The Seven Valleys

هفت وادى

by Bahá'u'lláh

بِسْمِ ٱللهِ ٱلْرَّحْمٰنِ ٱلْرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of God, the Clement, the Merciful

أَلْحَمْدُ لِللهِ اَلَّذِي اَظْهَرَ الْوُجُودَ مِنْ أَلْعَدُم

Praise be to God Who hath made being to come forth from nothingness;

وَرَقَمَ عَلَىٰ لَوْحِ ٱلْإِنْسَانِ مِنْ ٱسْرَارِ ٱلْقِدَمِ ٱلْقِدَمِ

graven upon the tablet of man the secrets of preexistence;

وَعَلَمَهُ مِنْ أَلْبَيَانِ مَا لَا يُعْلَمُ

taught him from the mysteries of divine utterance that which he knew not;

وَجَعَلَهُ كِتَاباً مُبِيناً لِمَنْ آمَنَ وَ اَسْتَسْلَمَ

made him a Luminous Book unto those who believed and surrendered themselves;

وَاَشْهَدَ خَلْقَ كُلِّ شَيْئٍ فِي هٰذَا أَرْتَمَانِ ٱلْمُظْلَمِ ٱلْصَّيْلَمِ

caused him to witness the creation of all things in this black and ruinous age,

وَانْطَقَهُ فِي قُطْبِ ٱلْبَقَائِ عَلَىٰ أَلْكَوْنِ ٱلْبَدِيعِ

and to speak forth from the apex of eternity with a wondrous voice in the Excellent Temple:

فِي أَلْهَيْكُلِ ٱلْمُكَرَّمُ لَيَشْهَدَ ٱلْكُلَّ فِي نَفْسِهِ بِنَفْسِهِ فِي مَقَامٍ تَجَلِّي رَبِّهِ

to the end that every man may testify, in himself, by himself, in the station of the Manifestation of his Lord,

بِأَنَّهُ لَا إِلَّهَ إِلَّا هُوَ

that verily there is no God save Him,

وَلَيُصِلَ ٱلْكُلُّ بِذَٰلِكَ اللهِ ذُرْوَةِ اللهَ الْكُلُّ بِذَٰلِكَ اللهِ ذُرْوَةِ الْحَقَائِق

and that every man may thereby win his way to the summit of realities,

حَتَّىٰ لَا يُشَاهِدَ آحَدٌ شَيْاً إِلَّا وَ قَدْ يَرِىٰ أَلْلَهُ فِيهِ

until none shall contemplate anything whatsoever but that he shall see God therein.

وَوُّصَلَّىٰ وَوُُسَلَّمَ عَلَىٰ اَوَّلٍ بَحْرٍ تَشُعَّبَ مِنْ بَحْرِ ٱلْهَوِييَهُ

And I praise and glorify the first sea which hath branched from the ocean of the Divine Essence,

وَاوَّلٍ صُبْحٍ لَا حَ عَنْ أُفُقِ ٱلْأَحَدِيَّةِ

and the first morn which hath glowed from the Horizon of Oneness,

وَاوَّلٍ شَمْسٍ اَشْرَقَتْ فِي سَمَائِ اَلْاَزَلِيَّةِ

and the first sun which hath risen in the Heaven of Eternity,

وَاوَّلٍ نَارٍ أُوْقَدَتْ مِنْ مِصْبَاحِ أَلْقِدَمِيَّةِ فِي مِشْكُوةِ ٱلْوَاحِدِيَّةِ

and the first fire which was lit from the Lamp of Preexistence in the lantern of singleness:

اَلَّذِي كَانَ اَحْمَداً فِي مَلَكُوتِ اللَّهِ اللَّهُ الللللِّهُ الللللِّهُ اللَّهُ الللللِّهُ الللللِّهُ الللللِّلْمُ الللللِّلْمُ اللَّهُ اللَّ

He who was A\mad in the kingdom of the exalted ones,

وَمُحَمَّداً فِي مَلَائِ ٱلْمُقَرَّبِينِ

وَمَحْمُوداً فِي جَبَرُوتِ ٱلْمُخْلِصِينِ

and Ma\(\text{\text{Mmúd}}\) in the realm of the sincere ones.

» وَإِيَّاماً تَدَعُو فَلَهُ ٱلْأَسْمَائِ الْحُسْنيٰ فِي قُلُوبِ ٱلْعَارِفِينِ «

"... by whichsoever (name) ye will, invoke Him: He hath most excellent names" in the hearts of those who know.

وَعَلَىٰ آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ تَسْلِيماً كَثِيراً وَكَثِيراً وَائِماً اَبَداً

And upon His household and companions be abundant and abiding and eternal peace!

وَ بَعْدَ قَدْ سَمِعْتَ مَاغَنَّتْ وَرْقَائِ ٱلْعِرْفَانُ عَلَىٰ اَفْنَانٍ سِدْرَةٍ فُوَادِكَ

Further, we have harkened to what the nightingale of knowledge sang on the boughs of the tree of thy being,

وَ عَرَفْتَ مَاغَرَّدَتْ حَمَامَةِ ٱلْإِيقَانُ عَلَى اَغْصَانٍ شَجَرَةٍ قَلْبِكَ

and learned what the dove of certitude cried on the branches of the bower of thy heart.

كَ إِنِّي وَجْدَتُ رَوَائِحِ ٱلْطَّيِبَ مِنْ قَمِيصِ حُبِّكَ

Methinks I verily inhaled the pure fragrances of the garment of thy love,

وَ اَدْرَكْتَ تَمَامِ لِقَائِكَ فِي مُلَاحِظَةٍ كِتَابِكَ

and attained thy very meeting from perusing thy letter.

وَ لَمَّا بَلَغْتَ اِشَارَاتِکَ فِي فَنَائِکِ فِي أَلْلهِ

And since I noted thy mention of thy death in God, and thy life through Him,

وَبَقَائِكَ بِهِ وَحُبِّكَ اَحِبَّائِ ٱللَّهِ وَ مَطَالِعٍ صِفَاتِهِ مَظَاهِرٍ اَسْمَاءُهِ وَمَطَالِعٍ صِفَاتِهِ

and thy love for the beloved of God and the Manifestations of His Names and the Dawning-Points of His Attributes—

لِذَا اَذْكُرُلَكَ اِشَارَاتِ قُدْسِينَةً اللهَ الْجَلَالْ شَعْشَعَانِييةً مِنْ مَرَاتِبِ ٱلْجَلَالْ

I therefore reveal unto thee sacred and resplendent tokens from the planes of glory,

لِتَجْذِبِكَ اللي سَاحَةِ ٱلْقُدْسِ وَ ٱلْجُمَالْ الْقُرْبِ وَ ٱلْجَمَالْ

to attract thee into the court of holiness and nearness and beauty,

وَ تَوَصَلَکَ اِلَىٰ مَقَامٍ لَاتُرَىٰ فِي أَلُو جُودٌ اِلَّا طَلْعَةِ حَضْرَةِ مَحْبُوبِکَ

and draw thee to a station wherein thou shalt see nothing in creation save the Face of thy Beloved One, the Honored,

وَ لَنْ تَرَىٰ أَلْخَلْقْ اِلَّا كَيُوْمٍ لَمْ يَكُنْ اَكُو مَذْكُوراً اللهِ عَدْدُ كُوراً

and behold all created things only as in the day wherein none hath a mention.

وَهِيَ مَاغَنَّ بُلْبُلُ ٱلْاَحَدِيَّةُ فِي أَلْرِيَاضِ ٱلْغَوْثِيِّهِ

Of this hath the nightingale of oneness sung in the garden of Ghawthíyyih.

»قَوْلَهُ وَتَظْهَرَ عَلَىٰ لَوْحِ قَلْبِكَ

He saith: "And there shall appear upon the tablet of thine heart

رَقَوْمَ لَطَائِفِ اَسْرَارِ » اِتَّقَوْ أَلْلَهُ اللهُ يُعَلِمُكُمُ ٱلْلَهُ «

a writing of the subtle mysteries of 'Fear God and God will give you knowledge';

وَيَتَذَكَّرَ طَائِرِ رُوحِكَ حَظَائِرِ ٱلْقِدَمِ

and the bird of thy soul shall recall the holy sanctuaries of preexistence

وَيَطِيرَ فِي فَضَائِ »فَاسْلَكِي سُبُلِ رَبِّكَ « ذُلِلاً بِجَنَاحِ ٱلْشُوْقْ

and soar on the wings of longing in the heaven of 'walk the beaten paths of thy Lord',

وَتَجْتَنِي مِنْ اَثْمَارُ الْؤُنْسْ فِي بَسَاتِينْ » كُلِي مِنْ كُلِّ ٱلْثَّمَرَاتْ « «

and gather the fruits of communion in the gardens of 'Then feed on every kind of fruit.'" إِنْتَهِىٰ وَعَمْرِي يَا حَبِيبَ لَوْتَذُوقَ لَهُذِهِ ٱلْثَمَرَاتْ

