



Poems of Wisdom

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Introduction

نُحْمَدُه و نَصَلِي و نَسَلَمُ عَلِي رَسُوْلَه الْكَرِيْم

This booklet comprises versified translations of randomly selected poems from the poetry of Sayyidina 'Ali (ra), Imam Shafi'i (ra) and Abul-'Ataahiyah. At the end I included two poems of Abu Nuwas as well.

Being randomly selected at home, madrasah, a doctor's room or in a hospital que, they are not arranged according to the *qawaafi* (pl. of *qaafiyah*, the last letter of every line of the Arabic poems) or themes.

In order to maintain a rhyme, I occasionally made some minor changes, additions and deletions. None of this, however, affects the actual meaning and message of the relevant poems.

Allah willing, we will translate more of these lovely yet thought-provoking poems in the future. We implore Allah Ta'aala to guide one and all to ponder over and take heed from the lessons found in these poems. We also implore Allah Ta'aala to accept this feeble effort and make it a means for our salvation in the Aakhirah. Aameen!

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Poetry of Sayyiduna 'Ali (ra)

مالي وَفَفْتُ عَلَى الْقُبُورِ مُسَلِّمًا
قَبْرَ الْحَبِيبِ فَلَمْ يَرُدَّ جَوَابِي
أَحْبَبُ مَالِكَ لَا تُرُدُّ جَوَابَنَا
أَنْسَيْتَ بَعْدِي خَلَّةَ الْأَحْبَابِ
قَالَ الْحَبِيبُ وَكَيْفَ لِي بِجَوَابِكُمْ
وَأَنَا رَهِينُ جَنَادِلِ وَثْرَابِ
أَكَلَّ الثَّرَابُ مَحَاسِنِي فَتَسَيْتُكُمْ
وَحُجِبْتُ عَنِ أَهْلِي وَعَنْ أَتْرَابِي
فَعَلَيْكُمْ مِنِّي السَّلَامُ تَقَطَّعَتْ
مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ خَلَّةَ الْأَحْبَابِ

I greeted the grave of my beloved and waited
Why did I not receive the answer I anticipated?
'My beloved, why haven't you replied?'
Is our friendship forgotten? I cried
'How do I answer?' responded my beloved,
Under the sand, I'm totally covered
My beauty is by the sand devoured
Meeting family and friends is far from allowed
So peace be on you I pray
Our friendship's severed, I sadly I have to say

وَكُلُّ مَوَدَّةٍ لِلَّهِ تَصْفُو
 وَلَا يَصْفُو مَعَ الْفِسْقِ الْإِخَاءُ
 وَكُلُّ جِرَاحَةٍ فَلَهَا دَوَاءٌ
 وَسَوْءُ الْخُلُقِ لَيْسَ لَهُ دَوَاءٌ
 وَلَيْسَ بِدَائِمٍ أَبَدًا نَعِيمٌ
 كَذَاكَ الْبُؤْسُ لَيْسَ لَهُ بَقَاءٌ
 إِذَا أَنْكَرْتُ عَهْدًا مِنْ حَمِيمٍ
 فَفِي نَفْسِي التَّكْرُّمُ وَالْحَيَاءُ
 إِذَا مَا رَأْسُ أَهْلِ الْبَيْتِ وَلى
 بَدَا لَهُمْ مِنَ النَّاسِ الْجَفَاءُ

Love remains pure if Allah alone you wish to please
 With sin all friendship will eventually seize
 For every wound medication may be found
 Is there medication for character that's unsound?
 Like no comfort in the world will forever remain
 So too is all hardship and pain
 Displeased with the action of a friend
 I'll be modest and not let our friendship end
 Yet when a family loses their head
 People's kindness to them is suddenly shed

فَرَضُ عَلَى النَّاسِ أَنْ يَتُوبُوا
لَكِنَّ تَرْكَ الذُّنُوبِ أَوْجَبُ
وَالدَّهْرُ فِي صَرْفِهِ عَجِيبٌ
وَعَفْلَةُ النَّاسِ فِيهِ أَعْجَبُ
وَالصَّبْرُ فِي النَّائِبَاتِ صَعْبٌ
لَكِنَّ فَوْتَ الثَّوَابِ أَصْعَبُ
وَكُلُّ مَا يُرْتَجَى قَرِيبٌ
وَالْمَوْتُ مِنْ كُلِّ ذَاكَ أَقْرَبُ

Compulsory it is for people to repent
More compulsory is that from sin they relent
The upheavals of time are shocking indeed
More shocking is people's failure to take heed
Patience in calamity is difficult for sure
Loss of reward in calamity is more difficult to endure
Everything for which you hope is close
But death, do you realise, is so much more close

كُنْ إِبْنَ مَنْ شِئْتَ وَارْتَسِبْ أَدَبًا
يُغْنِيكَ مَحْمُودُهُ عَنِ النَّسَبِ
فَلَيْسَ يُغْنِي الْحَسِبُ نَسَبَهُ
بِلا لِسَانٍ لَهُ وَلَا أَدَبٍ
إِنَّ الْفَتَى مَنْ يُقُولُ هَا أَنَا ذَا
لَيْسَ الْفَتَى مَنْ يُقُولُ كَانَ أَبِي

With manners it doesn't matter whose son you are
Lineage is irrelevant if your conduct has no scar
Noble lineage helps not a man
If he's ill-mannered and swears whenever he can
Real men have reputations they don't hide
They aren't people who have only ancestry on their
side

لَيْسَ الْجَمَالُ بِأَثْوَابٍ تُرِيِّنُنَا
إِنَّ الْجَمَالَ جَمَالُ الْعَقْلِ وَالْأَدَبِ
لَيْسَ الْيَتِيمُ الَّذِي قَد مَاتَ وَالِدُهُ
إِنَّ الْيَتِيمَ يَتِيمُ الْعِلْمِ وَالْأَدَبِ

Beauty ain't in the clothes we wear
Beauty is smartness and respect, traits increasingly rare
The orphan ain't the child with no dad
Minus knowledge and respect everyone's an orphan, true yet
sad

إِيسِ أَخَاكَ عَلَى عَيْبِهِ
وَاسْتُرْ وَعَظُّ عَلَى ذُنُوبِهِ
وَاصْبِرْ عَلَى ظُلْمِ السَّفِيهِ
وَلِلزَّمانِ عَلَى خُطُوبِهِ
وَدَعْ الجَوَابَ تَفَضُّلاً
وَكَلِّ الظُّلُومَ إِلَى حَسِيهِ
وَاعْلَمْ بِأَنَّ الجِلْمَ عِن
دَ العَيْظِ أَحْسَنُ مِنْ رُكُوبِهِ

Ignore your brother's faults and maintain his ties
Conceal his errors from other people's eyes
Be patient when treated rudely by a fool
For coping in disaster patience is the best tool
Answer not the fool and spare you face
Leave to Allah the solving of your case
Rather your anger be suppressed
Than your complaint incorrectly redressed

أَرَى حُمْرًا تَرَعَى وَتُعَلْفُ مَا تَهْوَى
 وَأُسْدًا جِياعاً تَظْمَأُ الدَّهْرَ لَا تُرْوَى
 وَأَشْرَافَ قَوْمٍ لَا يَنالُونَ قوتَهُمْ
 وَقَوْمًا لِئاماً تَأْكُلُ المَنَّ وَالسَّلْوَى
 قَضاءُ لِدَيانِ الخلائِقِ سابِقُ
 وَليسَ عَلى مُرِّ القَضاءِ أَحَدٌ يَقوى
 فَمَن عَرَفاً الدَّهْرَ الخَوونَ وَصَرَفاً
 تَصَبَّرَ لِلبَلوى وَلم يُظهِرِ الشَّكوى

