

Numerical Verification — Allah, Rahman, Rahim Word Counts

Numerical Verification Report: The "19 Miracle" Word Count Claims

Date: 2026-03-05 **Investigator:** Petter Graff (John) -- Systems Architect **Model:** Claude Opus 4.6

Data Source: `~/system/context/quran/full-quran.json` (114 surahs, 6236 ayahs) **Verification**

Script: `/tmp/quran-count-comparison.js`, `/tmp/quran-count-refine.js`, `/tmp/quran-allah-delta.js`

Methodology: Deterministic computation, cross-referenced with published literature

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Executive Summary

Our analyzer (`quran-math-analyzer.js`) found that the words "Allah", "Rahman", and "Rahim" do NOT appear in counts divisible by 19. The popular Islamic literature, primarily originating from Rashad Khalifa's work (1974 onwards), claims they DO. After thorough investigation, the discrepancy is explained by **three critical methodological differences**:

1. **Basmala inclusion/exclusion:** Khalifa counts only "numbered verses" -- the 112 Basmalas (opening formulas) prefixed to surahs 2-114 (except 9) are treated as unnumbered and excluded from word counts. Our analyzer includes them because they are embedded in verse 1 of our dataset.
2. **Verse exclusion (9:128-129):** Khalifa excludes verses 9:128-129 from the Quran entirely, claiming they are later human additions. This removes 1 occurrence of "Allah" and 1 occurrence of "Rahim".
3. **Word form definition:** The word "Allah" is counted as the *Lafz al-Jalalah* (the Majestic Name) which specifically EXCLUDES "Allahumma" (O Allah), a vocative form appearing 5 times.

When we apply Khalifa's exact methodology to our data:

Word	Our Analyzer	Khalifa Claim	Our Count (Khalifa Method)	Match?
Allah	2,265	2,698 (19 x 142)	2,698	YES
Rahman	157	57 (19 x 3)	57	YES
Rahim	146	114 (19 x 6)	114	YES
Ism	N/A	19 (19 x 1)	18	CLOSE (1 off, likely text edition difference)

The Rahman and Rahim claims are fully verified. The Allah claim is fully verified when "Allahumma" is excluded. The Ism claim is off by 1, likely due to differences between our text edition and the one Khalifa used.

However, the Allah and Rahim claims **require excluding verses 9:128-129**, which is theologically controversial and rejected by mainstream Islamic scholarship.

Background: The Claims

Origin

In 1974, Rashad Khalifa (1935-1990), an Egyptian-American biochemist, claimed to have discovered a mathematical code in the Quran based on the number 19, referencing Surah 74:30 ("Over it is nineteen"). His key claims about the Basmala words were:



- **The theological problem:** Khalifa's claim that 9:128-129 are "fabricated" contradicts the *ijma* (consensus) of 1400 years of Islamic scholarship that the Quran is preserved in its entirety.
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What Our Analyzer Found

Our analyzer (`quran-math-analyzer.js`) counted words using this methodology:

1. Load all 6,236 ayahs from `full-quran.json`
2. Strip all diacritics and normalize Arabic text
3. Normalize Alef variants (أ آ إ إِيءِ ؤِ ؤِ ؤِ -> ا)
4. Split on whitespace into words
5. Count exact word matches

Critical data characteristic: In our dataset (`full-quran.json`), the Basmala is embedded in verse 1 of each surah (except surah 9 and surah 1 where it IS verse 1). This means our counts automatically include all 113 Basmalas as part of the text.

Our Results

Word	Our Count	Div by 19?	Remainder
الله (Allah, exact match)	2,265	No	4
الرحمن (Rahman, exact match)	157	No	5
الرحيم (Rahim, exact match)	146	No	13

We marked all three as "debunked" in our `mathematical-patterns.md` report.

The Methodological Differences

Difference 1: Basmala Treatment (the largest factor)

Our dataset embeds the Basmala in verse 1 of surahs 2-114 (except 9). This means:

- 112 extra occurrences of "الله" are counted (one per Basmala)

- 112 extra occurrences of "نمحرلا" are counted
- 112 extra occurrences of "محرلا" are counted

Khalifa treats these 112 Basmalas as "unnumbered verses" and excludes their word content.

Impact on counts:

Word	Our Count	Minus 112 Basmalas	=
الله	2,265	2,265 - 112 = 2,153	Still not matching
نمحرلا	157	157 - 112 = 45	Need 57, still 12 short
محرلا	146	146 - 112 = 34	Need 114, still 80 short

Stripping Basmalas alone does not explain the full discrepancy. The remaining differences are due to **word form definitions**.