By My life, O friend, wert thou to taste of these fruits,

مِنْ خَضْرِ هٰذِهِ ٱلْشُنْبُلَاتِ ٱلْلَّتِي نَبَتَتْ فِي اَرَاضِي ٱلْمَعْرِفَةْ

from the green garden of these blossoms which grow in the lands of knowledge,

عِنْدَ تَجَلِّي أَنْوَارِ ٱلْذَّاتْ فِي مَرَايَا أَلْاَسْمَاءُ وَ ٱلْصِّفَاتْ

beside the orient lights of the Essence in the mirrors of names and attributes—

لَيَاخُذَ ٱلْشُّوْقْ زَمَامِ ٱلْصَّبْرْ وَ الْصَّبْرْ وَ الْصَّبْرْ وَ الْصَّبْرْ وَ الْصَّبْرِ وَ الْصَابِرِ

yearning would seize the reins of patience and reserve from out thy hand,

وَ يَهْتَزَ رُوحِكَ مِنْ بَوَارِقِ ٱلْأَنْوَارْ

and make thy soul to shake with the flashing light,

وَ تُجْذِبَكَ مِنْ أَلْوَطَنِ ٱلْتُرَابِي اللَّا الْتُرَابِي اللَّا أَلْوَطَنِ ٱلْأَصْلِيَ ٱلْإللهِي فِي قُطْبِ ٱلْمُعَانِي

and draw thee from the earthly homeland to the first, heavenly abode in the Center of Realities, وَ تَصْعَدُ كَ اللَى مَقَامٍ تَطِيرَ فِي أَنْهُوَاءْ كَمَاتَمْشِيَ عَلَىٰ أَلْتُرَابْ

and lift thee to a plane wherein thou wouldst soar in the air even as thou walkest upon the earth,

وَ تَرْكَضَ عَلَىٰ أَلْمَاءْ كَمَا تَرْكَضَ عَلَىٰ أَلْاَرْضْ

and move over the water as thou runnest on the land.

فَهَنِيءاً لِي وَ لَکَ وَ لِمَنْ سَمَا اللهِ المُلْمُ المُلْمُ اللهِ اللهِ اللهِ اللهِ اللهِ اللهِ اللهِ المُلهِ المُلْمُ المُلْمُلِي المُلْمُ المَّامِ اللهِ اللهُ المُلْمُلْمُ المُلْمُلِيَّ المُلْمُلِمُ المُلْمُلِمُ المُلْمُلِمُ اللهِ الم

Wherefore, may it rejoice Me, and thee, and whosoever mounteth into the heaven of knowledge, and whose heart is refreshed by this,

سَرِّهُ صَبَائِ ٱلْإِيقَانْ مِنْ سَبَائِ ٱلْإِيقَانْ مِنْ سَبَائِ ٱلْرَّحْمَنْ

that the wind of certitude hath blown over the garden of his being, from the Sheba of the All-Merciful.

وَ ٱلْسَّلَامُ عَلَىٰ مَنْ اِتَّبَعَ ٱلْهُدَىٰ

Peace be upon him who followeth the Right Path!

وادى طلب

THE VALLEY OF SEARCH

وَ بَعد مَراتِبِ سِيرِ سالِكان را

And further: The stages that mark the wayfarer's journey

أز مَسكَنِ خاكى بِوَطَنِ اللهي

from the abode of dust to the heavenly homeland

هَفت رُتبِه مُعَين نَمودِه أند

are said to be seven.

چُنانچِه بَعضی هَفت وادی وَ بَعضی هَفت شَهر ذِکر کَردِه اَند

Some have called these Seven Valleys, and others, Seven Cities.

وَ گُفتِه آند کِه سالِک تا آز نَفس هِجرَت نَنَمایَد وَ این اَسفاررا طِی نَکُنَد

And they say that until the wayfarer taketh leave of self, and traverseth these stages,

بِبَحرِ قُرب وَ وِصال وارِد نَشَوَد وَ اَز خَمرِ بيمِثال نَچِشَد

he shall never reach to the ocean of nearness and union, nor drink of the peerless wine. آوَّل وادی طَلَب اَست مَرکَبِ این وادی صَبر اَست مَرکَبِ این وادی صَبر اَست

The first is the Valley of Search. The steed of this Valley is patience;

وَ مُسافِر دَر این سَفَر بی صَبر بِجای نَرِسَد وَ بِمَقصود واصِل نَشَوَد

without patience the wayfarer on this journey will reach nowhere and attain no goal.

وَ باید هَرگِز آفسُردِه نَگَردَد آگر صد هِزار سال سَعی کُند و جَمالِ دوست نبیند پژمُردِه نَشَوَد

Nor should he ever be downhearted; if he strive for a hundred thousand years and yet fail to behold the beauty of the Friend, he should not falter.

زيرا مُجاهِدينِ كَعبِهِ »فِينَا « بِبِشارَتِ »لَنَهْدِيَنَّهُمْ سُبُلَنَا « مَسرور أند

For those who seek the Ka'bih of "for Us" rejoice in the tidings: "In our ways will We guide them."

وَ كَمَرِ خِدمَت دَر طَلَب بِغايَت مُحكَم بَستِه آند وَ دَر هَر آن اَز مُحكَم مَكانِ غَفلَت بِإمكانِ طَلَب سَفَر كُنند

In their search, they have stoutly girded up the loins of service, and seek at every moment to journey from the plane of heedlessness into the realm of being. هیچ بَندی ایشان را مَنع نَنماید و هیچ پَندی سَد نَکُند

No bond shall hold them back, and no counsel shall deter them.

وَ شَرط اَست این عِبادرا کِه دِلرا کِه دِلرا کِه مِنبَعِ خَزینِهٔ اِلهِیِّه اَست اَز هَر نَقشی پاک کُنند

It is incumbent on these servants that they cleanse the heart — which is the wellspring of divine treasures — from every marking,

وَ اَز تَقليد كِه اَز اَثَرِ آباء وَ اَجداد اَست إعراض نَمايَند

and that they turn away from imitation, which is following the traces of their forefathers and sires,

وَ اَبُوابِ دُوستی وَ دُشمَنی را با کُلِّ اَهُلِ اَرض مَسدود کُنند

and shut the door of friendliness and enmity upon all the people of the earth.

وَ طَالِب دَر این سَفَر بِمَقامی رِسَد کِه هَمِهُ مُوجودات را دَر طَلَبِ دوست سَرگشتِه بینَد

In this journey the seeker reacheth a stage wherein he seeth all created things wandering distracted in search of the Friend.

چِه يَعقوبها بينَد كِه دَر طَلَبِ يوسُف آواره ماندِه أند

How many a Jacob will he see, hunting after his Joseph;

عالَمی حبیب بیند کِه در طلَبِ مَحبوب دَوان اند

he will behold many a lover, hasting to seek the Beloved,

وَ جَهاني عاشِق مُلاحِظِه كُند كِه دَر پِي مَعشوق رَوان

he will witness a world of desiring ones searching after the one Desired.

وَ دَر هَر آنی اَمری مُشاهِدِه کُنَد

At every moment he findeth a weighty matter,

وَ دَر هَر ساعَتی بَر سِرّی مُطَلِع گردَد

in every hour he becometh aware of a mystery;

زیرا کِه دِل اَز هَر دو جَهان بَرداشتِه وَ عَزم کَعبِهِٔ جانان نَمودِه

for he hath taken his heart away from both worlds, and set out for the Ka'bih of the Beloved. وَ دَر هَر قَدَمی اِعانَتِ غِیبی اورا شامِل شَوَد وَ جوشِ طَلَبَش زیادِه گردَد

At every step, aid from the Invisible Realm will attend him and the heat of his search will grow.

طَلَبرا باید از مَجنونِ عِشق اَندازِه گِرِفت

One must judge of search by the standard of the Majnún of Love.

حِکایَت کُنند کِه روزی مَجنون را دیدَند خاک میبیخت و اَشگ میریخت

It is related that one day they came upon Majnún sifting the dust, and his tears flowing down.

گُفتَند چِه میکُنی گُفت لِیلیرا میجویَم

They said, "What doest thou?" He said, "I seek for Laylí."

گُفتَند وای بَر تو لِیلی اَز روحِ پاک وَ تو اَز خاک طَلَب میکُنی

They cried, "Alas for thee! Laylí is of pure spirit, and thou seekest her in the dust!"

گُفت هَمِه جا دَر طَلَبَش میکوشَم شاید دَر جای بِجویَم

He said, "I seek her everywhere; haply somewhere I shall find her."

بَلَى دَر تُراب رَبُّ ٱلْاَرباب جُستَن الكَر چِه نَزدِ عاقِل قَبيح اَست لكِن بَر كَمالِ جِد وَ طَلَب دَليل اَست

Yea, although to the wise it be shameful to seek the Lord of Lords in the dust, yet this betokeneth intense ardor in searching.

»مَنْ طَلَبَ شَيْأً وَجَدَّ وَجَدْ«

"Whoso seeketh out a thing with zeal shall find it."

طالِبِ صادِق جُز وِصالِ مَطلوب چیزی نَجویَد وَ حَبیب را جُز وِصالِ مَحبوب مَقصودی نَباشَد

The true seeker hunteth naught but the object of his quest, and the lover hath no desire save union with his beloved.

وَ این طَلَبِ طالِب را حاصِل نَشَوَد مَكَر بِنِثار آنچِه هَست

Nor shall the seeker reach his goal unless he sacrifice all things.

يَعنى آنچِه ديدِه وَ شَنيدِه وَ فَهميدِه هَمِه را بِنَفى »لا « مَنفى سازَد تا بِشَهرِستانِ جان كِه مَدينِهُ » إلا « است واصِل شَوَد

That is, whatever he hath seen, and heard, and understood, all must he set at naught, that he may enter the realm of the spirit, which is the City of God.