I see donkeys grazing on what they desire
 And hungry lions whose thirst doesn't expire
 Noble men who find no food to eat
 And wicked people who eat what was a heavenly
 treat
 A decree passed by the Creator of man
 Stopping His decree nobody can
 If the deceit of time you truly understand
 Then be patient and hide your complaints in the
 sand

عَجَبًا لِلزَّمَانِ فِي حَالَتِيهِ
وَبَلَاءٍ ذَهَبْتُ مِنْهُ إِلَيْهِ
رُبَّ يَوْمٍ بَكَيتُ مِنْهُ فَلَمَّا
صُرْتُ فِي غَيْرِهِ بَكَيتُ عَلَيْهِ

At the conditions of time am | amazed
A test from which | flee yet return to unfazed
A difficult day that makes tears roll down my face
Yet for the same day | later cry with grace

وَكَمْ سَاعٍ لِيُثْرِي لَمْ يَنْلُهُ
 وَأَخْرُ مَا سَعَى جَمْعَ الثَّرَاءِ
 وَسَاعٍ يَجْمَعُ الْأَمْوَالَ جَمْعاً
 لِيُورِثَهَا أَعَادِيَهُ شِقَاءَ
 وَمَا سَيَّانٍ ذُو خُبْرٍ بَصِيرٌ
 وَأَخْرُ جَاهِلٌ لَيْسَا سَوَاءَ
 وَمَنْ يَسْتَعْتِبِ الْحَدَثَانَ يَوْمًا
 يَكُنْ ذَاكَ الْعِتَابُ لَهُ عَنَاءَ
 وَيُزْرِي بِالْفَتَى الْإِعْدَامَ حَتَّى
 مَتَى يُصِيبَ الْمَقَالَ يُقَلُّ أَسَاءَ

So many strove for wealth they did not attain
 Yet another, for wealth endured no pain
 And a third who amassed such treasure
 Then left it for an enemy in every measure
 They're surely not the same
 Foresight against ignorance, that's a shame
 If the pleasure of a fool you ever pursue
 Blame will eventually be thrown at you
 Ridiculed because his wealth is not enough
 Even when correct they'll call him a bluff

إِنَّمَا الدُّنْيَا فَنَاءٌ
لَيْسَ لِلدُّنْيَا ثُبُوتٌ
إِنَّمَا الدُّنْيَا كَبَيْتٍ
نَسَجَتْهُ الْعَنْكَبُوتُ
وَلَقَدْ يَكْفِيكَ مِنْهَا
أَيُّهَا الطَّالِبُ قُوتٌ
وَلَعَمْرِي عَنْ قَلِيلٍ
كُلُّ مَنْ فِيهَا يَمُوتُ

Destined to perish, nothing more
That's the dunya, temporary to the core
Like the web which a spider spun
That's the dunya, if you think it's fun
Your daily bread is all you need
Without the rest you can suffice indeed
By my life I swear
Soon the shroud of death every soul shall wear

تُؤمِّلُ فِي الدُّنْيَا طَوِيلًا وَلَا تَدْرِي
إِذَا جَنَّ لَيْلٌ هَلْ تَعِيشُ إِلَى الْفَجْرِ
فَكَمَ مِنْ صَاحِحٍ مَاتَ مِنْ غَيْرِ عِلَّةٍ
وَكَمَ مِنْ عَلِيلٍ عَاشَ دَهْرًا إِلَى دَهْرٍ
وَكَمَ مِنْ فَتَى يُمَسِي وَيُصْبِحُ آمِنًا
وَقَدْ نُسِجَتْ أَكْفَانُهُ وَهُوَ لَا يَدْرِي

Whether we'll be alive tomorrow we don't know
Yet our worldly hopes continue to grow
How many people die yet ill they are not?
How many people are alive yet illness is their lot?
So many people's days and nights are spent, safe
and sound
Unknown to them, their shrouds are already cut and
soon they'll be lowered in the ground

لَعْمُرْكَ مَا الْإِنْسَانُ إِلَّا بِدِينِهِ
فَلَا تَتْرُكِ التَّقْوَى إِتْكَالاً عَلَى النَّسَبِ
فَقَدْ رَفَعَ الْإِسْلَامُ سَلْمَانَ فَارِسٍ
وَقَدْ وَضَعَ الشِّرْكَ الشَّرِيفَ أَبَا لَهَبٍ

Don't discard taqwa because of a lineage so clean
Man, I swear, is judged by only his deen
Islam elevated Salman of Persia to a status so high
But the nobleman Abu Lahab was disgraced
because he refused to comply

حَيَاتُكَ أَنْفَاسٌ تَعُدُّ فَكُلَّمَا
مَضَى نَفْسٌ أَنْقَصَتْ بِهِ جُزْءًا
وَيُحْيِيكَ مَا يُفْنِيكَ فِي كُلِّ حَالَةٍ
وَيَحْدُوكَ حَادٍ مَا يُرِيدُ بِكَ الْهَزْءَا
فَتُصْبِحَ فِي نَفْسٍ وَتُمْسِي بِغَيْرِهَا
وَمَالِكَ مِنْ عَقْلِ تُحْسِبُهُ رِزْءَا

Counted breaths, that's the crux of life
Shortened with every breath, that's also life
You're kept alive by who leads you to your end
Urging you ahead yet mocking at you he doesn't
intend
Alive in the morning, by the evening you could be no
more
Don't you understand that the warnings of death
you shouldn't ignore?

إِتِي أَقُولُ لِنَفْسِي وَهِيَ ضَيِّقَةٌ
وَقَدْ أَنَاخَ عَلَيْهَا الدَّهْرُ بِالْعَجَبِ
صَبْرًا عَلَى شِدَّةِ الْأَيَّامِ إِنَّ لَهَا
عُقْبَى وَمَا الصَّبْرُ إِلَّا عِنْدَ ذِي الْحَسَبِ
سَيَفْتَحُ اللَّهُ عَنْ قُرْبٍ بِنَافِعَةٍ
فِيهَا لِمِثْلِكَ رَاحَاتٌ مِنَ التَّعَبِ

To my aching heart | say
When time kneels a burden in its way
If with patience the trials of time are endured
A favourable outcome for you will be secured
Soon the good in it will be revealed
And your aches will be healed

حَقِيقٌ بِالتَّوَاضُّعِ مَنْ يَمُوتُ
وَيَكْفِي الْمَرْءَ مِنَ دُنْيَاهُ قَوْتُ
فَمَا لِلْمَرْءِ يُصْبِحُ ذَا هُمُومٍ
وَحِرْصٍ لَيْسَ تُدْرِكُهُ النُّعُوتُ
صَنِيعٌ مَلِيكِنَا حَسَنٌ جَمِيلٌ
وَمَا أَرْزَاقُنَا عَنَّا تَفُوتُ
فِيَا هَذَا سَتَرَ حُلٍّ عَن قَرِيبٍ
إِلَى قَوْمٍ كَلَامُهُمْ سُكُوتُ

Humility befits the one who's destined to die
In man's dunya the minimum is sufficient, if he'll only
try

So why does he commence his day full of worries
and greed

In describing it no human can succeed
The treatment of our king is beautiful and fair
Our sustenance will never leave us in despair
To such people you will soon depart
Who say nothing, yet tremendous lessons they
impart

