

## THE NINETY-NINE NAMES OF ALLAH 35

lem books.<sup>1</sup> It is the custom of many pious Moslems to employ in their devotions a rosary of ninety-nine beads to represent these names, and the repetition of them is called *Thikr*, or remembrance. The latter is the chief religious exercise among the various schools of dervishes.

We will now give these names in order with the place where they occur in the Koran and brief comment where necessary. Edwin Arnold has made so much of these *Pearls of the Faith* in his poem that we need to get back to the *Moslem* idea of these attributes. His *Pearls of the Faith* is as one-sided a presentation of Islam as his *Light of Asia* is of Buddhism.

1. *Er-Rahman*—The Merciful. (Surah 1:1, etc.)

2. *Er-Rahim*—The Compassionate. Both of these names are from the same root and are very frequently used in the Koran. They occur as the opening formula, "In the name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate," before every Surah of the Koran except the ninth. Beidhawi says that *Er-Rahman* is a more exalted attribute than *Er-Rahim*, because it not only contains five letters in Arabic,

<sup>1</sup>Compare the lists as given in *Mishkat-el Misabih*, *Al Mustatraf*, Hughes' *Dict. of Islam*, Nofel's *Sinajet el Tarb.*, Arnold's *Pearls of the Faith*, etc.; Ahmed bin Ali el Būni's *Shems-ul Múarif* is one of many books on the ninety-nine names of God. In this book these names are written in talismanic form, and one of these talismans is given in our frontispiece.