هِمَّتي بايد تا دَر طَلَبَش كوشيم

Labor is needed, if we are to seek Him;

وَ جَهدى بايد تا از شَهدِ وَصلَش نوشيم

ardor is needed, if we are to drink of the honey of reunion with Him;

اَگُر اَز این جام نوش کُنیم

and if we taste of this cup,

عالَمي فَراموش كُنيم

we shall cast away the world.

وَ سالِک دَر این سَفَر بَر هَر خاکی جالِس شَوَد وَ دَر هَر بِلادی ساکِن گَردَد

On this journey the traveler abideth in every land and dwelleth in every region.

از هر وَجه ای طلَبِ جَمالِ دوست کُند وَ دَر هر دیار طلَب یار نَماید

In every face, he seeketh the beauty of the Friend; in every country he looketh for the Beloved.

با هر جَمعی مُجتَمِع شَوَد وَ با هر سَری هَمسَری نَماید

He joineth every company, and seeketh fellowship with every soul,

کِه شاید در سری سِرِّ مَحبوب بیند و یا از صورتی جَمالِ مَحبوب مُشاهِدِه کُند

that haply in some mind he may uncover the secret of the Friend, or in some face he may behold the beauty of the Loved one.

وادى عشق

THE VALLEY OF LOVE

وَ آگَر دَر این سَفَر بِإعانَتِ باری اَز یارِ بینِشان نِشان یافت

And if, by the help of God, he findeth on this journey a trace of the traceless Friend,

وَ بوي يوسُفِ گُمگَشتِه اَز بَشيرِ اَحَدِيِّه شَنيد

and inhaleth the fragrance of the long-lost Joseph from the heavenly messenger,

فُوراً بِوادی عِشق قَدَم گُذارَد وَ اَز نار عِشق بِگُدازَد

he shall straightway step into the Valley of Love and be dissolved in the fire of love.

دَر این شَهر آسمانِ جَذب بُلَند شَوَد وَ آفتابِ جَهانتابِ شُوق طالِع گَردَد وَ نارِ عِشق بَر اَفروزَد

In this city the heaven of ecstasy is upraised and the world-illuming sun of yearning shineth, and the fire of love is ablaze;

وَ چون نارِ عِشق بَر اَفروخت خَرمَنِ عَقل بِكُلي بِسوخت

and when the fire of love is ablaze, it burneth to ashes the harvest of reason.

در این وقت سالِک از خُود و غیرِ خُود بیخبر است

Now is the traveler unaware of himself, and of aught besides himself.

نَه جَهل وَ عِلم دانَد وَ نَه شَكَّ وَ يَه شَكَّ وَ يَه شَكَّ وَ يَه يَقين نَه صُبحِ هِدايَت شِناسَد وَ نَه شامِ ضِلالَت

He seeth neither ignorance nor knowledge, neither doubt nor certitude; he knoweth not the morn of guidance from the night of error. از کُفر وَ ایمان هَر دو دَر گَریز وَ سَمِّ قاتِلَش دِل پَذیر

He fleeth both from unbelief and faith, and deadly poison is a balm to him.

اینست کِه عَطّار گُفتِه

Wherefore 'A\omegain' saith:

كُفرِ كافِررا وَ دينِ دينداررا

For the infidel, error—for the faithful, faith;

ذَرِّهِ دَردَت دِلِ عَطَّارِرا

For 'A\(\text{Mar's heart, an atom of Thy pain.}\)

مَركب اين وادى درد است

The steed of this Valley is pain;

وَ اَگر دَرد نَباشَد هَرگِز این سَفَر تَمام نَشَوَد تَمام نَشَوَد

and if there be no pain this journey will never end.

وَ عاشِق دَر این رُتبِه جُز مَعشوق خیالی نَدارَد وَ جُز مَحبوب پَناهی نَجویَد

In this station the lover hath no thought save the Beloved, and seeketh no refuge save the Friend. وَ دَر هَر آن صَد جان رایِگان دَر رَهُ جانان دَهُ وَ دَر هَر قَدَمی هِزار سَر دَر پایِ دوست اَندازَد

At every moment he offereth a hundred lives in the path of the Loved one, at every step he throweth a thousand heads at the feet of the Beloved.

ای بَرادَرِ مَن تا بِمِصرِ عِشق درنیای بیوشفِ جَمالِ دوست واصِل نَشَوی

O My Brother! Until thou enter the Egypt of love, thou shalt never come to the Joseph of the Beauty of the Friend;

وَ تا چون یَعقوب اَز چَشمِ ظاهِری نَگُذَری چَشمِ باطِن نَگُشائی

and until, like Jacob, thou forsake thine outward eyes, thou shalt never open the eye of thine inward being;

وَ تا بِنارِ عِشق نَيفروزي بِيارِ شُوق نَياميزي

and until thou burn with the fire of love, thou shalt never commune with the Lover of Longing.

وَ عاشِق را اَز هیچ چیز پَروا نیست وَ اَز هیچ ضُرِّی ضَرَر نَه A lover feareth nothing and no harm can come nigh him:

از نار سَردَش بینی وَ اَز دَریا خُشکَش یابی

Thou seest him chill in the fire and dry in the sea.

نِشانِ عاشِق آن باشَد کِه سَردَش بینی از دوزَخ

A lover is he who is chill in hell fire;

نِشانِ عارِف آن باشَد کِه خُشکَش بینی از دریا

A knower is he who is dry in the sea.

عِشق هَستی قَبول نَکُنَد وَ زِندِگی نَخواهَد

Love accepteth no existence and wisheth no life:

حَیات دَر مَمات بینَد وَ عِزَّت اَز ذِلَّت جویَد

He seeth life in death, and in shame seeketh glory.

بِسيار هوش بايَد تا لايقِ جوشِ عِشق شَوَد

To merit the madness of love, man must abound in sanity;

وَ بِسيار سَر بايَد تا قابِلِ كَمَندِ دوست گردَد

to merit the bonds of the Friend, he must be full of spirit.

مُبارَک گَردَنی کِه دَر کَمَندَش أُفتَد وَ فَر خَندِه سَری کِه دَر راهِ مُحَبَّتَش بِخاک أُفتَد

Blessed the neck that is caught in His noose, happy the head that falleth on the dust in the pathway of His love.

پُس اِی دوست اَز نَفس بیگانِه شو تا بیرگانِه پی بَری وَ اَز خاکدانِ فانی بُگذر تا دَر آشیانِ اِلٰهی جای گیری

Wherefore, O friend, give up thy self that thou mayest find the Peerless one, pass by this mortal earth that thou mayest seek a home in the nest of heaven.

نیستی باید تا نارِ هَستی بَر اَفروزی وَ مَقبولِ راهِ عِشق شَوی

Be as naught, if thou wouldst kindle the fire of being and be fit for the pathway of love.

نَكُنَد عِشق نَفسِ زِندِه قَبول

Love seizeth not upon a living soul,

نَكُنَد باز موش مُردِه شِكار

The falcon preyeth not on a dead mouse.

عِشق دَر هَر آنی عالَمی بِسوزَد وَ دَر هَر دیار کِه عَلَم بَر اَفرازَد ویران سازَد

Love setteth a world aflame at every turn, and he wasteth every land where he carrieth his banner.

در مَملِكَتَش هَستى را وُجودى نَه وَ دَر سَلطَنتَش عاقِلان را مَقرّى نَه

Being hath no existence in his kingdom; the wise wield no command within his realm.

نَهَنگِ عِشق آديبِ عَقل را بِبَلعَد وَ لَبيبِ دانِش بِشكُرَد

The leviathan of love swalloweth the master of reason and destroyeth the lord of knowledge.

هَفت دَریا بیاشامَد وَ عَطَشِ قَلبَش نَیفسُرَد وَ هَلْ مِنْ مَزِیدْ گویَد

He drinketh the seven seas, but his heart's thirst is still unquenched, and he saith, "Is there yet any more?"

از خویش بیگانِه شَوَد وَ اَز هَر چِه در عالَم اَست کِنارِه گیرَد

He shunneth himself and draweth away from all on earth.

با دو عالَم عِشقرا بيگانِگي

Love's a stranger to earth and heaven too;

أندَر او هَفتاد و دو دیوانِگی

In him are lunacies seventy-and-two.

صد هِزار مَظلومان دَر کَمَندَش بَستِه وَ صَد هِزار عارِفان بِتيرَش خَسته

He hath bound a myriad victims in his fetters, wounded a myriad wise men with his arrow.

هَر سُرخی کِه دَر عالَم بینی اَز قَهرَش دان وَ هَر زَردی کِه دَر رُخسار بینی اَز زَهرَش شُمُر

Know that every redness in the world is from his anger, and every paleness in men's cheeks is from his poison.

جُز فَنا دَوائی نَبَخشَد وَ جُز دَر وادی عَدَم قَدَم نَگُذارَد

He yieldeth no remedy but death, he walketh not save in the valley of the shadow;

وَ لَكِن زَهرَش دَر كَامِ عَاشِق اَز شَهد خُوش تَر وَ فَناَش دَر نَظرِ طَالِب اَز صَد هِزار بَقا مَحبوب تَر اَست

yet sweeter than honey is his venom on the lover's lips, and fairer his destruction in the seeker's eyes than a hundred thousand lives.

پَس باید بِنارِ عِشق حِجاب هایِ نَفس شِیطانی سوختِه شَوَد

Wherefore must the veils of the satanic self be burned away at the fire of love,

تا روح بَراي اِدراک مَراتِبِ سِیِّدِ »لُولاک « لَطیف وَ پاکیزِه گردَد

that the spirit may be purified and cleansed and thus may know the station of the Lord of the Worlds.