فَلَا تَجْرَعُ وَإِنْ أَعْسَرْتَ يَوْمًا
فَقَدْ أَيْسَرْتَ فِي الزَّمَنِ الطَّوِيلِ
وَلَا تَيَاسُ فَإِنَّ الْيَأْسَ كُفْرٌ
لَعَلَّ اللَّهَ يُغْنِي عَنْ قَلِيلِ
وَلَا تَتَّظُنَّ بِرَبِّكَ ظَنًّا سَوِيًّا
فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ أَوْلَى بِالْجَمِيلِ

You shouldn't fret if your money's no longer enough
There were many days in which you had nothing
tough
Don't lose hope for that's disbelief
Soon Allah will grant you relief
Entertain regarding Allah no evil thought
He is kinder than you ever thought

Poetry of Imam Shaafi'i (ra)

إِنَّ لِلَّهِ عِبَادًا فُطِنًا
طَلَّقُوا الدُّنْيَا وَخَافُوا الْفِتْنَةَ
نَظَرُوا فِيهَا فَلَمَّا عَلِمُوا
أَنَّهَا لَيْسَتْ لِحَيِّ وَطَنًا
جَعَلُوهَا لُجَّةً وَاتَّخَذُوا
صَالِحَ الْأَعْمَالِ فِيهَا سَفِينًا

Slaves of Allah who are intelligent
The dunya they divorce and fearing fitnah they are
diligent
Pondering over the dunya they understand
Home is not in any worldly land
To them the dunya is but a sea
Board the ships of good deeds if from the fire you
wish to flee

الدَّهْرُ يَوْمَانِ ذَا أَمْنٍ وَذَا حَظَرٍ
وَالْعَيْشُ عَيْشَانِ ذَا صَفْوٍ وَذَا كَدَرٍ
أَمَا تَرَى الْبَحْرَ تَعْلُو فَوْقَهُ جَيْفٌ
وَتَسْتَقِرُّ بِأَقْصَى قَاعِهِ الدَّرَرُ
وَفِي السَّمَاءِ نُجُومٌ لَا عِدَادَ لَهَا
وَلَيْسَ يُكْسَفُ إِلَّا الشَّمْسُ وَالْقَمَرُ

There's only two days in time, one safe and the
other full of fear

Life's either joyful or you're shedding a tear
On the surface of the sea are corpses, motionless
and dead

Yet pearls are found on the ocean bed
Stars in the sky, no man knows their amount
How many times were they eclipsed, can you count?
Eclipses affect the sun and the moon, but not a
single star

Adversity doesn't mean that Allah's mercy is far

توكلت في رزقي على خالقي
وايقنت أن الله لا شك رازقي
وما يكن في رزقي فليس يفوتني
ولو كان في قاع البحار العوامق
ففي أي شيء تذهب النفس حسرة
وقد قسم الرحمن رزق الخلائق

For sustenance I trust in Allah my creator
Convinced that he is - no doubt - my sustainer
What is destined for me will not miss me
Even if it be at the bottom of the deep sea
It will be brought to me by Allah the Magnificent
Even if my tongue is silent
So why kill myself with regret?
Whereas the creation's sustenance Allah has already set

و رزقك ليس ينقصه التآني
و ليس يزيد في الرزق العناء
و لا حزن يدوم و لا سرور
و لا بؤس عليك و لا رخاء
إذا ما كنت ذا قلب قنوع
فأنت و مالك الدنيا سواء

Patience decreases not your sustenance
Toil leads not to abundance
Grief and joy don't last forever
Hardship and ease are no permanent measure
Compared to the wealthy, you won't have less
If a content heart you possess

لَمَّا بَلَوْتُ أَحِلَّائِي وَجَدْتُهُمْ
كَالدَّهْرِ فِي الْعَدْرِ لَمْ يُتَقُوا عَلَيَّ أَحَدٍ
إِنْ غَبْتُ عَنْهُمْ فَشَرُّ النَّاسِ يَشْتُمُنِي
وَإِنْ مَرَضْتُ فَخَيْرُ النَّاسِ لَمْ يُعِدْ
وَإِنْ رَأَوْنِي بِخَيْرٍ سَاءَهُمْ فَرَحِي
وَإِنْ رَأَوْنِي بِشَرٍّ سَرَّهُمْ نَكَدِي

I tested my friends and learnt
Like time, their betrayal leaves no one unburnt
If I'm absent, swearing me is their trade
If I'm ill, a visit to me is not paid
Hurt when they see me progress
Gleeful when I'm under stress

نعيب زماننا و العيب فينا
و ما لزماننا عيب سوانا
و نهجو ذا الزمان بغير ذنب
و لو نطق الزمان لنا هجانا
و ليس الذئب يأكل لحم ذئب
و يأكل بعضنا بعضا عيانا

We blame time yet the fault is in us
Is there anything wrong in time but us?
If time had a tongue to speak
All our faults it would leak
Wolves don't eat the flesh of each other
But man eats the flesh of his brother

بقدر الكد تكتسب المعالي
من طلب العلي سهر الليالي
و من رام العلي بغير كد
أضاع العمر في طلب المحالي
تروم العز ثم تنام ليلا
يغوص البحر من طلب الآلي

Loftiness depends on how much you toil
Those who seek it burn the midnight oil
If you seek it without effort
You'll waste your life and gain no benefit
You seek honour but spend your night asleep?
Those who seek pearls dive in the seas so deep

تضييق دنيانا فنحسب أننا
سنموت يأساً أو نموت نحيباً
وإذا بلطف الله يهطل فجأة
يربي من اليبس الفتات قلوباً
قل للذي ملأ التشاؤم قلبه
و مضى يضييق حولنا الآفاقاً
سر السعادة حسن ظنك بالذي
خلق الحياة و قسم الأرزاقاً

Life becomes tough and we cry
I've no hope, I'm going to die
Suddenly Allah's mercy descends like rain
Healing shattered hearts filled with pain
Tell him in whose heart there's no more hope
Whose world is gloomy and he can no longer cope
The solution for your difficulties and strife
Is faith in the sustainer, who created all life

سهرت أعين و نامت عيون
في أمور تكون أو لا تكون
فادرا لهم ما استطعت عن النفس
فحملانك الهموم جنون
إن ربا كفاك بالأمس ما كان
سيكفيك في غد ما يكون

Some eyes slept while others did not
Worrying about what may happen or may not
Relief yourself of worry as much as you can
Worrying so much makes you a madman
Certainly the Rabb who was sufficient for
what happened yesterday
Will be sufficient for what's going to happen after
today

محن الزمان كثيرة لا تنقضي
و سروره يأتيك كالأعياد
ملك الأكابر فاسترق رقابهم
و تراه رقا في يد الأوغاد

The tribulations of time are many and they never
recede

Its joyful moments come to you like the days of eid
So many great men did time subdue and enslave
Yet in the hands of the wretched, you see it like a
slave

وَمَنْ لَمْ يَذُقْ مَرَّ التَّعَلُّمِ سَاعَةً
تَذَرَّعَ ذُلَّ الْجَهْلِ طَوْلَ حَيَاتِهِ
وَمَنْ فَاتَهُ التَّعْلِيمُ وَقْتَ شَبَابِهِ
فَكَبَّرَ عَلَيْهِ أَرْبَعًا لِيُوفَاتِهِ

One who tastes not the bitterness of study for even
a short while

The bitterness of ignorance he will forever
swallow with no smile

If in his youth he studied not

Then pray for him the four takbeers because alive he
is not

أعرض عن الجاهل السفيفه
فكل ما قال فهو فيه
ما ضر بجر الفرات يوما
إن خاض بعض الكلاب فيه

Don't bother of the ignorant clown
At his own faults he doesn't frown
A dog swimming in the Euphrates does it no harm
So why should you lose your calm?