Difference 2: Word Form Definitions

Allah: Our analyzer counts only the exact word الله. Khalifa counts ALL forms where "Allah" is the noun, including prepositional compounds:

Form	Meaning	Our Analyzer	Khalifa
الله	Allah (standalone)	Counted	Counted
اللهو	and-Allah	NOT counted	Counted (240 instances)
اللهب	by-Allah	NOT counted	Counted (139 instances)
لله	for/to-Allah	NOT counted	Counted (116 instances)
ولله	and-for-Allah	NOT counted	Counted (27 instances)
للهات	by-Allah (oath)	NOT counted	Counted (8 instances)
للهاف	so-Allah	NOT counted	Counted (6 instances)
للهف	so-for-Allah	NOT counted	Counted (6 instances)
اللهاء	is-it-Allah?	NOT counted	Counted (2 instances)
اللهاتو	and-by-Allah	NOT counted	Counted (1 instance)
اللهابا	is-by-Allah?	NOT counted	Counted (1 instance)
اللهم	O-Allah (vocative)	NOT counted	NOT counted (5 instances)

The key insight: Khalifa counts all grammatical forms of the name Allah EXCEPT "Allahumma" (اللهم), which is a vocative form. The 5 occurrences of Allahumma appear at 3:26, 5:114, 8:32, 10:10, and 39:46.

Rahman: Our analyzer counts only exact رحل. Khalifa counts all noun forms (including prepositional compounds) but excludes verb forms:

Form	Count	Khalifa Includes?
رحل	45	Yes
رحلل	9	Yes
رحل اب	3	Yes
ان رح او	3	No (verb form)
ان رح ت و	1	No (verb form)
ان رح ي	1	No (verb form)
ي رح ت و	1	No (verb form)
م رح ن ه م	1	No (verb form)
ان رح ر	1	No (verb form)

Total noun forms: $45 + 9 + 3 = 57 = 19 \times 3$

Rahim: Our analyzer counts only exact رحم. Khalifa counts ALL words containing the sequence رحم regardless of whether they have the definite article:

Form	Count	Khalifa Includes?
رحم	60	Yes
رحم ل	34	Yes
ام رح م	20	Yes

Total: $60 + 34 + 20 = 114 = 19 \times 6$

Difference 3: Exclusion of 9:128-129

Verse 9:128 contains "رحم" (Rahim) -- referring to the Prophet Muhammad, not to God. Verse 9:129 contains "الله" (Allah).

With 9:128-129	Without 9:128-129	Impact
Allah = 2,699	Allah = 2,698 (19 x 142)	-1 occurrence
Rahim = 115	Rahim = 114 (19 x 6)	-1 occurrence
Rahman = 57	Rahman = 57 (unchanged)	No impact

The exclusion of these two verses is necessary ONLY for the Allah and Rahim counts. The Rahman count (57) is not affected.

Detailed Verification: Word by Word

Allah: VERIFIED at 2,698 (19 x 142)

Method: Count all Lafz al-Jalalah forms (الله with all prepositional prefixes), EXCLUDE Allahumma (اللهم), EXCLUDE unnumbered Basmalas, EXCLUDE 9:128-129.

Our computation:

Form	Count
الله	2,152
اللهو	240
اللهب	139
الله	116
اللهو	27
اللهات	8
اللهاف	6
اللهف	6
اللهاء	2
اللهاتو	1
اللهابا	1
TOTAL	2,698

Result: 2,698 / 19 = 142 exactly. VERIFIED.

Caveats:

- Requires excluding the 5 instances of Allahumma (اللهم)
- Requires excluding 9:129 (which contains 1 occurrence of الله)
- Requires excluding 112 Basmalas

Rahman: VERIFIED at 57 (19 x 3)

Method: Count الرحمن and prepositional forms (الرحمن, الرحمن), EXCLUDE verb forms from root رح-م, EXCLUDE unnumbered Basmalas.

Our computation:

Form	Count
نمحرل ا	45
نمحرل ل	9
نمحرل اب	3
TOTAL	57

Result: 57 / 19 = 3 exactly. VERIFIED.

Caveats:

- Requires excluding the 112 Basmalas (each contains نمحرل ا)
- Does NOT require excluding 9:128-129 (neither verse contains Rahman)
- The distinction between noun forms and verb forms is linguistically sound

Rahim: VERIFIED at 114 (19 x 6)

Method: Count ALL words containing the pattern رحم (including رحم, رحم ا, رحم ا), EXCLUDE unnumbered Basmalas, EXCLUDE 9:128-129.

Our computation:

Form	Count
رحم (without article)	60
رحم ا (with article)	34
رحم ا (accusative)	20
TOTAL	114

Result: 114 / 19 = 6 exactly. VERIFIED.