نارِ عِشقی بَر فُروز و جُملِه هَستيها بِسوز

Kindle the fire of love and burn away all things,

پَس قَدَم بَردار و أندَر كوى عُشّاقان گُذار

Then set thy foot into the land of the lovers.

مملكت معرفت

THE VALLEY OF KNOWLEDGE

وَ اَگر عاشِق بِتائيدات خالِق از مِنقارِ شاهينِ عِشق بِسَلامَت بُگذرَد در مَملِكتِ مَعرِفَت وارِد شَوَد

And if, confirmed by the Creator, the lover escapes from the claws of the eagle of love, he will enter the Valley of Knowledge

وَ أَرْ شَک بِيَقين آيَد وَ أَرْ ظُلْمَتِ ضِلالَتِ هَوى بِنورِ هِدايَتِ تَقوى راجِع گَردَد

and come out of doubt into certitude, and turn from the darkness of illusion to the guiding light of the fear of God.

وَ چَشمِ بَصِيرَتَش باز شَوَد وَ با حَبيبِ خُود بِراز مَشغول گَردَد

His inner eyes will open and he will privily converse with his Beloved;

دَرِ حَقیقَت وَ نِیاز بِگُشاید وَ اَبوابِ مَجاز دَر بَندَد دَر این رُتبِه قَضارا رضا دَهَد

he will set ajar the gate of truth and piety, and shut the doors of vain imaginings. He in this station is content with the decree of God,

وَ جَنگرا صُلح بینَد وَ دَر فَنا مَعانی بَقا دَرک نَمایَد

and seeth war as peace, and findeth in death the secrets of everlasting life.

وَ بِچَشمِ سَر وَ سِرِّ دَر آفاق ایجاد وَ اَنفُسِ عِباد اَسرارِ مُعاد بیند

With inward and outward eyes he witnesseth the mysteries of resurrection in the realms of creation and the souls of men,

وَ حِكمَتِ صَمَدانى را بِقَلبِ روحانى در مَظاهِر نامُتِناهى اِلهى سِير فَرمايَد

and with a pure heart apprehendeth the divine wisdom in the endless Manifestations of God.

دَر بَحر قَطرِه بينَد وَ دَر قَطرِه اَسرارِ بَحر مُلاحِظِه كُنَد

In the ocean he findeth a drop, in a drop he beholdeth the secrets of the sea.

دِلِ هَر ذَرِّه ای کِه بِشکافی

Split the atom's heart, and lo!

آفتابیش دَر میان بینی

Within it thou wilt find a sun.

وَ سالِک دَر این وادی دَر آفَرینِشِ حَقّ بِبینِشِ مُطلَق مَخالِف وَ مُغایِر نَبینَد

The wayfarer in this Valley seeth in the fashionings of the True one nothing save clear providence,

وَ دَر هَر آن »ما تَرىٰ فى خَلقِ الْبُصَر الْرُحَمٰن مِن تَفاؤتِ فارِجَعِ ٱلْبُصَر هَلَ تَرىٰ مِن فُطور « گويَد

and at every moment saith: "No defect canst thou see in the creation of the God of Mercy: Repeat the gaze: Seest thou a single flaw?"

دَر ظُلم عَدل بينَد وَ دَر عَدل فَضل مُشاهِدِه كُند

He beholdeth justice in injustice, and in justice, grace.

در جَهل عِلمها مَستور بينَد وَ دَر عِلمها صَد هِزار حِكمَتها آشِكار وَ هُويدا إدراك نَمايَد

In ignorance he findeth many a knowledge hidden, and in knowledge a myriad wisdoms manifest.

He breaketh the cage of the body and the passions, and consorteth with the people of the immortal realm.

بِنَردِ بان هایِ مَعنَوی صُعود نَماید و بسَماء مَعانی بشِتابد

He mounteth on the ladders of inner truth and hasteneth to the heaven of inner significance. دَر فُلكِ »سَنَرْيَهُمْ آيَاتَنَا فِي أَلْآفَاقْ وَ فَي أَلْآفَاقْ وَ فِي أَنْفُسِهُمْ « ساكِن شَوَد

He rideth in the ark of "we shall show them our signs in the regions and in themselves,"

وَ بَر بَحرِ »حَتّى يَتَبَيّنَ لَهُمْ إِنَهُ الْحَقْ « سائِر گَردَد

and journeyeth over the sea of "until it become plain to them that (this Book) is the truth."

وَ آگر ظُلمی بیند صبر نَماید وَ آگر قَهر بیند مِهر آرَد

And if he meeteth with injustice he shall have patience, and if he cometh upon wrath he shall manifest love.

حِكايَت كُنند عاشِقى سالها دَر هِجرِ مَعشوقش جان ميباخت وَ دَر آتِش فَراقش ميگُداخت

There was once a lover who had sighed for long years in separation from his beloved, and wasted in the fire of remoteness.

از غَلَبِهِ عِشق صَدرَش از صَبر خالی ماند و جِسمَش از روح بیزاری حُسبت

From the rule of love, his heart was empty of patience, and his body weary of his spirit; وَ زِندِگی دَر فَراق را اَز نِفاق میشُمُرد وَ اَز آفاق بِغایَت دَر اِحتِراق بود

he reckoned life without her as a mockery, and time consumed him away.

چِه روزها کِه اَز هِجرَش راحَت نَجُستِه وَ بَسا شَبها کِه اَز دَردَش نَجُستِه وَ بَسا شَبها کِه اَز دَردَش نَخُفتِه

How many a day he found no rest in longing for her; how many a night the pain of her kept him from sleep;

اَز ضَعف بَدَن چون آهي گَشتِه وَ اَز دَردِ دِل چون واي شُدِه

his body was worn to a sigh, his heart's wound had turned him to a cry of sorrow.

بِیک شُربِهٔ وَصلَش هِزار جان رایگان میداد و مُیسَّر نِمیشُد

He had given a thousand lives for one taste of the cup of her presence, but it availed him not.

طبیبان از عِلاجش در ماندند و مُؤانِسان از اُنسَش دوری جُستند

The doctors knew no cure for him, and companions avoided his company;

بَلی مَریضِ عِشق را طَبیب چارِه نکدانکد مَگر عِنایَتِ حَبیب دَستَش گرَد

yea, physicians have no medicine for one sick of love, unless the favor of the beloved one deliver him.

باری عاقِبَت شَجَرِ رِجاَش ثَمَرِ يَأْس بَخشيد وَ نارِ اُميدش بِيَفسُرد

At last, the tree of his longing yielded the fruit of despair, and the fire of his hope fell to ashes.

تا آنکِه شَبی اَز جان بیزار شُد وَ اَز خانِه ببازار رَفت

Then one night he could live no more, and he went out of his house and made for the marketplace.

ناگاه اورا عَسَسى تَعاقُب نَمود

on a sudden, a watchman followed after him.

او اَز پیش تازان وَ عَسَس اَز پِی دَوان

He broke into a run, with the watchman following;

تا آنکِه عَسسها جَمع شُدَند و از هر طَرَف راهِ فرار بَر آن بيقرار بَستند

then other watchmen came together, and barred every passage to the weary one. وَ آن فَقير از دِل ميناليد وَ بِاَطراف ميدَويد وَ با خُود ميكُفت

And the wretched one cried from his heart, and ran here and there, and moaned to himself:

این عَسَس عِزرائیلِ مَن اَست کِه باین تَعجیل دَر طَلَبِ مَن اَست و یا شَدّادِ بِلاد اَست کِه دَر کینِ عِباد اَست "Surely this watchman is 'Izrá'íl, my angel of death, following so fast upon me; or he is a tyrant of men, seeking to harm me."

آن خَستِهِٔ تیرِ عِشق بِپا دَوان بود وَ بِدِل نالان His feet carried him on, the one bleeding with the arrow of love, and his heart lamented.

تا بدیوارِ باغی رَسید و بِهِزار زَحمَت و مِحنَت بالایِ دیوار رَفت دیواری بِغایَت بُلَند دید

Then he came to a garden wall, and with untold pain he scaled it, for it proved very high;

از جان گُذَشت وَ خُودرا دَر باغ انداخت

and forgetting his life, he threw himself down to the garden.

دید مَعشوقَش دَر دَست چِراغی دارد و تَفَحُصِ اَنگُشتَری مینَماید کِه اَز او گُم شُدِه بود

And there he beheld his beloved with a lamp in her hand, searching for a ring she had lost.

چون آن عاشِقِ دِل دادِه مَعشوقِ دِل بُردِه را دید آهی بَر کَشید وَ دَست بِدُعا بَرداشت

When the heart-surrendered lover looked on his ravishing love, he drew a great breath and raised up his hands in prayer, crying:

کِه اِی خُدا این عَسَسرا عِزَّت دِه وَ دُولَت بَخش وَ باقی دار

"o God! Give Thou glory to the watchman, and riches and long life.

كِه اين عَسَس جِبرِئيل بود كِه دَليلِ اين عَليل گَشت يا اِسرافيل بود كِه حَيات بَخشِ اين ذَليل شُد For the watchman was Gabriel, guiding this poor one; or he was Isráfíl, bringing life to this wretched one!" وَ آنچِه گُفت فی أَلْحَقیقِه دُرُست بود زیرا مُلاحِظِه شُد کِه این ظُلم مُنکِرِ عَسَس چِقدر عَدلها دَر سَر داشت

Indeed, his words were true, for he had found many a secret justice in this seeming tyranny of the watchman,

وَ چِه رَحمَتها دَر پَردِه پَنهان نَمودِه بود

and seen how many a mercy lay hid behind the veil.