أرى الغر في الدنيا إذا كان فاضلا
ترقى على روس الرجال و يخطب
وإن كان مثلى لا فضيلة عنده
يقاس بطفل في الشوارع يلعب

I see the fool with more wealth than his need
Honoured by the people and asked to lead
Even if wisdom is a man's greatest feat
Without wealth he's treated like a child playing in the
street

إذا نطق السفیه فلا تجبه
فخیر من إجابته السکوت
فإن کلمته فرجت عنه
وإن خلیته کمدا يموت

Answer not the fool when he speaks
A silly response is all he seeks
Silence is for him so much better
It'll cause his peace to shatter

كَمْ ضاحِكٍ وَالْمَنايَا فَوْقَ هامَتِهِ
لو كان يَعْلَمُ غيباً ماتَ مِنْ كَمَدِ
مَنْ كانَ لَمْ يُؤْتِ عِلْماً فِي بقاءِ غَدِ
ماذا تَفَكَّرُهُ فِي رِزقِ بَعْدَ غَدِ

Having a good laugh yet death is just above his head
Had he known the unseen, grief would leave him
among the dead
One who knows not if tomorrow he'll be alive
For more than tomorrow's rizq, why should he strive?

المرءُ إن كانَ عاقِلاً ورِعاً
أشغَلَهُ عَن عُيُوبِ غَيْرِهِ وَرِعُهُ
كَمَا الْعَلِيلُ السَّقِيمُ أَشغَلَهُ
عَن وَجَعِ النَّاسِ كُلِّهِمْ وَجَعُهُ

If with intelligence and piety a man is blessed
Piety will stop him from the faults of those whose
ways are messed
Like if a man has illness in his share
He won't bother how others with illness fare

وَجَدْتُ سُكُوتِي مَتَجَرًّا فَلَزِمْتُهُ
إِذَا لَمْ أَجِدْ رِبْحًا فَلَسْتُ بِخَاسِرٍ
وَمَا الصَّمْتُ إِلَّا فِي الرِّجَالِ مُتَاجِرٍ
وَتَاجِرُهُ يَعْلُو عَلَى كُلِّ تَاجِرٍ

Silence | found is a trade |'d never leave
There's no loss even if a profit | don't achieve
Like goods in the market being sold
It's seller excels every seller, young and old

يخاطبني السفية بكل قبح
فأكره أن أكون له مجيبا
يزيد سفاهة فأزيد حلما
كعود زاده الإحراق طيبا

The fool hurls at me words that are repugnant and
vile
Yet answering him is not my style
The more he behaves like a fool
The more I maintain my cool
Like a piece of oud ignited with a match
Its smell so many more people are able to catch

جَزَى اللهُ الشَّدَائِدَ كُلَّ خَيْرٍ
وَإِنْ كَانَتْ تُغْصِّصُنِي بِرِيقِي
وَمَا شُكْرِي لَهَا حَمْدًا وَلَكِنْ
عَرَفْتُ بِهَا عَدُوِّي مِنْ صَدِيقِي

To my difficulties may Allah bestow a worthy recompense
Even if on my spittle they make me choke in suspense
Not because difficulties are something to be praised
But through them, I know my enemies from those whose
friendship remains unfazed

إِحْفَظْ لِسَانَكَ أَيُّهَا الْإِنْسَانُ
لَا يَلْدَغَنَّكَ إِنَّهُ تُعْبَانُ
كَمْ فِي الْمَقَابِرِ مِنْ قَتِيلٍ لِسَانِهِ
كَانَتْ تَهَابُ لِقَاءَهُ الْأَقْرَانُ

Guard your tongue 'coz it's a poisonous snake
Drop your guard and it'll sting you for your mistake
Too many are those who by their tongues were killed
Even friends shunned them 'coz in hurting with their tongues,
they were highly skilled

كُلَّمَا أَدَّبَنِي الدَّهَ
رُ أَرَانِي نَقْصَ عَقْلِي
وَإِذَا مَا إِزْدَدْتُ عِلْمًا
زَادَنِي عِلْمًا بِجَهْلِي

Whenever I learnt from time a lesson or two
It showed me that perfection in my 'aql is untrue
As my knowledge continued to grow
The extent of my ignorance it repeatedly made me
know

يُرِيدُ الْمَرْءُ أَنْ يُعْطَى مِنْهُ
وَيَأْبَى اللَّهُ إِلَّا مَا أَرَادَا
يَقُولُ الْمَرْءُ فَائِدَتِي وَمَالِي
وَتَقْوَى اللَّهِ أَفْضَلُ مَا اسْتَفَادَا

Man wishes that all his hopes be attained
But Allah grants only what He ordained
Man's cry is only about wealth and gain
But taqwa is the best that man can ever attain

أَمْتُ مَطَامِعِي فَأَرَحْتُ نَفْسِي
فَإِنَّ النَّفْسَ مَا طَمِعَتْ تَهُونُ
وَأَحْيَيْتُ الْقُنُوعَ وَكَانَ مَيِّتًا
فَفِي إِحْيَائِهِ عَرِضٌ مَصُونُ
إِذَا طَمَعٌ يَحِنُّ بِقَلْبٍ عَبْدٍ
عَلَتْهُ مَهَانَةٌ وَعَلَاهُ هُونُ

I killed my greed and my nafs was relieved
With greed only disgrace is achieved
Contentment was dying so it's life I spared
Then attacking my honour nobody dared
When in man's heart greed takes hold
Disgrace overtakes him and all scruples are sold

رَأَيْتُ الْقَنَاعَةَ رَأْسُ الْغِنَى
فَصِرْتُ بِأَذْيَالِهَا مُتَمَسِّكٌ
فَلَا ذَا يَرَانِي عَلَى بَابِهِ
وَلَا ذَا يَرَانِي بِهِ مِنْهُمْ
فَصِرْتُ غَنِيًّا بِلَا دِرْهَمٍ
أَمْرٌ عَلَى النَّاسِ شِبْهُ الْمَلِكِ

'Coz wealth to me is about being content
The hem of contentment | hold with great intent
Neither at the door of the rich am | seen
Nor in pursing wealth am | keen
Penniless yet such fortune | own
Like a king, I've nothing to bemoan

إِذَا رُمْتَ أَنْ تَحْيَا سَلِيمًا مِنَ الرَّدَى
وَدَيْتُكَ مَوْفُورًا وَعَرَضُكَ صَيِّبًا
فَلَا يَنْطِقَنَّ مِنْكَ اللِّسَانُ بِسَوَاءٍ
فَكُلُّكَ سَوَاءٌ وَلِلنَّاسِ أَلْسُنٌ
وَعَيْنَاكَ إِنْ أَبَدْتَ إِلَيْكَ مَعَائِبًا
فَدَعَهَا وَقُلْ يَا عَيْنُ لِلنَّاسِ أَعْيُنُ

If a life of safety is what you desire
Coupled with piety and honour that's not under fire
Then don't utter with your tongue the faults of your
brother
You too have faults and using their tongues people
won't bother
If a wrong you observe with your eye
Remember, with their eyes others also spy