Caveats:

- Requires excluding 9:128 (which contains رحم referring to the Prophet, not God)
- Requires excluding 112 Basmalas
- The 114 = number of surahs = 19 x 6 is a notable coincidence within the system

Ism (Name): PARTIALLY VERIFIED at 18-19

Method: Count the singular form مس ا and the prepositional form مس اب (with alif, no suffixes).

Our computation: 14 (مس ا) + 4 (مس اب) = 18

Khalifa claims 19. The 1-count discrepancy is likely due to differences between text editions. Our `full-quran.json` may be based on a different print edition than Khalifa used. Note that the verse references provided by Khalifa supporters (e.g., Quran Talk Blog) include verses like 7:58, 7:59, 8:1, 8:18, and 49:11 where our text does NOT contain the word "ism" -- suggesting either a different verse numbering system or a different text edition.

Result: Not fully verified with our data. Off by 1.

The 9:128-129 Question

This is the most contentious aspect of Khalifa's claims. The position of each party:

Khalifa's Argument

Verses 9:128-129 were added to the Quran by human scribes after the Prophet's death. Evidence:

- Their removal makes the word "Allah" count = 2698 (19 x 142) and "Rahim" count = 114 (19 x 6)
- They are the only verses that attribute the quality "Rahim" to the Prophet rather than to God
- Khalifa presented 46 mathematical phenomena that allegedly demonstrate their spuriousness

Mainstream Islamic Position

Verses 9:128-129 are authentic parts of the Quran:

- Preserved through unbroken chains of transmission (*tawatur*)
- Present in ALL known manuscripts since the earliest Uthmani codices
- The scholarly consensus (*ijma*) of 1400 years affirms their authenticity
- Removing verses from the Quran to make numbers work is considered textual manipulation

Our Assessment

Without taking a theological position: The mathematical claims about Allah (2698) and Rahim (114) are **contingent on excluding 9:128-129**. If these verses are included:

Word	Without 9:128-129	With 9:128-129	Divisible by 19?
Allah	2,698 = 19 x 142	2,699	No (rem 1)

Word	Without 9:128-129	With 9:128-129	Divisible by 19?
Rahman	$57 = 19 \times 3$	$57 = 19 \times 3$	Yes (unaffected)
Rahim	$114 = 19 \times 6$	115	No (rem 1)

The Rahman claim ($57 = 19 \times 3$) is the strongest because it does not depend on excluding any verses.

Summary: Which Claims Hold Up?

Claims VERIFIED (reproducible with clear methodology)

Claim	Count	Method Requirements	Strength
Rahman = $57 = 19 \times 3$	57	Strip Basmalas only	STRONG (no verse exclusion needed)
Rahim = $114 = 19 \times 6$	114	Strip Basmalas + exclude 9:128-129	MODERATE (requires controversial verse exclusion)
Allah = $2,698 = 19 \times 142$	2,698	Strip Basmalas + exclude Allahumma + exclude 9:128-129	MODERATE (requires both form exclusion and verse exclusion)

Claims NOT VERIFIED

Claim	Our Count	Issue
Ism = $19 = 19 \times 1$	18	Off by 1; likely text edition difference, not verifiable with our data

The Broader Pattern

The Basmala consists of 4 words. If we accept Khalifa's methodology:

- Word 1 (Ism): $19 = 19 \times 1$ (not verified, off by 1)
- Word 2 (Allah): $2,698 = 19 \times 142$ (verified, but requires verse exclusion)
- Word 3 (Rahman): $57 = 19 \times 3$ (verified, strongest claim)
- Word 4 (Rahim): $114 = 19 \times 6$ (verified, requires verse exclusion)

The total: $19 + 2,698 + 57 + 114 = 2,888 = 19 \times 152$ (if $lsm = 19$) Or with our data: $18 + 2,698 + 57 + 114 = 2,887$ (not divisible by 19)

Why Our Analyzer Got Different Results

Our analyzer's counts differed from the literature for three compounding reasons:

1. Basmala embedded in verse 1 (adds ~112 per word)

Our `full-quran.json` embeds the Basmala text into verse 1 of each surah. This is how many digital Quran APIs work -- the Basmala is not a separate entry but prefixed to the first verse. This added 112 occurrences of each Basmala word to our counts.

Fix: Strip the Basmala prefix from verse 1 of surahs 2-114 (except surah 9) before counting.

2. Exact-match-only counting (too narrow for Allah, too narrow for Rahim)

Our analyzer counted only `الله` (exact), missing the 546 occurrences in prepositional compounds (`الله`, `الله`, `الله`, etc.). For Rahim, it counted only `رحيم`, missing the 80 occurrences in the forms `رحيم` and `رحيم`.

Fix: Define each word using its proper linguistic scope.

3. No verse exclusion (includes 9:128-129)

Our analyzer included all 6,236 verses. Khalifa's methodology excludes 9:128-129.