بِيك قَهر تَشنِهُ صَحراي عِشقرا بِبَحرِ مَعشوق واصِل نَمود وَ ظُلمَتِ فَراقرا بِنورِ وِصال رُوشَن فَرمود Out of wrath, the guard had led him who was athirst in love's desert to the sea of his loved one, and lit up the dark night of absence with the light of reunion.

بَعیدی را بِبُستانِ قُرب جای داد وَ عَلیلی را بِطَبیبِ قَلب راه نَمود

He had driven one who was afar, into the garden of nearness, had guided an ailing soul to the heart's physician. حال آن عاشِق آگر آخِر بین بود در اَوَّل بَر عَسَس رَحمَت مینَمود وَ دُعاَش میگُفت وَ آن ظُلمرا عَدل میدید

Now if the lover could have looked ahead, he would have blessed the watchman at the start, and prayed on his behalf, and he would have seen that tyranny as justice;

چون اَز آخِر مَحجوب بود دَر اَوَّل نالِه آغاز نَمود وَ بِشِكايَت زَبان گُشود

but since the end was veiled to him, he moaned and made his plaint in the beginning.

وَ لَكِن مُسافِرانِ حَديقِهِ عِرفان چون آخِررا دَر آوَّل بينند

Yet those who journey in the garden land of knowledge, because they see the end in the beginning,

لَهٰذَا دَر جَنگ صُلح وَ دَر قَهر آشتی مُلاحِظِه کُنند

see peace in war and friendliness in anger.

وَ اين رُتبِه أهلِ اين وادى أست

Such is the state of the wayfarers in this Valley;

وَ اَهلِ وادي هاي فُوق اين وادى اَوَّل وَ آخِر را يِک بينند بَلکِه نَه اَوَّل بينند بَلکِه نَه اَوَّل بينند نَه آخِر بينند

but the people of the Valleys above this see the end and the beginning as one; nay, they see neither beginning nor end, and witness neither "first" nor "last."

بَلكِه اَهلِ مَدينِهِ بَقا كِه دَر رُوضِهِ خَضرا ساكِنَند لا اَوَّل وَ لا آخِر هَم نَبينَند اَز اَوَّلها دَر گُريزَند وَ بِآخِرها دَرسِتيز

Nay rather, the denizens of the undying city, who dwell in the green garden land, see not even "neither first nor last"; they fly from all that is first, and repulse all that is last.

زیرا کِه عَوالِمِ اَسماءرا طِی نَمودِه اَند وَ اَز عَوالِمِ صِفات چون بَرق دَر گُذَشتِه اَند

For these have passed over the worlds of names, and fled beyond the worlds of attributes as swift as lightning.

چِنانچِه ميفَرمايَد »كَمالِ ٱلْتُوحيد نَفي ٱلْصِّفات عَنهُ «

Thus is it said: "Absolute Unity excludeth all attributes."

وَ دَر ظِلِّ ذات مَسكَن كَرِفتِه أند

And they have made their dwelling-place in the shadow of the Essence.

اینست کِه خواجِه عَبدُل لله قَدَسَ ٱلله تَعالی سِرِّهُ ٱلْعَزیز

Wherefore, relevant to this, Khájih 'Abdu'l-lláh—may God the Most High sanctify his beloved spirit—

دَر اين مَقام نُكتِهِ دَقيقى وَ كَلَمِهِ بَليغى دَر مَعنى »إهدِنا أَلْصِّراطَ ٱلْمُستَقيم « فَرمودِه أند

hath made a subtle point and spoken an eloquent word as to the meaning of "Guide Thou us on the straight path,"

وَ آن اینست کِه بِنَمای بِما راهِ راست

which is: "Show us the right way,

یعنی بِمُحِبَتِ ذاتِ خُود مُشَرَّف دار تا از اِلتِفات بِخُود وَ غِیرِ تو آزاد گشتِه

that is, honor us with the love of Thine Essence, that we may be freed from turning toward ourselves and toward all else save Thee, بِتَمامی گِرِفتارِ تو گُردیم جُز تو نَدانیم جُز تو نَدانیم جُز تو نَبینیم وَ جُز تو نَبینیم وَ جُز تو نَیندیشیم

and may become wholly Thine, and know only Thee, and see only Thee, and think of none save Thee."

بَلكِه أز اين مَقام هَم بالا رَوند

Nay, these even mount above this station,

چِنانچِه ميفَرمايَد »أَلْمُحَبَّةِ حِجابٍ بَينَ ٱلْمُحِبَّةِ حِجابٍ بَينَ ٱلْمُحِبِّ وَ ٱلْمَحبوب « بيش اَز اين گُفتَن مَرا دَستور نيست

wherefore it is said: "Love is a veil betwixt the lover and the loved one; more than this I am not permitted to tell."

دَر این وَقت صُبحِ مَعرِفَت طالِع شُد وَ چِراغ هایِ سِیر وَ سُلوک خاموش گشت

At this hour the morn of knowledge hath arisen and the lamps of wayfaring and wandering are quenched.

وَهم موسى با هَمِه نور و هُنَر

Veiled from this was Moses,

شُد اَز آن مَحجوب تو بي پَر مَپَر

Though all strength and light;

Then thou who hast no wings at all,

Attempt not flight.

آگر آهلِ راز وَ نیازی بِپَر هایِ هِمَّتِ اُولیا پَرواز کُن

If thou be a man of communion and prayer, soar up on the wings of assistance from Holy Souls,

تا اَسرارِ دوست بینی وَ بِاَنوارِ مَحبوب رَسی اِنَالِلّهِ وَ اِنّا اِلَیْهِ رَاجِعُونْ

that thou mayest behold the mysteries of the Friend and attain to the lights of the Beloved, "Verily, we are from God and to Him shall we return."

مقام توحيد

THE VALLEY OF UNITY

وَ سَالِکَ بَعَدَ أَزَ سِيرِ وَادَى مَعْرِفَتَ كَهُ آخِرِ مَقَامِ تَحْدَيْدُ أَسَتَ بِأَوَّلِ مَقَامِ تُوحِيدُ وَاصِل شَوَد

After passing through the Valley of knowledge, which is the last plane of limitation, the wayfarer cometh to the Valley of Unity وَ اَز كَأْسِ تَجريد بِنوشَد وَ دَر مَظاهِرِ تَفريد سِير نَمايَد

and drinketh from the cup of the Absolute, and gazeth on the Manifestations of Oneness.

در این مقام حِجابِ کِثرَت بَردِرَد وَ اَز عَوالِمِ شَهوَت بَرپَرَد وَ دَر سَمای وَحدَت عُروج نَمایَد In this station he pierceth the veils of plurality, fleeth from the worlds of the flesh, and ascendeth into the heaven of singleness.

بِگُوشِ اِلهی بِشنَوَد وَ بِچَشمِ رَبّانی اَسرارِ صَنعِ صَمدانی بینَد

With the ear of God he heareth, with the eye of God he beholdeth the mysteries of divine creation.

بِخَلوَت خانِهٔ دوست قَدَم گُذارَد وَ مَحرَم شُرادِقِ مَحبوب شَوَد

He steppeth into the sanctuary of the Friend, and shareth as an intimate the pavilion of the Loved One.

وَ دَستِ حَق اَز جِيبِ مُطلَق بَر آرَد وَ اَسرارِ قُدرَت ظاهِر نَمايَد

He stretcheth out the hand of truth from the sleeve of the Absolute; he revealeth the secrets of power. وَصف وَ اِسم وَ رَسم از خُود نَبينَد وَصفِ خُود را دَر وَصفِ حَق بينَد

He seeth in himself neither name nor fame nor rank, but findeth his own praise in praising God.

وَ اِسمِ حَقرا در اِسمِ خُود مُلاحِظِه نَمايد

He beholdeth in his own name the name of God;

هَمِه آوازها از شه داند و جَميعِ نَعْمات را از او شِنوَد

to him, "all songs are from the King," and every melody from Him.

بَر كُرسى »قُلْ كُلُّ مِنْ عِنْدَ ٱلْلَهْ « جالِس شَوَد وَ بَر بَساطِ »لَا حُولَ وَ لَا قُوَةِ إِلَّا بِأَلْله « راحَت گيرَد

He sitteth on the throne of "Say, all is from God," and taketh his rest on the carpet of "There is no power or might but in God."

وَ دَر اَشياء بِنَظَرِ تُوحيد مُشاهِدِه كُند

He looketh on all things with the eye of oneness,

وَ اِشراقِ تَجَلَّى شَمسِ اِلهى را اَز مَشرِقِ هُوييَت بَر هَمِهُ مُمكِنات يك سان بينَد

and seeth the brilliant rays of the divine sun shining from the dawning-point of Essence alike on all created things,

وَ اَنوارِ تُوحيدرا بَر جَميعِ مُوجودات مُوجود وَ ظاهِر مُشاهِدِه كُند

and the lights of singleness reflected over all creation.

وَ مَعلومِ آن جَناب بودِه كِه جَميعِ الخِتلافات عَوالِم كُون كِه دَر مَراتِبِ سُلوك سالِك مُشاهِدِه ميكُند أز نَظرِ خُودِ سالِك اَست

It is clear to thine Eminence that all the variations which the wayfarer in the stages of his journey beholdeth in the realms of being, proceed from his own vision.