قِيلَ لِي قَدْ أَسَىٰ عَلَيْكَ فُلَانٌ
وَمُقَامُ الْفَتَىٰ عَلَى الدُّلِّ عَارٌ
قُلْتُ قَدْ جَاءَنِي وَأَحَدَتْ عُدْرًا
دِيَّةُ الذَّنْبِ عِنْدَنَا الْإِعْتِدَارُ

He swore you is the message they brought.
Shouldn't abuse make you distraught?
But an apology he later brought.
That to me is the blood money for when in ignorance a man is
caught

اقْبَلْ مَعَاذِيرَ مَنْ يَأْتِيكَ مُعْتَذِرًا
إِنْ بَرَّ عِنْدَكَ فِيمَا قَالَ أَوْ فَحْرًا
لَقَدْ أَطَاعَكَ مَنْ يُرْضِيكَ ظَاهِرُهُ
وَقَدْ أَجَلَكَ مَنْ يَعْصِيكَ مُسْتَتِرًا

Accept apologies from one who wants to apologize
Whether he's truthful or you think he's talking lies
You are obeyed by a pleasing outside
But honoured by one who only disobeys you if he
can hide

يَالْهَفَ نَفْسِي عَلَى مَا لَأُفْرِقُهُ
عَلَى الْمُقْلِينَ مِنَ أَهْلِ الْمُرَوَاتِ
إِنَّ إِعْتِدَارِي إِلَى مَنْ جَاءَ يَسْأَلُنِي
مَا لَيْسَ عِنْدِي لِمَنْ إِحْدَى الْمُصِيبَاتِ

Saddened because my funds aren't enough
To help the needy for whom asking is just so tough
Apologizing to the one who asks me what I don't
possess
That's an affliction which also makes me stress

و حسبك أن ينجو الظلوم و خلفه
سهام دعاء من قسي ركوع
مريشة بالهدب من كل ساهر
منهلة أطرافها بدموع

It should satisfy you that trailing the oppressor
Are arrows of du'a shot from the bows of the
prostrator
Feathered with the lashes of sleepless eyes
Drenched with tears from endless cries

قالوا سَكَتَ وَقَدْ خُوصِمْتَ قُلْتُ لَهُمْ
إِنَّ الْجَوَابَ لِبَابِ الشَّرِّ مِفْتَاحُ
وَالصَّمْتُ عَن جَاهِلٍ أَوْ أَحْمَقٍ شَرَفٌ
وَفِيهِ أَيْضاً لِمَنْعِ الْعَرَضِ إِصْلَاحُ
أَمَا تَرَى الْأُسْدَ تُخْشَى وَهِيَ صَامِتَةٌ
وَالكَلْبُ يُخْشَى لِعَمْرِي وَهُوَ نَبَّاحٌ

They're disputing with you yet silent you remain?
But a response will unlock the doors of evil with little
constrain

Ignore the fool, that's the honourable thing to do
Your respect will be preserved for you
Lions are feared even when they don't roar
Barking dogs are only chided, nothing more

أَتَهْزَأُ بِالذُّعَاءِ وَتَزْدَرِيهِ
وَمَا تَدْرِي بِمَا صَنَعَ الذُّعَاءُ
سِيهَامُ اللَّيْلِ لَا تُخْطِي وَلَكِنْ
لَهَا أَمْدٌ وَلِلْأَمْدِ انْقِضَاءُ

Do you mock at du'a and its worth do you disregard?
The effects of du'a, don't you know, can be really
hard
Targets aren't missed by the arrows of the night
But they only strike when the time is right

وَأَنْطَقَتِ الدَّرَاهِمُ بَعْدَ صَمْتٍ
أُنَاسًا بَعْدَمَا كَانُوا سُكُوتًا
فَمَا عَطَفُوا عَلَى أَحَدٍ بِفَضْلِ
وَلَا عَرَفُوا لِمَكْرَمَةٍ تُبُوتَا

Mute dirhams made people speak
People who were once modest and would seldom
speak
Then kindness they showed to none
And at the merits of others they made shameless fun

أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ فِي النِّسَاءِ وَقَالُوا
إِنَّ حُبَّ النِّسَاءِ جَهْدُ الْبَلَاءِ
لَيْسَ حُبُّ النِّسَاءِ جَهْدًا وَلَكِنْ
قَرَبٌ مَنْ لَا تُحِبُّ جَهْدُ الْبَلَاءِ

Colossal are the complaints men have of their wives
Loving them, they say, is the ultimate calamity of their
lives

But loving your wife is no calamity
Living with whom you don't love, that's the calamity

إِن كُنْتَ تَعْدُو فِي الذُّنُوبِ جَلِيداً
 وَتَخَافُ فِي يَوْمِ الْمَعَادِ وَعَيْدَا
 فَلَقَدْ أَتَاكَ مِنَ الْمُهَيِّمِينَ عَفْوُهُ
 وَأَفَاضَ مِنْ نِعَمِ عَلَيْكَ مَزِيدَا
 لَا تَيْأَسَنَّ مِنْ لُطْفِ رَبِّكَ فِي الْحَشَا
 فِي بَطْنِ أُمِّكَ مُضَعَّةً وَوَلِيدَا
 لَوْ شَاءَ أَنْ تَصَلِيَ جَهَنَّمَ خَالِداً
 مَا كَانَ لَهُمْ قَلْبِكَ التَّوْحِيدَا

If you go about carrying your sins on your back
 Afraid of the day when to Allah we'll go back
 From Him a sign of pardon came to you
 His favours on you are more than a few
 Don't lose hope in the mercy you had drawn
 When in your mother's womb you were a child not yet born
 If to the Fire he wished to send you forever
 The tawheed in your heart He would permanently sever

تَعْصِي الْإِلَهَ وَأَنْتَ تُظْهِرُ حُبَّهُ
هَذَا مَحَالٌ فِي الْقِيَاسِ بَدِيعُ
لَوْ كَانَ حُبُّكَ صَادِقًا لَأَطَعْتَهُ
إِنَّ الْمَحِبَّ لِمَنْ يُحِبُّ مُطِيعُ
فِي كُلِّ يَوْمٍ يَبْتَغِيكَ بِنِعْمَةٍ
مِنْهُ وَأَنْتَ لِشُكْرِ ذَاكَ مُضِيعُ

You disobey Allah but I love Him you also say
Combining opposites, is that possible in any way?
You'll obey Him if truthful you are in your claim
Obedience to the beloved, lovers are all the same
Even His unpetitioned favours you daily taste
But the gratitude for that you sadly waste

ما حكّ جلدك مثل ظفرك
فتولّ أنت جميع أمرك
وإذا قصدت حاجة
فاقصد لمعترف بقدرك

For scratching your skin your nail is better than
anything else

For achieving your goals you are better than
everyone else

But if anyone's assistance you have to seek
The denier of your status you shouldn't seek

اذا المرء لا يرعاك إلا تكلفاً
فدعه ولا تُكثر عليه التأسفا
ففي الناس أبدال وفي الترك راحة
وفي القلب صبرٌ للحبيب ولو خفا
فما كلُّ من تهواه يهواك قلبه
ولا كلُّ من صافيته لك قد صفا
إذا لم يكن صفو الوداد طبيعةً
فلا خير في ودِّ يحيى تكلفاً
ولا خير في خلٍّ يخون خليله
ويلقاه من بعد المودة بالجفا
ويُنكر عيشاً قد تقادم عهده
ويظهر سراً كان بالأمس قد خفا
سلامٌ على الدنيا إذا لم يكن بها
صديقٌ صدوقٌ صادق الوعدٍ مُنصفا

