



Seekers
Guidance

The Path of Light

A Gift for Rabi Al Awwal

1442

Absorbing the Blessings and Gifts of
Rabi Al Awwal



Including a compilation of advice,
remembrance and supplication from Habib
Umar Bin Hafiz and Habib Ali al-Jifri

Compiled by
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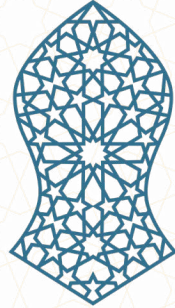
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ إِنَّا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ شَاهِدًا
وَمُبَشِّرًا وَنَذِيرًا
وَدَاعِيًا إِلَى اللَّهِ بِإِذْنِهِ وَسِرَاجًا مُنِيرًا
وَبَشِّرِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ بِأَنَّ لَهُمْ مِّنَ اللَّهِ
فَضْلًا كَبِيرًا

O Prophet, We have sent you as a witness, as a bearer of good news and warning, as one who calls people to God by His leave and as a light-giving lamp.

Give the believers the good news that great bounty awaits them from God.

(Quran, 33:45-47)



The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) was awe-inspiring and majestic. His face shone like the full moon. He was somewhat taller than medium stature and shorter than what could be described as tall.

He would open and close his speech with the name of Allah. His speech was concise and all-encompassing, neither superfluous nor inadequate. He had a mild temperament, was not harsh, and did not show contempt for those around him. He had veneration for every blessing of Allah, however small it was."

(Narrated by al-Bayhaqi)

The new moon of Rabi al-Awwal has appeared, the month in which Allah brought forth His best and most perfect slave, His Chosen One, His Beloved, the Noblest of the First and the Last in the sight of the Lord of the Worlds. His uncle al-`Abbas addressed him at the end of his life, on their return from Tabuk, his last expedition, with the following verse:

وَأَنْتَ لَمَّا وُلِدْتَ أَشْرَقَتْ الْأَرْضُ وَضَاءَتْ بِنُورِكَ الْأُفُقُ
فَنَحْنُ فِي ذَلِكَ الضِّيَاءِ وَفِي النُّورِ وَسُبُلِ الرَّشَادِ نَحْتَرِقُ

When you were born the earth and the horizons were illuminated by your light

We remain bathed in that glow and it continues to light the path as we travel it

Strive in this noble month to please the Chosen One, seeking to please Allah. Please him with your intentions, your ambitions, your words, and deeds. Allah is pleased with those that praise his Prophet, those that venerate His Prophet, those that support His Prophet. He is pleased with that which pleases the Prophet.

Direct your hearts to attain His pleasure and a portion of His gifts. In every day and night there are gifts, and in every month, and in this month in particular. You attain these gifts according to your connection to the one who taught us, the unique one. Take a portion of his vast, noble, priceless teachings, with a sincere desire, to attain the reality of:

It is more fitting that they please Allah and His Messenger if they are truly believers

(Quran, 9:62)

Habib Umar bin Hafiz courtesy of Muwasala

Five Ways of Being With the Messenger

Allah points the believers to a great and noble matter: the honor of being with the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him). He says:

Those who obey Allah and the Messenger are with those that Allah has favored – of the Prophets, the people of immense truthfulness, the martyrs and the pious. They are the best of company!

(Quran, 4:69)

Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah, and those who are with him...

(Quran, 42:29)

The Day that Allah will not permit the Prophet and those who believe with him to be humiliated. Their Light will run forward before them and by their right hands...

(Quran, 66:8)

How can someone be with the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him)?

1. By loving him

Our Master (peace and blessings be upon him) said:

"A man is with the one he loves."

(Bukhari and Muslim)

2. By bestowing abundant prayers upon him

He said (peace and blessings be upon him): "The closest of people to me on the Day of Judgement will be those that bestow most prayers upon me."
(Tirmidhi and Ibn Hibban)

3. By showing beautiful character

Our Master (peace and blessings be upon him) said: "The closest of you to me on the Day of Judgement will be those of you most beautiful in character – those who are approachable and who easily get along with others and whom others easily get along with."
(Ahmad, Tabarani, Tirmidhi and Ibn Hibban)

4. By following him and obeying him

Allah says: *Those who obey Allah and the Messenger are with those that Allah has favored – of the Prophets, the people of immense truthfulness, the martyrs and the pious. They are the best of company!*

5. By looking after orphans

He said (peace and blessings be upon him):
"I and the one who takes care of an orphan will be like these two in paradise." [he said 'these two' while joining his forefinger and middle finger].
(Bukhari)

Habib Ali al-Jifri courtesy of Muwasala

The Meaning of Prayers Upon the Prophet

(peace and blessings be upon him)

Allah commanded us to bestow prayers upon the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) but since we are unable to do anything of our own accord, instead of attempting to do so we request that Allah Himself does it for us. He called this request of our prayers from us and said:

bestow prayers and peace upon him in abundance
(Quran, 33:56).