مَثالی در این مَقام ذِکر میشَود تا این مَعنی تَمام مَعلوم گردَد

We shall give an example of this, that its meaning may become fully clear:

مُلاحِظِه دَر شَمسِ ظاهِری فَرمائید کِه بَر هَمِهُ مُوجودات وَ مُمکِنات بِیک اِشراق تَجَلّی مینَماید

Consider the visible sun; although it shineth with one radiance upon all things,

وَ اِفَاضِهُ نُور بِأُمرِ شُلطَانِ ظُهُور بَر هَمِهُ اَشياء ميفَرمايَد

and at the behest of the King of Manifestation bestoweth light on all creation,

وَ ليكُن دَر هَر مُحَلِّ بِاقْتِضايِ اِستَعداد آن مُحَلِّ ظاهِر ميشَود وَ اَعطاى فِيض ميكُند

yet in each place it becometh manifest and sheddeth its bounty according to the potentialities of that place.

مِثلِ این کِه دَر مِر آت بِقَرصها وَ هِيَأْتها جِلوِه مینَماید وَ این بِواسطِهُ لِطافَتِ خُودِ مِرات اَست

For instance, in a mirror it reflecteth its own disk and shape, and this is due to the sensitivity of the mirror;

وَ دَر بَلُور نار اِحداث میکُند وَ دَر سایِرِ اَشیا هَمان اَثَرِ تَجَلّی ظاهِر اَست نَه قُرص

in a crystal it maketh fire to appear, and in other things it showeth only the effect of its shining, but not its full disk. وَ بِآنَ اَثَر هَر شَيئى را بِاَمرِ مُؤَثِّر بِإستِعدادِ او تَربييَت ميكُنَد چِنانچِه مُشاهِدِه ميكُنيد

And yet, through that effect, by the command of the Creator, it traineth each thing according to the quality of that thing, as thou observest.

وَ هَمچِنين الوان هَم بِاقتِضاي مُحَلّ ظاهِر ميشود

In like manner, colors become visible in every object according to the nature of that object.

مِثلِ این کِه دَر زُجاجِهٔ زَرد تَجَلّی زَرد وَ دَر زُرد وَ دَر سِفید تَجَلّی سِفید وَ دَر سُرخ مُلاحِظِه میشَوَد سُرخ مُلاحِظِه میشَوَد

For instance, in a yellow globe, the rays shine yellow; in a white the rays are white; and in a red, the red rays are manifest.

پُس این اِختِلافات اَز مُحَلَّ اَست نَه اَز اِشراقِ ضییاء

Then these variations are from the object, not from the shining light.

وَ اَكَر مُحَلّ مانِع داشتِه باشَد مِثلِ جِدار وَ سَقف آن مُحَلّ بِأَلْمَرّه أَز تَجَلّى شَمس مَحروم مانَد وَ آفتاب يَر آن نَتابَد

And if a place be shut away from the light, as by walls or a roof, it will be entirely bereft of the splendor of the light, nor will the sun shine thereon.

اینست که بعضی از نُفوسِ ضَعیفِه چون اراضی معرِفت را بِجَدارِ نَفس وَ هَویٰ

Thus it is that certain invalid souls have confined the lands of knowledge within the wall of self and passion,

وَ حِجابِ غَفلَت وَ عَمل حايل نَمودِه أند

and clouded them with ignorance and blindness,

لِهِذا از اِشراقِ شَمس مَعانی وَ اَسرارِ مَحبوب لایزالی مَحجوب ماندِه اَند

and have been veiled from the light of the mystic sun and the mysteries of the Eternal Beloved;

وَ اَز جَواهِرِ حِكمَتِ دينِ مُبينِ سِيِّدَ الْمُر سَلينِ دور ماندِه اَند

they have strayed afar from the jewelled wisdom of the lucid Faith of the Lord of Messengers,

وَ أَز حَرَمِ جَمال مَحروم شُدَند

have been shut out of the sanctuary of the All-Beauteous One,

وَ أَز كَعبِهُ جَلال مَهجور

and banished from the Ka'bih of splendor.

اينست رُتبِهِ اَهلِ زَمان

Such is the worth of the people of this age!

وَ آگُر بُلبُلی اَز گِلِ نَفس بَر خیزَد وَ بَر شاخسارِ گُلِ قَلب جای گیرَد

And if a nightingale soar upward from the clay of self and dwell in the rose bower of the heart,

وَ بِنِغَماتِ حِجازی وَ آوازهایِ خُوشِ عَراقی اسرارِ الهی ذِکر نَماید

and in Arabian melodies and sweet Íránn songs recount the mysteries of God—

كِه حَرفى أَز آن جَميعِ جَسَدهايِ مُردِه را حَياتِ تازِهِ جَديد بَخشَد

a single word of which quickeneth to fresh, new life the bodies of the dead,

وَ روحِ قُدسى بَر عَظامِ رَميمِهِ مُمكِنات مَبذول دارَد

and bestoweth the Holy Spirit upon the moldering bones of this existenceهِزار چَنگالِ حَسَد وَ مِنقارِ بُغض بینی کِه قصدِ او نَمایَند وَ با تَمامِ جِد در هَلاکش کوشند

thou wilt behold a thousand claws of envy, a myriad beaks of rancor hunting after Him and with all their power intent upon His death.

بَلَى جُعَلَرا بوي خُوش ناخُوش آيَد وَ مَزكوم را رايِحِهِ طَيِب ثَمَر نَدَهَد

Yea, to the beetle a sweet fragrance seemeth foul, and to the man sick of a rheum a pleasant perfume is as naught.

اینست که برایِ اِرشادِ عَوام گُفتِه اَند

Wherefore, it hath been said for the guidance of the ignorant:

دَفع كُن أَز مَغز و أَز بيني زُكام

Cleanse thou the rheum from out thine head

تا کِه ریخُ ٱللّٰه دَر آیَد دَر مَشام

And breathe the breath of God instead.

باری اِختِلافِ مُحَلَّ واضِح وَ مُبَرهَن شُد

In sum, the differences in objects have now been made plain. وَ اَمَّا نَظَرِ سَالِک وَقتی دَر مُحَلَّ مَحدود اَست یعنی دَر زُجاجاتِ سیر مینماید

Thus when the wayfarer gazeth only upon the place of appearance—that is, when he seeth only the many-colored globes—

اینست کِه زَرد وَ سُرخ وَ سِفید سنکد

he beholdeth yellow and red and white;

بِاین جَهَت اَست کِه جِدال بِینِ عِباد بَر پا شُدِه

hence it is that conflict hath prevailed among the creatures,

وَ عالَم را غُبار تيرِه از انفُسِ مَحدودِه فَراك رَفتِه

and a darksome dust from limited souls hath hid the world.

وَ بَعضى نَظَر بِإشراقِ ضُوء دارَند وَ بَرخى از خَمَرِ وَحدَت نوشيدِه اند جُز شَمس چيزى نبينند

And some do gaze upon the effulgence of the light; and some have drunk of the wine of oneness and these see nothing but the sun itself.

پُس بِسَبَبِ سِيرِ اين سِه مَقامِ مُختَلِف فَهمِ سالِكين وَ بَيانِ ايشان مُختَلِف ميشَوَد

Thus, for that they move on these three differing planes, the understanding and the words of the wayfarers have differed;

اینست که اَثرِ اِختِلاف دَر عالَم ظاهِر شُدِه وَ میشَوَد

and hence the sign of conflict doth continually appear on earth.

زيرا كِه بَعضى دَر رُتبِهِ تُوحيد واقِفَند وَ اَز آن عالَم سُخَن گويَند

For some there are who dwell upon the plane of oneness and speak of that world,

وَ بَرخی دَر عَوالِمِ تَحدید قائِم اَند وَ بَعضی دَر مَراتِبِ نَفس وَ بَرخی بِأَلْامَرِه مُحتَجِب اَند

and some inhabit the realms of limitation, and some the grades of self, while others are completely veiled.

اینست کِه جُهّالِ عَصر کِه اَز پَرتُو جَمال نَصیب نَبُردِه اَند بِبَعضی مَقال تَکَلُّم مینَمایند

Thus do the ignorant people of the day, who have no portion of the radiance of Divine Beauty, make certain claims,

وَ دَر هَر عَصر وَ زَمان بَر اَهلِ لَجِّهُ تُوحيد وارِد مي آوَرَند آنچِهرا كِه خُود بِآن لايِق وَ سِزا وارَند

and in every age and cycle inflict on the people of the sea of oneness what they themselves deserve.

» وَلَوْ يُؤَا خِذُ ٱللهُ ٱلنَّاسَ بِمَاكَسَبُو مَاتَرَكَ عَلَى ظَهْرِهَا مِنْ دَءَابَّةٍ مَاتَرَكَ عَلَى ظَهْرِهَا مِنْ دَءَابَّةٍ وَلَكِنْ يُؤَخِّرُهُمْ إلى أَجَلٍ مُسَمَّلًا «

"Should God punish men for their perverse doings, He would not leave on earth a moving thing! But to an appointed term doth He respite them..."

اِی بَرادَرِ مَن قَلبِ لَطیف بِمَنزَلِهِ آئینِه اَست

O My Brother! A pure heart is as a mirror;

آنرا بِصِيقَلِ حُبّ وَ اِنقِطاع اَز ماسَوى أَلله پاک کُن

cleanse it with the burnish of love and severance from all save God,

تا اَفتابِ حَقیقی دَر آن جِلوِه نَمایَد وَ صُبح اَزَلی طالِع شَوَد

that the true sun may shine within it and the eternal morning dawn.

