

III

THE NINETY-NINE BEAUTIFUL NAMES OF ALLAH

“I make but little of Mohammed’s praises of Allah, which many praise; they are borrowed, I suppose, mainly from the Hebrew, at least they are far surpassed there. But the eye that flashes direct into the heart of things and sees the truth of them; this to me is a deeply interesting object. Great Nature’s own gift.”—*Carlyle, in “Hero Worship.”*

THE attributes of God are called by Moslems *Ismā-ul-Sifat* and are also called in the Koran *Isma-ul-Husna*, the excellent names. We read in Surah 7:179: “But God’s are the excellent names; call on Him then thereby and leave those who pervert His names.” The number of these names or attributes of Allah is given by Tradition as ninety-nine. Abu Huraira relates that Mohammed said, “Verily, there are ninety-nine names of God and whoever recites them shall enter Paradise.” In the same tradition these names are mentioned, but the number is arbitrary and the lists of the names differ in various Mos-