

religions and theology

Deciphering God

Please read the following text and answer the questions below:

"God is the Light of the heavens and the earth. The parable of His Light is as if there were a Niche, and within it a lamp; the Lamp enclosed in Glass; the glass a brilliant star, lit from a blessed Tree, an Olive neither of the East nor of the West whose Oil is well-nigh luminous though fire scarce touched it. Light upon Light! God doth guide whom He will to His Light." (Qur'an, *Al-noor [The Light]*, 24:35)

1. What are the key terms which inform the meaning of the text? List them here.
2. List out the abstract definitions you are aware of for these terms.
3. How are these key terms interacting on a concrete level in the sentence? What definitions are excluded from their interaction here? Which make the most sense?
4. What more could you research to deepen your understanding of the text? Formulate a few key questions that would lead you to better understanding.