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The Criterion

Surah 25 speaks to the confusion over who the Islamic deity really was. The 59th verse ends with these words: **"He is the Benevolent."** Left untranslated, that says: **"He is Ar-Rahim."** Verse 60 begins with this: **"When you say to them: 'Bow before Ar-Rahman.' they say: 'What is Ar-Rahman.' Should we adore whomever you ask us to? And their aversion increases further."** Muhammad was asking the Meccans to prostrate themselves to a god named Ar-Rahman. They, however, rebelled, asking, **"What is Ar-Rahman?"** They knew Allah, the top dog of the Ka'aba, but not everyone knew the other fellow as he wasn't a local rock idol.

This debate over god's name was hardly academic. Since several gods are named, Islam can't be monotheistic. And since none of the names are Yahweh, they aren't the God of the Bible. Therefore, the Biblical prophets and patriarchs should not have been used to justify Islamic rites and rituals.

Verse 25:63 reconfirms that the first Muslims were: **"Slaves of Ar-Rahman who walked in submission [Islam]."** (The end of this verse is foreboding. It says, **"When Muslims are addressed by the ignorant they should reply, 'Peace.'"** They get away with telling us they're "peaceful" because we are "ignorant" of Islam.)