we customarily assume  
Power  
be it populist, personal or political  
perverts the very name of human justice

## **Al-Jalil**

What is twice perfect and perfection?  
perfect is the song of al-Qur'an  
perfect is whomsoever recites it in His name  
perfection is tazkeeya  
this is why humankind was created  
and who would deny it?  
Even the deaf know its music

## **Al-Karim**

Oh Allah! What can I tell those  
who have been tempted from the path  
by their lust for power?  
Oh Allah! What I can tell those who berate Your gifts  
as an obstruction to life's hopes and dreams  
of wealth and a better world?  
Shall I tell them how Al-Karim gave Ali ibn abi Talib  
as a helper to Sulayman  
and to Muhammad at Khaybar  
and then pray  
as they did  
long ago  
*In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, The Dispenser of Grace*  
*Oh Allah! Let Your blessings come on Muhammad*  
*And the family of Muhammad*  
*Call on Ali,*  
*(He) is able to bring about the extraordinary.*  
*You will find him an effective supporter in all calamities.*  
*(All) worries and sorrows will soon disappear .*  
*O Ali! O Ali! O Ali!*  
May I ask them, what is more powerful than this du'a?  
May I ask them, what adventure is there before its mystery?  
May I ask them, what world could be better than one built with Ali's help?

## **Ar-Raqīb**

It is very easy to lose yourself  
in trying to be what you think you really want to be  
or what you think others think you should be  
    what really matters  
is consciousness of God  
    Even those who speak perfect truth  
like Jesus, were misconstrued  
so where does that leave a nobody like you?  
    Stick to what you know is right in your heart  
disputes should be understood from every side  
    There are too many people to read the Qur'an in just 7 ways  
All hadith are weak if read with a grey heart  
And laws that feel like chains deserve to be smashed upon the minbar

## **Al-Mujīb**

If you slit a religion's throat  
the result is  
one dead camel  
    Religicide is easy  
but what does it prove?  
If the only pillars  
    supporting your society are  
power and greed  
the result is  
    the end of that society  
and what does that prove?  
there is only one test  
    of faith  
and that is to embrace it  
with humility  
    and find nothing there  
but so far loving God with a pure heart  
has provoked no human complaints

## **Al-Wāsi'**

Jalal Darguzini  
(may Allah be pleased with him)  
sat in silence, naked

but for a few leaves covering his genitals,  
sat beside the shrine of Zaynab  
in Bab al-Saghir cemetery in Damascus  
until Allah brought him together with  
Jamal al-Din Savi  
(may Allah be pleased with him)  
and his forty dervishes  
so that Jalal's inner light might illuminate that microsecond  
like a nuclear strike  
and in the fall out of earnest prayer  
everyone's hair fell out  
as Jamal muttered  
mūtū qabla an tamūtū  
(die before your death)  
and graveyards henceforth became his home  
...cultures can be like an ocean  
with trade winds to carry us onwards  
closer to the truth  
but when the weight of expectation  
threatens to sink the whole crew  
remember those who gave up everything  
simply to remind us  
of the all-encompassing, all-embracing  
nature of Hu

## **Al-Hakîm**

Shaykh Joel  
he is an ayat  
a source of Wisdom for this age

And I am  
John the Baptist  
a dog, a madman and a sage

## **Al-Wadūd**

The people who deny God  
falsely pose as the font of love  
but God alone is the Loving One  
The source of Love  
The meaning of Love  
The direction of Love



We belong to nothing but the Loving One  
and everything else  
is a false measure destined for impermanence's flames

## **Al-Majîd**

If al-Majîd could awaken the womb  
of an elderly woman  
then surely it is only a small miracle  
to transform an illusion  
made of ones and zeros  
into a sacred house

## **Al-Ba'ith**

So it's a simple choice, then?

Either conform to revealed codes of piety  
or be glued back together  
at the end of time

only to be set alight, like some smashed-up deckchair  
in the backyard...

I don't have any other gods in mind  
nor whims to whisk me away  
from this ultimatum

this is a day no more confused than any other  
nor am I under orders  
from some Odin or grand illusion

If this is how it is and I can still be so stubborn?  
There must be a reason  
or a new way of meaning

Like the times I sometimes feel you  
looking clean through me,  
is that my sujud?

Like our walk through the woods  
in the screaming wind,  
was that my hajj?

I have no idea how long I can hold onto this new fast  
between rebirth  
and yet another death

Muhammad was my suhoor,  
let my false self be my own iftaar  
and between them

may I always hunger and thirst for Your light

## **Ash-Shahid**

None can bear witness as God does  
not Prophets and their tribes  
nor Angels with their tablets  
    and the witnessing gifted to me  
is Taqwa  
a consciousness gathering together my fragmented roles  
    wherefrom You might make my many minds just one  
and direct Our life singularly  
yet with both of us intact  
    and from the utmost horizons  
of the Universe  
and from within ourselves  
    the sciences  
that send solitary probes whizzing through space  
driven by the fusion of language, society and mind  
    You alone are witness to everything  
but I beg You, let this nonetheless  
be my way to truth  
    such that, from now on in  
in Julaybib's covenant  
there will be no distinction between religion and government

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