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DĀRŪ 'L-MASNĀVĪ OF THE MEVLEVİ ORDER

Mawlānā Rūmī's Praises of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him)

Selections from "Rumi and Islam" (2004), translations from Persian by Ibrahim Gamard (with transliterations from the Persian text added for this article)

I bring blessings upon you, (O Muhammad), so that the breeze of nearness (to God) may increase. Since, with nearness of the Whole, all parts are allowed to approach.

Salāt bar tō âr-am ke fozûda bâd qurbat
ke ba-qurb-é kul gard-ad hama juzw-hâ muqarab

--from Mawlānā's Ghazal No. 301, verse 3286

--from "Rumi and Islam," p. 139

Suddenly, there grew a "branch of candy."
(And) suddenly, there bubbled such a Water of (Eternal) Life.
Suddenly, there flowed alms (to the poor) from the king.
(May) there be joy for the soul of Muhammad, and greetings (of peace)!

nâgâh be-rûyîd yakê shâkh-é nabât
nâgâh be-jôshîd chonin âb-é Hayât
nâgâh rawân shod ze-shahanshah Sadaqât
shâdiy-é rawân-é muSTafâ-râ Salawât

--Mawlānā's Rubâ'î No. 103

--from "Rumi and Islam," p. 139

The spirit that was bound within the form of attributes
Went to the (Divine) Essence by means of the light of
(Muhammad) the Chosen.
The moment it started going, it said out of joy,
"Blessings (be) on the joyful spirit of (Muhammad) the Chosen!"

ân rûH ke basta bûd dar naqsh-é Sifât
az partaw-é muSTafâ rawân shod bar Zât
ân dam ke rawân gasht, ze shâdi mî-goft:
"shâdiy-é rawân-é muSTafâ-râ Salawât"

--Mawlānā's Rubâ'î No. 107

--from "Rumi and Islam," p. 141

Just as, during the night of the Ascension, God made (the greeting of peace) with the Light of the Absolute upon Muhammad: "Peace be upon you."

chon-ân-ke kard khodâwand dar shab-é mi'raj
ba-nûr-é muTlaq bar muSTafâ salâm 'alayk

--from Mawlānā's Ghazal No. 1321, verse 13996

--from "Rumi and Islam," p. 141

There has never been a beauty like that of a (Prophet like) Muhammad in this world or the next. May the Glory of God help him!

chûn jamâl-é aHMadâ dar har dô kawn
kay bod-ast ay farr-é yazdâni-sh 'awn

--from Mawlānā's Masnavi, Book 6: verse 676

--from "Rumi and Islam," p. 145

A voice from the lofty ones (among the angels came) from Heaven to every beggar: "O pure spirit of the one who is followed! O "Mercy to (all) peoples"! [Qur'ân 21:107]

az âsmân dar har ghadâ az `uluwîy-ân âyad nadâ
k-ay rûH-é pâk-é muqtadâ, "yâ râHmata li-l-âlamîn"

--from Mawlānā's Ghazal No. 1800, verse 18914

--from "Rumi and Islam," p. 145

Yet, I have seen the signs of Your Grace and Kindness in the appearance of that incomparable Pearl, O Generous One.

Since, although he is from (among) us, he doesn't resemble us. We are entirely (like) copper, and Muhammad is (like) the (alchemical) elixir.

lêk dar sîmây-é ân durr-é yatîm
dida-am âSâr-é luTf-at ay karîm

ke na-mê-mân-ad ba-mâ, gar-che ze-mâ-st
mâ hama mess-êm-o aHMad kîmiyâ-st

--from Mawlānā's Masnavi, Book 4, verses 990-91

--from "Rumi and Islam," p. 145

Muhammad broke many idols in the world, so that (religious) communities were saying, "O (our Sustaining) Lord!"

If it had not been for Muhammad's efforts, you also would have worshiped idols like your ancestors.

This head of yours has escaped from prostrating to idols, so that you may recognize his claim (of gratitude) upon the (religious) community.

If you speak, talk about gratitude for this liberation, so that he may also free you from the inward idol.

Because he freed your head from (worship of) idols, you should also liberate your heart by means of that power.

chand bot be-sh'kast aHMad dar jahân
tâ ke "yâ rab" gôy gasht-and ummat-ân

gar na-bûdy kûsh-ash-é aHMad tô ham
mê-parast-îdy chô ajdâd-at Sanam

în sar-at wâ rast az sajda-ye Sanam
tâ be-dân-î Haqq-é ô-râ bar umam

gar be-gôy-î shukr-é în rastan be-gô
k-az bot-é bâTin ham-at be-r'hân-ad ô

mar sar-at-râ chûn rahâniâz bot-ân
ham ba-d-ân quwwat tô del-râ wâ rahâ

--from Mawlānā's Masnavi, Book 2, verses 366-70

--from "Rumi and Islam," p. 149

We learned the skill of being a (true) man from God. We are the heroes of Love and the companions of Muhammad.

pêshâ-ye mardî ze-Haq âmûkht-êm
pahlaw-ân-é 'ishq-o yâr-é aHMad-êm

--from Mawlānā's Ghazal No. 1669, verse 17499

--from "Rumi and Islam," p. 151

Be among the community (of believers) who are blessed by (Divine) Mercy. Don't abandon the way of conduct of Muhammad, (but) be commanded (by it).

dar meyân-é ummat-é marHûm bâsh
sunnat-é aHMad ma-hel, maHkûm bâsh

--from Mawlānā's Masnavi, Book 6, verse 483

--from "Rumi and Islam," p. 161

He brings all of those (who are) led astray into the Way out of the desert. May Muhammad be the guide on the Way of God forever!

gom-râh-ân-râ ze-beyâbân hama dar râh-âr-ad

muSTafâ bar ze-Haq tâ hama dar râh-âr-ad

--from Mawlānā's Ghazal No. 792, verse 8289

--from "Rumi and Islam," p. 181