If the respect a man shows you is simply fake
Then let him go, and cry not for his sake
Other friends and relief you'll surely find
Yes, hearts tolerate true friends when they're
sometimes unkind

But not everyone you love repays you with the same
In repaying your sincerity with its opposite some see
no shame

If love is unnatural and insincere
Its benefit will barely appear

There's no good in a man who betrays his friend
And with harshness makes the friendship end
Good times of the past are now refuted

Exposed are secrets which till yesterday were muted
Farewell to the dunya if in it such a friend is rare
Who is truthful, keeps to his word and always fair

وَلَرُبَّ نَازِلَةٍ يَضِيقُ لَهَا الْفَتَى
ذُرْعاً وَعِنْدَ اللَّهِ مِنْهَا الْمَخْرَجُ
ضَاقَتْ فَلَمَّا اسْتَحْكَمَتْ حَلَقَاتُهَا
فُرِجَتْ وَكَانَتْ أُظُنُّهَا لَا تُفْرِجُ

Many are the predicaments that make man lose heart
Yet their solutions are by Allah, perfect and smart
And when their grip tightens like the links of a chain
They slacken whereas I thought that they would
forever remain

لَمَّا عَفَوْتُ وَلَمْ أَحْقِدْ عَلَى أَحَدٍ
أَرَحْتُ نَفْسِي مِنْ هَمِّ الْعَدَاوَاتِ
إِنِّي أُحَيِّي عَدُوِّي عِنْدَ رُؤْيَتِهِ
لِلدَّفَعِ الشَّرِّ عَنِّي بِالتَّحِيَّاتِ
وَأُظْهِرُ الْبِشْرَ لِلْإِنْسَانِ أَبْغَضُهُ
كَمَا إِنْ قَدْ حَشَى قَلْبِي مَحَبَاتِ
النَّاسِ دَاءٌ وَدَوَاءُ النَّاسِ قَرِيهِمْ
وَ فِي اعْتِرَازِهِمْ قَطَعَ الْمَوَدَاتِ

Because I forgive and ill-feelings I don't retain
Enmity causes my heart no pain
I greet my enemy when we happen to meet
Doing so causes his evil to retreat
At the one I dislike I also smile
As if in my heart I've loved him all the while
People are an illness best treated by staying close
Aloofness distances those to whom you were so
close

يا واعِظَ النَّاسِ عَمَّا أَنْتَ فاعِلُهُ
يا مَنْ يَعِدُّ عَلَيْهِ العُمْرُ بالنَّفْسِ
احْفَظْ لِشَيْبِكَ مِنْ عَيْبٍ يُدْنِسُهُ
إِنَّ البَيَاضَ قَلِيلُ الحَمَلِ لِلدَّنَسِ
كَحَامِلٍ لِثِيَابِ النَّاسِ يَغْسِلُهَا
وَتَوْبُهُ غَارِقٌ فِي الرَّجْسِ وَالنَّجَسِ
تَبْغِي النِّجَاةَ وَلَمْ تَسْلُكِ طَرِيقَتَهَا
إِنَّ السَّفِينَةَ لَا تَجْرِي عَلَى البَيْسِ
رُكُوبُكَ النِّعَشَ يُنْسِيكَ الرُّكُوبَ عَلَى
مَا كُنْتَ تَرَكَبُ مِنْ بَعْلِ وَمِنْ فَرَسِ
يَوْمَ القِيَامَةِ لَا مَالٌ وَلَا وَكْدٌ
وَضَمَّةُ القَبْرِ تُنْسِي لَيْلَةَ العُرْسِ

O you who admonishes people for what you also do
O you whose every breath is counted through and
through

In old age, with sin you shouldn't flirt

White clothes seldom hide any dirt

Like the man who keeps other people's clothes clean

But the dirt on his own clothes he's never seen

You seek salvation but a path so different you tread

Of ships sailing on dry land have you ever read?

The day when on a bier you will ride

You'll forget that on horses and mules you would
also ride

The day when wealth and children will help no slave

And the sweetest memories will be forgotten due to
the squeeze of the grave

وَمِنَ الْبَلِيَّةِ أَنْ تُحِبَّ
سَبَّ وَلَا يُحِبُّكَ مَنْ تُحِبُّهُ
وَيَصُدُّ عَنْكَ بِوَجْهِهِ
وَتُلِحُّ أَنْتَ فَلَا تُغْبِهُ

It is a calamity that you love
But whom you love has for you no love
From you he turns his face away
Yet you persist, not leaving him for a single day

قَلْبِي بِرَحْمَتِكَ اللَّهُمَّ ذُو أُنْسٍ
فِي السِّرِّ وَالْجَهْرِ وَالْإِصْبَاحِ وَالْعَلَسِ
مَا تَقَلَّبْتُ مِنْ نَوْمِي وَفِي سِنِّي
إِلَّا وَذِكْرُكَ بَيْنَ النَّفْسِ وَالنَّفْسِ
لَقَدْ مَنَنْتَ عَلَيَّ قَلْبِي بِمَعْرِفَةٍ
بِأَنَّكَ اللَّهُ ذُو الْأَلَاءِ وَالْقُدْسِ
وَقَدْ أَتَيْتُ ذُنُوبًا أَنْتَ تَعَلَّمُهَا
وَلَمْ تَكُنْ فَاضِحِي فِيهَا بِفِعْلِ مُسِي
فَامُنَّ عَلَيَّ بِذِكْرِ الصَّالِحِينَ وَلَا
تَجْعَلْ عَلَيَّ إِذَا فِي الدِّينِ مِنْ لَبْسٍ
وَكُنْ مَعِيَ طَوْلَ دُنْيَايَ وَآخِرَتِي
وَيَوْمَ حَشْرِي بِمَا أَنْزَلْتَ فِي عَبَسِ

O Allah!

Morning or evening, with others or alone
My heart is content because of the mercy you have
shown

In my heart and with every breath your name is taken

Even when in my sleep I suddenly awaken

Because you favoured me I understand

All favours and holiness are in your hand

So many sins I've committed and you know them all

Yet you spared me the disgrace of those who don't
heed your call

So include me among your slaves who are righteous
and straight

And in deen protect me from every confusing state

In this world, the Hereafter and the day when some
will be disgraced and others will be crowned

Be with me according to what you mentioned in the
Chapter of the One who Frowned

وَطَبَ نَفْسًا إِذَا حَكَمَ الْقَضَاءُ
فَمَا لِحَوَادِثِ الدُّنْيَا بَقَاءُ
وَشِيمَتِكَ السَّمَاخَةَ وَالْوَفَاءُ
وَسَرَكَ أَنْ يَكُونَ لَهَا غِطَاءُ
يُعْطِيهِ كَمَا قِيلَ السَّخَاءُ
فَإِنَّ شِمَاتَةَ الْأَعْدَاءِ بَلَاءُ
فَمَا فِي النَّارِ لِلظُّمَانِ مَاءُ
وَلَيْسَ يَزِيدُ فِي الرِّزْقِ الْعَنَاءُ
وَلَا بُؤْسٌ عَلَيْكَ وَلَا رَحَاءُ
فَأَنْتَ وَمَالِكُ الدُّنْيَا سَوَاءُ
فَلَا أَرْضٌ تَقِيهِ وَلَا سَمَاءُ
إِذَا نَزَلَ الْقَضَا ضَاقَ الْقَضَاءُ
فَمَا يُغْنِي عَنِ الْمَوْتِ الدَّوَاءُ

