

Lesson 4: ALLAH سبحانه و تعالی BRINGS THINGS INTO EXISTENCE

***Note:** Students should bring as many different kinds of flowers and leaves they can find with them to this lesson.*

In the previous lesson, we learned that only Allah سبحانه و تعالی can create something from nothing and give life. Now, let's take a closer look at some of the things that Allah سبحانه و تعالی has created. Look at the different flowers and leaves that you brought to class. Are they all the same? You will notice many differences.

1. Compare the **SIZE** of the flowers and leaves.
2. Compare their **SHAPES**. Some are round, some long, some shaped like fans, or knives, or stars, or bells or trumpets.
3. Compare their **COLORS**. How many different colors can you see?
4. Compare their **SMELL**. Some smell sweet, some not very nice, and some have no scent at all.
5. Compare their **TEXTURE**. Some are hard, some soft, some thick and fleshy, some thinner than paper.

Why aren't they all the same? Who has made them different from one another?

Think about some animals you know. You may have seen pictures of other animals in books. If you begin naming them, you will never finish your list, because there are so many. Why are there so many different kinds of animals?

Allah سبحانه و تعالی has answered this question in the Qur'an. He says that He creates what He likes, and that He is never tired of creating. He is called *Al-Bari, Al-Musawwir*, "The Maker and The Fashioner," which means the One Who gives things their shape and their way of being.

Allah's سبحانه و تعالی is all-powerful. Think of all the things in the heavens and the earth that were created and given its own unique shape by Him. Who or what can we compare with Allah سبحانه و تعالی? Indeed, there is nothing that can be compared with Him!

Allah سبحانه و تعالى says that even the sun, the moon, the stars and the earth had a beginning, and will one day have an end.

Only Allah سبحانه و تعالى has no beginning and no end: He is limitless. Allah سبحانه و تعالى is not a created thing, and He is not like the things He created. Allah سبحانه و تعالى also has the name *Al-Baqi*, which means "The Everlasting." Everything on earth will die, but Allah سبحانه و تعالى exists forever. He says in the Qur'an.

كُلُّ مَنْ عَلَيْهَا فَانٍ
وَيَبْقَىٰ وَجْهُ رَبِّكَ ذُو الْجَلَالِ وَالْإِكْرَامِ

All that is on earth will pass away, but will exist forever the face of your Lord, full of Majesty, Bounty and Honor.

(Ar-Rahman 55:26-7)