

**CHAPTER 3: ON THE PRAISE OF THE PROPHETE,
UPON HIM BE PRAYERS AND PEACE**

Zalamtu sunnata man ahyaaaz zalaama ilaa,
Ani-shtakat qadamaahud durra min warami

*I have neglected the path of the one brought black nights
To life by praying, until even his feet swelled with distress.*

.Washadda min saghabin ahshaa-ahu watawaa,
Tahtal hidjaarati kash-han mutrafal adami.

*To quell is hunger he tightened his midriff
By strapping stones to his soft sides and strong ribs.*

Waraawadathul djibaalush shummu min zahabin,
An nafsihi fa-araahaa ayyamaa shamami.

*Lofty mountains, to entice him, draped themselves in gold,
But he showed them a towering soul, perfectly content, without
desire.*

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Wa akkadat zuhdahu fiihaa daruuratuhu,
Innad daruurata laa ta-e-duu alal isami

*The extremity of his needs only confirmed his freedom from
desire-
Need never overshadows Virtue that is firmly rooted.*

Wa kayfa tad-uu ilad dunyaa daruuratu man,
Lawlaahu lam takhrudjid dunyaa minal adami.

*How could the need of such a man be answered by the world,
When without him this world would never have come into being!
[interlude]*

**Muhammadun sayyidul kawnayni was saqalay..,
Ni wal fareeqayni min urubin wa min adjami.**

*Mouhammad, lord of both worlds, lord of both species,
Lord of both assemblages-Arabs and all others.*

Nabiyyunal aamirun naahee falaa ahadun,
Abarra fee qawli laa minhu walaa na-ami.

*Our Prophet, commander of right, forbiddener of wrong-
No soul kept his word more justly, whether “Yes” or “No.”*

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huwal habeebul lezee turdjaa shafaa-atuhu,
Likulli hawlin minal ahwaali muqtahami.

*He is the beloved whose intercession is hoped for
As arms against a host of relentless calamities.*

Da-aa ilal laahi fal mustamsikuuna bihee,
Mustamsikuuna bihablin ghayri munfasimi.

*He called on God. Whoever clings to him
Clings to a rope that will never unravel nor break.*

Faaqan nabiyyeena fee khalqin wa fee khuluqin,
Wa lam yudaanuuhu fee ilmin walaa karami.

*His form and character surpassed even the previous prophets,
And none have approached him in knowledge or nobility.*

Wa kulluhum min rasuulil laahi multamisun,
Gharfan minal bahri aw rashqan minad diyami.

*They all seek from the Messenger of God
Cupfuls from his ocean or sips from his unceasing rain.*

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Wa waafiquuna ladayhi inda haddihim,
Min nuqtatil ilmi aw min shaklatil hikami.

*They all stand before him according to their limits,
As if dots on his knowledge or diacritical marks on his wisdom.*

Fahuwal lezee tamma ma-e-naahu wa suuratuhuu,
Summa-stafaahu habeeban baari-un nasami.

*He is the one whose meaning and form were perfected,
And then the Originator of souls chose him as the beloved.*

Munazzahun an shareekin fee mahaasinihi,
Fadjaw-harul husni feehi ghayru munqasimi.

*Incomparable, his beauty has no peer-
The essence of beauty itself is in his nature.*

Da-e madda-athun nasaaraa fee nabiyihimi,
Wahkum bimaa shi-e-ta Madani feehi wahtakimi.

*Leave aside what the Christians have claimed for their prophet-
Then praise him as you like, but do so wisely.*

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wansub ilaa zaatihee maa shi-e-ta min sharafin,
Wansub ilaa qadrihee maa shi-e-ta min ozami.

*Ascribe to his essence what you wish of honor,
Attribute to his exalted status what you will of greatness!*

Fa inna fadla rasuulil laahi laysa lehuu,
Haddun fayu-e-riba anhu naatiquun bifami.

*Truly, the Messenger of God's bounty
Cannot be overstated by two lips and a tongue.*

Law naasabat qadrahu aayaatuhu izaman,
Ahyaa-smuhu heena yud-aa daarisar rimami.

*If a miracle could equal his stature in magnitude,
The mere mention of his name would revive decaying bones.*

Lam yamtahinnaa bimaa ta-e-yal uquulu bihee,
Hirsan alaynaa falam nartab wa lam nahimi.

*Concerned for our welfare, he did not confuse us with matters
We could not fathom, so we neither wandered nor wavered.*

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a-e-yal waraa fahmu ma-e-naahu falaysa yuraa,
lilqurbi wal bu-e-di feehi ghayru munfahimi.

*Human beings cannot grasp his meaning-
Even those at his side could not keep up with him.*

Kash shamsi taz-haru lil-aynayni min bu-e-din,
Sageeratan wa tukillut tarfa min amami.

*He is like the sun, small to the eye when seen from afar,
But when glimpsed close up, it dazzles and overwhelms.*

Wa kayfa yudriku fid dunyaa haqeeqatahu,
Qawmu niyaamun tasallaw anhu bil hulumi.

*How can slumberous souls in this world grasp his reality
Distracted as they are by the strength of their dream?*

*Fa mablaghul ilmi feehi annahu basharun,
Wa annahu khayrul khalqil laahi kullihimi.*

*The extent of what we know of him is this: He is a man,
And yet, without exception, he is the best of God's Creation.*

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*Wa kullu aayin ataa ruslul kiraamu bihaa,
Fa innamat tasalat min nuurihi bihimi.*

*All of the signs brought by the noble prophets before him
Came to them through his light alone.*

*Fa innahu shamsu fadli hum kawaakibuhaa,
Yuz-hirna anwaaraha linnaasi fiz zulami.*

*He is the bounteous sun and they her orbiting planets-
She reveals their lights for humanity in the darkness of night-*

*Hattaa iza a tala-at fil ufqi amma hudaa...,
..hal aalameena wa ahyat saa-iral umami.*

*Until finally his light dawned on the horizon,
And his radiant guidance suffused the world and brought life to
Countless civilizations. [interlude]*

*Akrim bikhalqi nabiiyyin zaanahu khuluqun,
Bil husni mushtamilin bil bishri muttasimi.*

*What excellence lies in the birth of a prophet adorned with such
Character!
Beauty itself shines forth from his smiling face!*

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Kazzahri fee tarafin wal badri fee sharafin,
Wal bahri fee karamin wad dahri fee himami.

*Exquisite as a lily, illustrious as a full moon,
Magnanimous as the ocean, persistent as time.*

Ka annahu wahwa fardun min djalaalatihi,
Fee askarin heena talqaahu wa fee hashami.

*Due to his majesty, even when alone,
He seemed surrounded by military might and cohorts of
courtiers.*

*Ka annamal lu-e-lu-ul maknuunu fee sadafin,
Min ma-e-dinay mantiqin minhu wa mubtasimi.*

*It is as if precious pearls, locked in their shells,
Poured from the treasury of his sweet mouth and smile.*

Ta-e-yal uquulu kalaalan inda ru-e-yatihi,
Ka annamaa nazarat lish-shamsi min amami.

*As if, face to face with the sun,
Minds were forced o blink at the mere sight of him.*

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Laa teeba ya-e-dilu turuban damma a-e-zumahu,
Tuubaa limuntashiqin minhu wa multasimi.

*No perfume is as sweet as the ground that holds his bones-
What Paradise awaits the one who breathes its scent or brushes
lips against its soil!*