دَعِ الْأَيَّامَ تَفْعَلُ مَا تَشَاءُ
وَلَا تَحْزَعِ لِحَادِثَةِ اللَّيَالِي
وَكُنْ رَجُلًا عَلَى الْأَهْوَالِ جَلْدًا
وَإِنْ كَثُرَتْ غُيُوبُكَ فِي الْبَرَائِيَا
تَسْتَرِّ بِالسَّخَاءِ فَكُلُّ عَيْبٍ
وَلَا تُرِ لِلْأَعَادِي قَطُّ ذَلًّا
وَلَا تَرْجُ السَّمَاخَةَ مِنْ بَخِيلٍ
وَرِزْقُكَ لَيْسَ يُنْقِصُهُ التَّائِي
وَلَا حُزْنٌ يَدُومُ وَلَا سُرُورٌ
إِذَا مَا كُنْتَ ذَا قَلْبٍ قَنُوعٍ
وَمَنْ نَزَلَتْ بِسَاحَتِهِ الْمَنَايَا
وَأَرْضُ اللَّهِ وَاسِعَةٌ وَلَكِنَّ
دَعِ الْأَيَّامَ تَعْدِرُ كُلَّ حِينٍ

*As it pleases should time be left to do
Be happy with what is destined for you
Don't fret over misfortunes which at night transpire
Because all misfortunes eventually expire
Embrace your challenges with no fear
Loyalty and generosity should be to you most dear
If to the people your sins are known
And you wish that over them a veil be thrown
Then through charity your sins may be concealed
Charity ensures that no sin is revealed
To enemies, your weakness should not be shown
The enemy's glee is a problem well-known
Don't hope for kindness from a miser
Thirsty people never find water in fire
Patience decreases not your sustenance
Toil leads not to abundance
Grief and joy don't last forever
Hardship and ease are no permanent measure
Compared to the wealthy, you won't have less
If a content heart you possess
When it's time for a man to die
He is protected by neither earth nor sky
Allah's earth is huge and wide
But from His decree there's nowhere to hide
So with its betrayal leave time to continue
We'll hopelessly fail if a cure for death we pursue*

إِذَا لَمْ أَجِدْ خَلِيًّا تَقِيًّا فَوَحْدَتِي
أَلْذُّ وَأَشْهَى مِنْ غَوِيٍّ أَعَاشِرُهُ
وَأَجْلِسُ وَحْدِي لِلْعِبَادَةِ آمِنًا
أَقْرُّ لِعَيْنِي مِنْ حَلِيسٍ أُحَاذِرُهُ

Being alone because a pious friend I'm unable to
find
Is more enjoyable than the company of the spiritually
blind
Worshipping Allah by myself pleases me more
Than the company of a man whose traits I cannot
ignore

تعلم فليس المرء يولدُ عالماً
وليسَ أخو عِلْمٍ كَمَنْ هُوَ جَاهِلٌ
وإنَّ كَبِيرَ الْقَوْمِ لَا عِلْمَ عِنْدَهُ
صَغِيرٌ إِذَا التَّقْتُ عَلَيْهِ الْجَحَافِلُ
وإنَّ صَغِيرَ الْقَوْمِ إِنْ كَانَ عَالِماً
كَبِيرٌ إِذَا رُدَّتْ إِلَيْهِ الْمَحَافِلُ

Seek knowledge for no man's an 'aalim when born
The one who knows is unlike the one whose
ignorance we mourn
With no knowledge even if a man's a senior
When surrounded by armies he is a junior
And if knowledge is enjoyed by a junior
When gatherings need guidance, he's the senior

وَاعْلَمَ بِأَنَّ الْعِلْمَ لَيْسَ يَنَالُهُ
مَنْ هَمُّهُ فِي مَطْعَمٍ أَوْ مَلْبَسٍ
لَا أَخُو الْعِلْمِ الَّذِي يُعْنَى بِهِ
فِي حَالَتِهِ عَارِيًا أَوْ مُكْتَسَبِي
فَاجْعَلْ لِنَفْسِكَ مِنْهُ حَظًّا وَافِرًا
وَاهْجُرْ لَهُ طَيْبَ الرِّقَادِ وَعَبْسٍ
فَلَعَلَّ يَوْمًا حَضَرْتَ بِمَجْلِسٍ
كُنْتَ الرَّئِيسَ وَفَخَرَ ذَاكَ الْمَجْلِسِ

Know that knowledge is not attained
By one who for food and dress is pained
Knowledge is only gained by one who is dedicated
Clothed or not, his zeal is never decimated
For your sake choose from it a share
Sacrifice some sleep and difficulty you'll have to
bear
Soon over the gatherings you'll preside
And you'll be the reason for their pride

Poetry of Abul-'Ataahiyah

يا جامع المال في الدنيا لوارثه
هل أنت بالمال بعد الموت تنتفع
لا تمسك المال واسترض الإله به
فإن حسبك منه الري و الشبع

O gatherer of wealth for his heir
After death, will wealth offer you any care?
With your wealth you shouldn't miser
Allah's pleasure is all you should desire
Your hunger and thirst is all that you need to satisfy
The craving for more you must defy

أرى الدنيا لمن هي في يديه
عذاباً كلما كثرت لديه
ثمين المكرمين لها بصغر
وتكريم كل من هانت عليه
إذا استغنى عن شيء فدعه
وخذ ما أنت محتاج إليه

The dunya the way I see
Punishes those who hold it with glee
Making those who honour it so small
Honouring those who for its glitter don't fall
Leave whatever you don't need
Take only what you really need

اصْبِرْ لِكُلِّ مُصِيبَةٍ وَتَجَلَدِ
 وَاعْلَمْ بِأَنَّ الْمَرْءَ غَيْرُ مُخَلَّدِ
 أَوْ مَا تَرَى أَنَّ الْمَصَائِبَ حِمَّةٌ
 وَتَرَى الْمَنِيَّةَ لِلْعِبَادِ بِمَرْصَدِ
 مَنْ لَمْ يُصَبِّ مِمَّنْ تَرَى بِمُصِيبَةٍ؟
 هَذَا سَبِيلٌ لَسْتَ فِيهِ بِأَوْحَدِ
 فَإِذَا ذَكَرْتَ مُحَمَّدًا وَمُصَابَهُ
 فَادْكُرْ مُصَابَكَ بِالتَّيِّبِ مُحَمَّدِ

Endure every difficulty with patience and be strong
 Like the shortness of life, your suffering will end before long
 Mishaps are so many, don't you see?
 Death's in ambush, can anybody flee?
 Is there anyone you know who suffered no pain?
 No doubt you aren't alone in this plain
 When the affliction of Nabí Muhammad you remember
 Ask yourself, in your heart wasn't his passing the hottest
 ember?

لا تَأْمَنِ الْمَوْتَ فِي طَرْفٍ وَلَا نَفْسٍ
وَلَوْ تَمَنَّعْتَ بِالْحُجَابِ وَالْحَرَسِ
وَاعْلَمْ بِأَنَّ سِيهَامَ الْمَوْتِ نَافِذَةٌ
فِي كُلِّ مُدْرَعٍ مِنَّا وَمُتَرَسٍ
مَا بَالُ دُنْيَاكَ تَرْضَى أَنْ تُدْنِسَهُ
وَتُوبِكَ الدَّهْرُ مَغْسُولٌ مِنَ الدَّنَسِ
تَرْجُو النِّجَاةَ وَلَمْ تَسْلُكْ مَسَالِكَهَا
إِنَّ السَّفِينَةَ لَا تَجْرِي عَلَى الْبَيْسِ

Never be oblivious of death in your gaze and when
you breathe

Even if you're protected by guards armed to their
teeth

From the arrows of death no one is spared
Even if he hides behind a shield or with armour is
fully clad

Washing dirty clothing you never forget
Yet you dirty your dunya with no regret
You hope for salvation but follow a path that's
bound to fail

On dry land do ships ever sail?