Fix: Add a configurable option to include/exclude specific verses.

Recommendations for Analyzer Updates

1. Add Multiple Counting Modes

The analyzer should support at least three counting modes:

Mode A: "All text" (current behavior)

- Count all words in all verses including embedded Basmalas
- This is our current default

Mode B: "Numbered verses only"

- Strip Basmala from verse 1 of surahs 2-114 (except 9)
- Include all 6,236 numbered verses
- This is the standard scholarly counting method

Mode C: "Khalifa method"

- Same as Mode B, but also exclude 9:128-129
- This reproduces Khalifa's specific claims

2. Define Word Forms Properly

For each key word, the analyzer should count using proper linguistic scope:

```
// Allah: Lafz al-Jalalah (all noun forms, exclude Allahumma)
const allahForms = ['الله', 'الواو', 'الاب', 'لل', 'لو',
                   'للات', 'لواتو', 'لاف', 'لف', 'الاب', 'لاء'];

// Rahman: Noun forms only (exclude verb forms)
const rahmanForms = ['نرحل', 'رحلل', 'رحل'];

// Rahim: All adjectival forms
const rahimForms = ['رح', 'رحل', 'رحم'];

// Ism: Singular with alif, no suffixes
const ismForms = ['سا', 'ساب'];
```

3. Report All Modes Simultaneously

Instead of marking claims as "verified" or "debunked", report results for each counting mode and let the reader decide which methodology they find appropriate:

Word "Allah" count:

Mode A (all text): 2,265 (÷19 = 119.2, rem 4)

Mode B (numbered verses): 2,699 (+19 = 142.05, rem 1)

Mode C (Khalifa, no 9:128-129): 2,698 (+19 = 142, rem 0) ✓

Note: Mode C excludes Allahumma (5 occurrences) and 9:129 (1 occurrence)

4. Add Text Edition Awareness

Different digital Quran texts may differ in orthography. The analyzer should:

- Document which text edition is being used
- Note that Uthmani rasm, Imla'i script, and various print editions may produce different letter/word counts
- Flag where results are sensitive to text edition choice

5. Separate Fact from Interpretation

The report should clearly separate:

- **Mathematical fact:** "When counted using Method X, the word appears Y times"
- **Interpretation:** "This proves/disproves Z"

The mathematical fact that Rahman appears 57 times in numbered verses (excluding Basmalas) is verifiable. Whether this constitutes a "miracle" is interpretation.

Conclusion

The discrepancy between our analyzer and the popular literature is **not** due to the literature being wrong about the numbers. The numbers are reproducible. The discrepancy is due to our analyzer using a different (simpler, less linguistically aware) counting methodology.

The honest assessment:

1. **Rahman = 57 = 19 x 3** is the strongest claim. It holds with straightforward methodology (exclude unnumbered Basmalas, count noun forms only) and does not require any verse exclusion. This is a verifiable mathematical fact about the Quran's text.
2. **Rahim = 114 = 19 x 6** holds when all adjectival forms are counted and 9:128-129 are excluded. The verse exclusion is the controversial element.
3. **Allah = 2,698 = 19 x 142** holds when all Lafz al-Jalalah forms are counted (excluding Allahumma) and 9:128-129 are excluded. Both the form exclusion and the verse exclusion are judgment calls.

4. **ism = 19 = 19 x 1** could not be fully verified with our data (we get 18). This is likely a text edition issue.

The counting methodology matters more than the numbers. Different reasonable-sounding choices produce different results. The literature's numbers are not fabricated, but they do depend on specific methodological choices. Whether those choices are the "correct" ones or are post-hoc selections to produce desired results -- that is the fundamental question the 19 debate revolves around.

As the Quran itself says regarding this number: "We have not caused their number to be aught but a trial for those who are bent on denying the truth" (74:31). The data is what it is. The interpretation remains with each reader.

مَلْعَا هَلْ لَّو -- God knows best.

Sources

- [Rashad Khalifa, Appendix 1 -- Submission.org](#)
 - [Rashad Khalifa, Appendix 24 -- Tampering with the Word of God](#)
 - [The role of the Basmalah in the mathematical code -- Submission.org](#)
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 - [Rashad Khalifa Exposed -- Quran Alone Islam](#)
 - [The Mysterious 19 in the Quran: A Critical Evaluation -- Answering Islam](#)
 - [Word Count Miracles in the Quran -- WikiIslam](#)
 - [Discussion of numerical miracles -- IslamQA](#)
 - [Different verse numbering systems -- Answering Islam](#)
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This report was produced through deterministic computation on our Quran dataset, cross-referenced with published claims and their specific methodologies. No theological position is endorsed. Truth over confirmation bias.

Revision #3

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