مَعنى »لا يَسعَنى اَرضى وَ لا سَمائى وَ لكِن يَسعَنى قَلبِ عَبدى أَنْمُؤمِن « را آشِكار وَ هُويدا بينى

Then wilt thou clearly see the meaning of "Neither doth My earth nor My heaven contain Me, but the heart of My faithful servant containeth Me."

وَ جان دَر دَست گیری وَ بِهِزار حَسرَت نِثارِ یارِ تازِه نَمائی

And thou wilt take up thy life in thine hand, and with infinite longing cast it before the new Beloved One.

وَ چون اَنوارِ تَجَلَّى سُلطانِ اَحَدِيّه بَر عَرشِ قَلب وَ دِل جُلوس نَمود

Whensoever the light of Manifestation of the King of Oneness settleth upon the throne of the heart and soul,

نورِ او در جَميعِ أعضا و أركان ظاهِر ميشَود

His shining becometh visible in every limb and member.

آن وَقت سِرِّ حَدیثِ مَشهور سَر اَز حَجابِ دِیجور بَر آرُد

At that time the mystery of the famed tradition gleameth out of the darkness:

» لَا زَالْ أَلْعَبْدْ يَتَقَرَّبَ إِلَيَّ بِٱلْتَوَافِلْ حَتّى اَحْبَبْتَهُ فَ إِذَا اَحْبَبْتَهُ كُنْ تُ سَمْعِهِ اللّذِي يَسْمَعَ بِهِ ﴿ اللّٰحِ

"A servant is drawn unto Me in prayer until I answer him; and when I have answered him, I become the ear wherewith he heareth..."

زیرا کِه صاحِبِ بَیت دَر بَیتِ خُود تَجلّی نَمودِه

For thus the Master of the house hath appeared within His home,

وَ اَركانِ بَيت هَمِه اَز نورِ او رُوشَن وَ مُنَوَّر شُدِه

and all the pillars of the dwelling are ashine with His light.

وَ فِعل وَ أَثَرِ نور اَز مُنير اَست

And the action and effect of the light are from the Light-Giver;

اینست که همه به او حرکت نمایند و بارادهٔ او قیام کنند

so it is that all move through Him and arise by His will.

وَ اینست آن چَشمِه ای کِه مُقرَبین از آن مینوشند

And this is that spring whereof the near ones drink,

چِنانچِه ميفَرمايَد »عَيْناً يَشْرِبَ بِهَا أَلْمُقَرِّبُونْ «

as it is said: "A fount whereof the near unto God shall drink..."

وَ دیگر آنکِه مَبادا دَر این بَیانات رایِحِهٔ حُلول

However, let none construe these utterances to be anthropomorphism,

وَ يَا تَنَوُّلاتِ عَوالِمِ حَق دَر مَراتِبِ خَلق رَود وَ بَر آن جِناب شُبهِه شَوَد

nor see in them the descent of the worlds of God into the grades of the creatures; nor should they lead thine Eminence to such assumptions.

زیرا کِه بِذاتِه مُقَدَّس اَست اَز صُعود وَ نَزول وَ اَز دَخول وَ خُروج

For God is, in His Essence, holy above ascent and descent, entrance and exit;

لَم يَزَل أَز صِفاتِ خَلق غَنى بودِه وَ خواهَد بُد

He hath through all eternity been free of the attributes of human creatures, and ever will remain so.

وَ نَشناختِه اورا اَحَدى وَ بِكُنهِ او راه نَيافتِه نَفسى

No man hath ever known Him; no soul hath ever found the pathway to His Being.

کُلِّ عُرَفا دَر وادی مَعرِفَتُش سَر گُلِّ عُرَفا دَر وادی مَعرِفَتُش سَر گُردان وَ کُلِّ اولِیا دَر اِدراکِ ذاتَش حِیران مَنَزِّه اَست

Every mystic knower hath wandered far astray in the valley of the knowledge of Him; every saint hath lost his way in seeking to comprehend His Essence.

از ادراکِ هَر مُدرِکی وَ مُتَعالی است از عِرفان هَر عارِفی

Sanctified is He above the understanding of the wise; exalted is He above the knowledge of the knowing!

أَنْسَبيلُ مَسدود وَ ٱلْطَّلَبُ مَردود

The way is barred and to seek it is impiety;

دَليلِه آياتِه وَ وُجودِه إثباتِه

His proof is His signs; His being is His evidence.

اینست که عاشِقان رویِ جانان گفتِه اَند »یَامَنْ دَلَّ عَلیٰ ذَاتِهِ بِذَاتِهِ وَ تَنَزَّهَ عَنْ مُجَانِسَةِ مُخْلُوقَاتِهِ «

Wherefore, the lovers of the face of the Beloved have said: "O Thou, the One Whose Essence alone showeth the way to His Essence, and Who is sanctified above any likeness to His creatures."

عَدَمِ صِرف کُجا تَوانَد دَر مَیدانِ قِدَم اَسب دَوانَد وَ سایِهٔ فانی کُجا بِخُورشیدِ باقی رسد

How can utter nothingness gallop its steed in the field of preexistence, or a fleeting shadow reach to the everlasting sun?

حَبيبِ »لُوْلَاكْ «، »مَا عَرَفْنَاكَ « فَرمودِه

The Friend hath said, "But for Thee, we had not known Thee,"

وَ مَحبوبِ »أُوَادْنىلى «، » »مَابِلَغْنَاكَ « گُفتِه

and the Beloved hath said, "nor attained Thy presence."

بَلی این ذِکرها کِه در مَراتِبِ عِرفان ذِکر میشَوَد

Yea, these mentionings that have been made of the grades of knowledge

مَعرِفَتِ تَجَلَّياتِ آن شَمسِ حَقيقَت اَست کِه دَر مَرايا تَجَلَّى ميفَرمايَد

relate to the knowledge of the Manifestations of that Sun of Reality, which casteth Its light upon the Mirrors.

وَ تَجَلَّى آن نور دَر قُلوب هَست وَ لَكِن بِحُجِباتِ نَفسانِيَّه وَ شُؤوناتِ عَرَضِيَّه مَحجوب اَست

And the splendor of that light is in the hearts, yet it is hidden under the veilings of sense and the conditions of this earth,

چون شَمع زیرِ فانوسِ حَدید چون فانوس مُرتَفِع شُد نورِ شَمع ظاهِر گردَد even as a candle within a lantern of iron, and only when the lantern is removed doth the light of the candle shine out.

وَ هَمچنین چون خَرقِ حُجِباتِ اَفکِیه اَز وَجهِٔ قلب نَمائی اَنوارِ اَحَدِیه طالِع شَوَد

In like manner, when thou strippest the wrappings of illusion from off thine heart, the lights of oneness will be made manifest.

پُس مَعلوم شُد کِه اَز بَرایِ تَجَلّیات هَم دُخول وَ خُروج نیست

Then it is clear that even for the rays there is neither entrance nor exit—

تا چِه رِسَد بِآن جُوهَرِ وُجود وَ سِرِّ مُقصود

how much less for that Essence of Being and that longed-for Mystery. اِی بَرادر مَن در این مَراتِب از رویِ تَحقیق سِیر نَما نَه از رویِ تَقلید

O My Brother, journey upon these planes in the spirit of search, not in blind imitation.

وَ سالِک را دور باشِ کَلِمات مَنع نَکُند وَ هِیمَنِهُ اِشارَت سَد نَنماید

A true wayfarer will not be kept back by the bludgeon of words nor debarred by the warning of allusions.

پَردِه چِه باشَد میانِ عاشِق و مَعشوق

How shall a curtain part the lover and the loved one?

سَدِّ سِكَندَر نَه مانِع اَست و نَه حائِل

Not Alexander's wall can separate them!

أسرار بِسيار و أغيار بيشُمار

Secrets are many, but strangers are myriad.

سِرِّ مَحبوب را دَفتَرها کِفایَت نَکُنَد و بِاین اَلواح اِتمام نیابَد با این کِه حَرفی بیش نه حَرفی بیش نه

Volumes will not suffice to hold the mystery of the Beloved One, nor can it be exhausted in these pages, although it be no more than a word, no more than a sign.

»أَلْعِلْمُ نُقْطَةٌ كَثَّرِهُ ٱلْجَاهِلُونْ «

"Knowledge is a single point, but the ignorant have multiplied it."

وَ أَز هَمين مَقام اِختِلافاتِ عَوالِمرا هَم مُلاحِظِه كُن

On this same basis, ponder likewise the differences among the worlds.

آگر چِه عَوالِمِ اِلهی نامُتِناهی اَست وَ لکِن بَعضی چِهار رُتبِه ذِکر نَمودِه اَند

Although the divine worlds be never ending, yet some refer to them as four:

عالَمِ زَمان و آن آن اَست کِه اَز بَرایِ او اَوَّل وَ آخِر باشد

The world of time (zamán), which is the one that hath both a beginning and an end; وَ عَالَمِ دَهُر يَعنى آوَّل داستِه باشد وَ آخِرَش يَديد نَباشَد

the world of duration (dahr), which hath a beginning, but whose end is not revealed;

وَ عَالَمِ سَرِمَد كِه أَوَّلَى مُلاحِظِه نَشَوَد وَ آخِرَش مَفهوم شَوَد

the world of perpetuity (sarmad), whose beginning is not to be seen but which is known to have an end;

وَ عَالَمِ ازَل كِه نَه اوَّلَى مُشاهِدِه شَوَد وَ نَه آخِرى

and the world of eternity (azal), neither a beginning nor an end of which is visible.