قَد شَابَ رَأْسِي وَرَأْسُ الْحَرِصِ لَمْ يَشِبِ
إِنَّ الْحَرِصَ عَلَى الدُّنْيَا لَفِي تَعَبٍ
مَا لِي أُرَانِي إِذَا حَاوَلْتُ مَنزِلَةً
فَنَلْتُهَا طَمَحَتْ نَفْسِي إِلَى رُتَبٍ

White is the hair on my head but youthful is my greed
The greedy man is forever tired but takes no heed
Whenever I try for a position and then succeed
My nafs thinks attaining something higher is a
desperate need

طَلَبْتُ الْمُسْتَقَرَّ بِكُلِّ أَرْضٍ
فَلَمْ أَرِ لِي بِأَرْضٍ مُسْتَقَرًّا
أَطَعْتُ مَطَامِعِي فَاسْتَعْبَدْتَنِي
وَلَوْ أَنِّي قَنَعْتُ لَكُنْتُ حُرًّا

A place of comfort | sought in every land
But such a place | couldn't see in any land
Enslaved by the greed that | obeyed
Were | content, | would have never been dismayed

المَرْءُ أَفْتَهُ هَوَى الدُّنْيَا
وَالْمَرْءُ يَطْعَى كُلَّمَا اسْتَعْنَى
إِنِّي رَأَيْتُ عَوَاقِبَ الدُّنْيَا
فَتَرَكْتُ مَا أَهْوَى لِمَا أَخْشَى
فَكَّرْتُ فِي الدُّنْيَا وَجَدْتَهَا
فَإِذَا جَمِيعُ جَدِيدِهَا يَبْلَى
وَإِذَا جَمِيعُ أُمُورِهَا دُوْلٌ
بَيْنَ الْبَرِيَّةِ قَلَّمَا تَبْقَى

Love for the world causes man to fall
Wealth makes him defy even Allah's call
Regarding the result of worldly wealth | thought
And fearful, | forsook much of what | sought
| pondered over the world and its things that are new
All new things get old | quickly knew
Passing from hand to hand
Nothing's forever in this land

و ما لقيتُ من كربي	بكتُ عيني على ذنبي
إذا ما قال لي ربي	فيا ذلي و يا حجلي
و لا تخشي من العشي	أما استحييتَ عصيبي
وتأبي في الهوي قربي	وتُخفي الذنبَ من خلقي
تُعود إلي رضا الرب	فكُتبَ ممّا جنيتَ عسي

Thinking of my sins and the anxiety they cause
 Tears flow from my eyes with no pause
 How disgraced and ashamed will I be
 When my Rab will say to me
 Did you not feel shy to disobey my command?
 Were you not afraid of my reprimand?
 You hid your sins from my creation
 And refused to enjoy with me a close relation?
 Repent for your sins before it's too late
 To Allah's pleasure you'll return with a clean slate

لَقَدْ لَعِبْتُ وَجَدَّ الْمَوْتُ فِي طَلْبِي
وَإِنَّ فِي الْمَوْتِ لِي شُغْلًا عَنِ اللَّعِبِ
لَوْ شَمَّرْتُ فِكْرَتِي فِيمَا خُلِقْتُ لَهُ
مَا اسْتَدَّ حِرْصِي عَلَى الدُّنْيَا وَلَا طَلْبِي
سُبْحَانَ مَنْ لَيْسَ مِنْ شَيْءٍ يُعَادِلُهُ
إِنَّ الْحَرِيصَ عَلَى الدُّنْيَا لَفِي تَعَبٍ

Death pursued me while I was engrossed in fun and
play
Thinking of death would've deterred me from all play
Had I pondered over why I've been created
My greed for the world would not have been inflated
He who has no equal is faultless and pure
The seeker of the world is always tired, that's for
sure

بَكَيتُ عَلَى الشَّبَابِ بِدَمْعِ عَيْنِي
فَلَمْ يُغْنِ البُكَاءُ وَلَا النَّحِيبُ
فِيَا أَسْفَا أَسِفْتُ عَلَى شَبَابٍ
نَعَاهُ الشَّيْبُ وَالرَّأْسُ الخَضِيبُ
عَرَيْتُ مِنَ الشَّبَابِ وَكَانَ غَضًّا
كَمَا يَعْرِى مِنَ الوَرَقِ القَضِيبُ
فِيَا لَيْتَ الشَّبَابَ يَعُودُ يَوْمًا
فَأُخْبِرُهُ بِمَا صَنَعَ المَشِيبُ

I cried thinking of when I was young
But tears and sobs don't make anyone young
Today I lament those youthful days
Why did I ignore the white hair and what it says?
Stripped of my youth that was so fresh
Like leaves are shed from a twig that is fresh
How I wish my youth would one day return
So that I may tell it how old age treats me with no
concern

إنّ الكريمَ عيوبِ النَّاسِ يسترُها
أما اللّئيمَ فثرتارٌ و فضاخُ
إذا رأى زلّةَ البرقِ ينشرها
أما الكريمَ فستارٌ و نصّاحُ

People's errors the noble man conceals
A single slip the man not noble reveals
Like lightning does he broadcast
In concealing their faults the other is steadfast

(Jihad Jaha)

إلهي لَسْتُ لِلْفِرْدَوْسِ أَهْلًا
وَلَا أَقْوَى عَلَى النَّارِ الْحَاجِمِ
فَهَبْ لِي تَوْبَةً وَاغْفِرْ ذُنُوبِي
فَإِنَّكَ غَافِرُ الذَّنْبِ الْعَظِيمِ
وَ عَامِلِنِي مُعَامَلَةَ الْكَرِيمِ
وَ ثَبِّتْنِي عَلَى النَّهْجِ الْقَوِيمِ

Unworthy of entering Firdaus am |
Yet enduring the fire | can't even try
Accept my tawbah and forgive my sin
No doubt You forgive even great sin
Treat me with honour | plead
Keep me upon the straight creed
(Abu Nuwas)

يَا رَبِّ إِنِّ عَظُمَتْ ذُنُوبِي كَثْرَةً
 فَلَقَدْ عَلِمْتُ بِأَنَّ عَفْوَكَ أَعْظَمُ
 إِنِّ كَانَ لَا يَرْجُوكَ إِلَّا الْمُحْسِنُ
 الْمُجْرِمُ فَبِمَنْ يَلُودُ وَيَسْتَجِيرُ
 أَدْعُوكَ رَبِّ كَمَا أَمَرْتَ تَضَرُّعًا
 فَإِذَا رَدَدْتَ يَدَيَّ فَمَنْ ذَا يَرْحَمُ
 مَا لِي إِلَيْكَ وَسِيلَةٌ إِلَّا الرَّجَاءُ
 وَحَمِيلُ عَفْوَكَ ثُمَّ أَتَى مُسْلِمٌ

Allah, my sins are tremendous indeed
 But beyond that does your pardon exceed
 If in your mercy only the pious can hope
 Is there for the sinner anyone else's rope?
 I call you with humility as you said I should
 If you reject my call, who else's mercy could be
 pursued?

To your mercy I have no recourse
 Besides hope, your forgiveness and that I'm a
 Muslim of course
 (Abu Nuwas)