In reality, however, these prayers are from Him as we are incapable of bestowing them ourselves. That is why if we wish to bestow prayers upon the Prophet we say 'O Allah,' or 'O Lord, bestow prayers upon him.'

How to Bestow Prayers Upon Him and their Effect

Bestowing prayers upon the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) strengthens your connection with Allah and His Messenger since in doing so you are remembering both Allah and His Messenger. This is especially true if you do it in a state of intense love, longing, and veneration. You should be aware while doing so that the source of every blessing which Allah has bestowed upon you and the whole of creation is Muhammad and that his sublime light was the beginning point of creation. Also, try to picture him in front of you

while you bestow prayers upon him (especially if you have seen him previously) or picture your shaykh or his blessed Masjid or his Rawdah or his Shubbak (the screen in front of his blessed grave). Bestow prayers upon him as if you were there until the door is opened to you and the veil is lifted.

If you bestow prayers upon him in this state it will bring limitless benefits and will bear fruits that none of your actions could bring. It will be a means of purification and will assist you in your journey to Allah. If you do not have a shaykh, it will be a cause of you being united with him; if you already have a shaykh, it will strengthen your spiritual connection to him so that the door to the Prophet can be opened more swiftly.

Composing Prayers Upon the Prophet

Allah inspired in the Companions, those that came after them and the knowers of Allah, amazing prayers upon the Prophet which have a great effect upon and illuminate the one reading them. You should recite a portion of these prayers regularly because they are prayers that emanated from those who are in his presence (peace and blessings be upon him). Those who composed them or received them have knowledge of him which cannot be described and which you cannot come close to. If you recite the prayers that emanated from their hearts you will receive precious gifts from them. It will be a cause for you to be swiftly brought close and to reach lofty stations.

Habib Umar bin Hafiz courtesy of Muwasala

A Selection of Prayers Upon the Prophet

(peace and blessings be upon him)

Asking Allah to Reward the Prophet

Our first offering is not technically a prayer upon the Prophet. It is more of an invocation, although, in essence, it expresses the meaning of a prayer upon the Prophet.

'Abdullah Ibn 'Abbas narrates that the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said, "When someone says, 'may Allah reward Muhammad on our behalf as he deserves to be rewarded' they will exhaust seventy recording angels for a thousand days" (Tabarani and Abu Nu'aym).

The invocation is:

جَزَى اللّٰهُ عَنَّا مُحَمَّدًا مَا هُوَ أَهْلُهُ

Jaz'Allāhu 'annā Muhammadan mā huwa ahluh

Look at the immense reward that you receive from this short sentence. The words are few but the meaning is huge. You are saying that you are unable to offer the Prophet anything in exchange for all that he has given you, so you ask Allah to do it on your behalf and on behalf of the whole Ummah. And you leave it up to Allah to decide the reward because only He knows the

reward that the Prophet is worthy of receiving and only He is able to give it to him. When we bestow prayers upon the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him), as mentioned above, we are essentially expressing our inability to offer anything to him so we ask Allah to bestow His gifts upon him, hoping that we get rewarded in the process. In fact, the reward is so great that the angels who are charged with recording our good deeds have a hard time recording it! Seventy was used by the Arabs to denote a large number and was not always understood to be exactly seventy.

"O Constant Bestower of Bounty Upon Creation"

This beautiful rhyming prayer is attributed by some to Sayyiduna Abdullah bin Abbas (may Allah be pleased with them both). It teaches us first how to address God, calling upon Him and addressing Him by His attributes of immense generosity and in doing so hoping to receive some of His bounties.

Having addressed God in that way, we then ask Him to bestow prayers upon our Master Muhammad, describing him with one of his greatest characteristics, his noble character. The prayer closes with a request for God's forgiveness. The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) is the key to attaining God's forgiveness. He is the first recipient of God's mercy and forgiveness and whoever is attached to him will receive their portion.

God says in Surat al-Anfal:

God will not punish them while you are with them, nor will He punish them while they seek forgiveness

(Quran 8:33).

