HA-EL HAGADOL HAGIBBOR VEHANORA

Today is the 10th of Tamuz, 5770
"God, who is great, powerful and awe-inspiring."
These words of the first Berakha of the Amida are really exceptional. Why? Because we **normally** praise God by referring to what He does for us: *Ozer, Moshia, Magen,* helps, saves, protects, etc. We never refer or describe anything about **haShem HIMSELF**.

Our rabbis were very reluctant to do so because no matter what we would say**, we would always fall short** from praising God Almighty. Take the word "powerful." Can this word, which we use to describe a car (*what a powerful engine*!) or the president of an important company (a "powerful" man!) etc., be **enough** to describe haShem's **infinite** power and might?

We believe that describing **God's 'power' or 'greatness' is absolutely beyond our human capability or vocabulary**. Therefore, any praise that we would say about God HIMSELF would be actually considered an **(involuntary)** offense…

The rabbis therefore were hesitant to authorize the use of these words and the only reason they allowed us to say these attributes is because **Moshe Rabbenu said them (Ekeb)**.
"Had Moshe not pronounced these attributes and had not the men of the Great assembly ordained this in our prayers, we would be unable to say it" (Berakhot

33b)

In a sense, **we are not actually daring to describe God's attributes**, we are just reiterating Moshe Rabbenus' 's words.

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