Habib Ahmad Mashhur al-Haddad said about this: "He will not punish this nation as He punished the previous nations as long as the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) is with us. He is still with us with his spirit and with his Sacred Law and he is with us if we bestow prayers upon him. If you bestow prayers upon him, you are united with him and if you give him greetings of salaam he returns those greetings. So, if he is with us, we will be safe from God's punishment and if we seek forgiveness from God, we will also be safe. Therefore, we should combine between salawat and istighfar. There are no quicker means of getting closer to God in this time than doing these two things."

يَا دَائِمَ الْفَضْلِ عَلَى الْبَرِيَّةِ
يَا بَاسِطَ الْيَدَيْنِ بِالْعَطِيَّةِ
يَا صَاحِبَ الْمَوَاهِبِ السَّنِيَّةِ
صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ خَيْرِ الْوَرَى سَجِيَّةً
وَ اغْفِرْ لَنَا يَا ذَا الْعُلَى فِي هَذِهِ الْعَشِيَّةِ

Allāhumma yā dā'ima'l-faḍli `ala'l-barriyah
Yā bāsiṭa'l-yadayni bi'l-aṭiyyah
Yā ṣāhiba'l-mawāhibi'ssaniyyah
Ṣalli `alā sayyidina Muhammadin khayri'l-warā sajjiyah
Wa'ghfir lanā yā dhā'l-`ulā fī hādhihi'l-`ashiyyah

○ constant Bestower of bounty upon creation
○ One Who gives most freely
○ Possessor of the most sublime gifts
Bestow prayers upon our Master Muhammad, the best
of all people in character
And forgive us this evening, ○ Most Exalted One

Habib Umar's Prayer for Rabi al-Awwal 1442

Every year in Rabi al-Awwal, Habib Umar bin Hafiz composes a prayer upon the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) and encourages people to recite it as much as possible. The formula always contains more than a prayer upon the Prophet, and this year is no exception. It begins with beautiful words of praise which the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) is narrated to have uttered. He once sent a party out on an expedition and said that if the party returned safely, he would truly praise Allah as He is worthy of being praised. When their mission was accomplished and they returned safely, he said: "O Allah, we affirm that all praise belongs to You out of gratitude, and You belong all favors out of Your grace".

Secondly, Habib Umar teaches us to seek Allah's forgiveness, calling on Him using two of His greatest names, the Living, the Sustainer. Next comes prayers and peace upon the Prophet, described as the 'infallible leader'. Finally, there is a supplication for the wellbeing of the Ummah, a plea that Allah removes the anxiety and grief that many are experiencing. Thus, every time you bestow prayers upon the Prophet, you are seeking Allah's forgiveness and praying for

He sets a challenge for us – that we try to recite this 5,000 times in the month. Although this may be difficult for many, even if we recite it a few times daily there will be many benefits.

اللَّهُمَّ لَكَ الْحَمْدُ شُكْرًا، وَلَكَ الْمَنُّ فَضْلًا،
وَنَسْتَغْفِرُكَ يَا حَيُّ يَا قَيُّوْمُ،
صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَدَدَ عِلْمِكَ عَلَى عَبْدِكَ وَرَسُولِكَ وَحَبِيبِكَ السَّيِّدِ
الْمَعْصُومِ، سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَأَهْلِ مَحَبَّتِهِ
وَأَصْلِحْ شُئُونَ أُمَّتِهِ، وَفَرِّجْ عَنَّا الْهُمُومَ وَالْغُمُومَ يَا حَيُّ يَا قَيُّوْمُ

Allāhumma laka'l-ḥamdu shukrā wa laka'l-mannu faḍlā
wa nastaghfiruka yā Ḥayyu yā Qayyūm Ṣalli wa sallim
'adada 'ilmika 'alā 'abdika wa rasūlika wa ḥabībika
assayyidi'l-ma'ṣūm, sayyidinā Muḥammadin wa ālihi wa
ṣaḥbihi wa ahli maḥabbatih wa aṣliḥ shu'una ummatih wa
farrij 'anna'l-humūm wa'l-ghumūm ya Ḥayyu ya Qayyūm

O Allah, we affirm that all praise belongs to You out of
gratitude, and to You belong all favors out of Your grace.
We seek Your forgiveness, O Living, O Sustainer.

Bestow prayers and peace to the extent of Your
knowledge upon Your servant, messenger and beloved,
the infallible leader, our Master Muhammad and upon his
Family, Companions, and all those that love him.

Rectify the affairs of his nation and remove our anxiety and
grief, O Living, O Sustainer!





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Rabi Al Awwal

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