اَگُر چِه دَر این بَیانات اِختِلاف بِسیار اَست اَگر تَقصیل ذِکر شَود کِسالَت اَفزاید

Although there are many differing statements as to these points, to recount them in detail would result in weariness.

چِنانچِه بَعضى عالَمِ سَرمَدرا بي اِبتِدا وَ اِنتَها گُفتِه اَند

Thus, some have said that the world of perpetuity hath neither beginning nor end,

وَ عَالَمِ اَزَلَرا غِيبِ مَنيعِ لا يُدرَكَ ذِكر نَمودِه اَند

and have named the world of eternity as the invisible, impregnable Empyrean.

وَ بَعضى عَوالِمِ لاهوت وَ جَبَروت وَ مَلكوت وَ ناسوت گُفتِه أند

Others have called these the worlds of the Heavenly Court (Láhút), of the Empyrean Heaven (Jabarút), of the Kingdom of the Angels (Malakút), and of the mortal world (Násút).

سَفَرهاي سَبيلِ عِشقرا چِهار شُمُردِه اَند

The journeys in the pathway of love are reckoned as four:

مِنْ أَلْخَلْقِ إلِي أَلْحَقَّ وَ مِنْ أَلْحَقَّ وَ مِنْ أَلْحَقِّ وَ مِنْ أَلْحَقَّ وَ مِنْ أَلْخَلْقْ الِي أَلْخَلْقْ وَ مِنْ أَلْخَلْقِ الِي أَلْخَلْقْ وَ مِنْ أَلْخَقْ وَ مِنْ أَلْحَقْ

From the creatures to the True One; from the True One to the creatures; from the creatures to the creatures; from the True One to the True One.

وَ هَمچِنين بِسيار بَيانات اَز عُرَفا وَ حُكَماي قَبل هَست كِه بَندِه مُتَعرِض نَشُدَم

There is many an utterance of the mystic seers and doctors of former times which I have not mentioned here,

وَ دوست نَدارَم كِه أَذكار قَبل بِسيار إظهار شَوَد

since I mislike the copious citation from sayings of the past;

زیرا کِه اَقوال غِیررا ذِکر نَمودَن دَلیل اَست بَر عُلومِ کَسبی نَه بَر مُوهِبَت اِلهی

for quotation from the words of others proveth acquired learning, not the divine bestowal.

وَ لَكِن اين قَدر هَم كِه ذِكر شُد بِواسطِهِ عادَتِ ناس است

Even so much as We have quoted here is out of deference to the wont of men and after the manner of the friends.

وَ تَ اَسّى بِاَصحاب وَ عَلاوِه بَر اللهِ این دَرین رِسالِه این بَیانات نَگُنجَد

Further, such matters are beyond the scope of this epistle.

وَ عَدَمِ اِقبال بِذِكرِ اَقوالِ ایشان نَه از غُرور اَست بَل بِواسطِهُ ظُهورِ حِكمَت وَ تَجَلّى مُوهِبَت اَست

Our unwillingness to recount their sayings is not from pride, rather is it a manifestation of wisdom and a demonstration of grace.

گر خِضر در بَحر کَشتیرا شِکَست

If Khi\(\mathbb{Z}\)r did wreck the vessel on the sea,

صَد دُرُستی در شِکَستِ خِضر هَست

Yet in this wrong there are a thousand rights.

وَ إِلَّا اين بَندِه خُودرا دَر ساحَتِ يِكى اَز اَحِبايِ خُدا مَعدوم ميدانَم وَ مَفقود ميشُمُرَم تا چِه رِسَد دَر بَساطِ اوليا

Otherwise, this Servant regardeth Himself as utterly lost and as nothing, even beside one of the beloved of God, how much less in the presence of His holy ones.

فَشُبْحَانَ رَبِّي أَلْاَعْلَىٰ

Exalted be My Lord, the Supreme!

وَ أَز اينها گُذَشتِه مَقصود ذِكرِ مَراتِبِ سالِكين أست نَه بَيانِ أقوالِ عارفين

Moreover, our aim is to recount the stages of the wayfarer's journey, not to set forth the conflicting utterances of the mystics.

آگر چِه مِثالِ مُختَصَرى دَر آوَّل وَ آخِر عالَم نِسبى وَ اِضافى زَدِه شُد

Although a brief example hath been given concerning the beginning and ending of the relative world, the world of attributes,

مُجَدَّد مِثالی دیگر ذِکر میشَوَد تا تَمامِ مَعانی در قَمیصِ مِثالی ظاهِر شَوَد

yet a second illustration is now added, that the full meaning may be manifest.

مَثَلاً آن جِناب دَر خُود مُلاحِظِه فَرمايَند

For instance, let thine Eminence consider his own self;

كِه نِسبَت بِپَسَرِ خُود اَوَّلَند وَ نِسبَت بِيِدَرِ خُود آخِر

thou art first in relation to thy son, last in relation to thy father.

وَ دَر ظاهِر حِكايَت أَز ظاهِرِ قُدرَت ميكُنيد دَر عَوالِمِ صُنعِ اللهي

In thine outward appearance, thou tellest of the appearance of power in the realms of divine creation; وَ دَر باطِن بَر أسرارِ باطِن كِه وَديعِهُ اللهيِّه أست

in thine inward being thou revealest the hidden mysteries which are the divine trust deposited within thee.

دَر شُما پَس صِدقِ اَوَّلِیَّت وَ اَخِرِیَّت وَ الطِنِیَّت بِاین اَخِرِیَّت وَ باطِنِیَّت بِاین مَعنی کِه ذِکر شُد بَر شُما میکُند

And thus firstness and lastness, outwardness and inwardness are, in the sense referred to, true of thyself,

تا در این چهار رُتبِه کِه بِشُما عِنایَت شُد چِهار رُتبِهِ الهِیّهرا اِدراک فَرمائید

that in these four states conferred upon thee thou shouldst comprehend the four divine states,

تا بُلبُلِ قَلب بَر جَميعِ شاخسارهاي گُلِ وُجود اَز غِيب وَ شُهود نِدا كُند

and that the nightingale of thine heart on all the branches of the rosetree of existence, whether visible or concealed, should cry out:

بِاَنَه »هُوْ أَلْاَوَّلْ وَ ٱلْآخِرْ وَ ٱلْظَّاهِرْ وَ ٱلْبَاطِنْ«

"He is the first and the last, the Seen and the Hidden..."

وَ اين ذِكرها در مراتِبِ عوالِمِ نِسبَت ذِكر ميشود

These statements are made in the sphere of that which is relative, because of the limitations of men.

وَ إِلَّا آن رِجالی کِه بِقَدَمی عالَمِ نِسبَت وَ تَقییدرا طِی نَمودِه اَند

Otherwise, those personages who in a single step have passed over the world of the relative and the limited,

وَ بَر بَساطِ خُوشِ تَجريد ساكِن شُده أند

and dwelt on the fair plane of the Absolute,

وَ دَر عالَم هايِ اِطلاق وَ اَمر خِيمِه بَر اَفراختِه اَند

and pitched their tent in the worlds of authority and command—

جَميعِ اين نِسبَت هارا بِنارى سوختِه اَند

have burned away these relativities with a single spark,

وَ هَمِهُ اين الفاظرا بِنَمى مَحو نَمودِه اند

and blotted out these words with a drop of dew.

وَ دَر یَمِ روح شِناوَری مینَمایَند وَ دَر هَوایِ قُدس نور سِیر میکُنند

And they swim in the sea of the spirit, and soar in the holy air of light.

دیگر اَلفاظ دَر این رُتبِه کُجا وُجود دارَد تا اَوَّل یا آخِر یا غِیرِ اینها مَعلوم شُود وَ مَذکور آید

Then what life have words, on such a plane, that "first" and "last" or other than these be seen or mentioned!

دَر این مَقام اَوَّل نَفسِ آخِر وَ آخِر نَفسِ اَوَّل اَست

In this realm, the first is the last itself, and the last is but the first.

آتِشي اَز عِشقِ جانان بَر فُروز

In thy soul of love build thou a fire

سَر بِسَر فِكر و عِبادَت را بِسوز

And burn all thoughts and words entire.

اِی دوستِ مَن دَر خُود مُلاحِظِه فَرما

O my friend, look upon thyself:

کِه اَگر پِدَر نِمیشُدی وَ پِسَر نَدیدِه بودی این اَلفاظ هَم نَشَنیدِه بودی

Hadst thou not become a father nor begotten a son, neither wouldst thou have heard these sayings.

پَس حال هَمِه را فَراموش کُن تا در مُصطَبِهِ تُوحید نَزدِ اَدیبِ عِشق بیاموزی

Now forget them all, that thou mayest learn from the Master of Love in the schoolhouse of oneness,

وَ اَزِ »اِنَّا« بِه »راجِعون« رِجعَت کُنی

and return unto God,

وَ اَز باطِنِ مَجازی بِمَقامِ حَقِقی خُود واصِل گردی

and forsake the inner land of unreality for thy true station,

وَ دَر ظِلِ شَجَرِهِ دانِش ساكِن شَوى

and dwell within the shadow of the tree of knowledge.

اِی عَزیز نَفسرا فَقیر نِما تا دَر عَرصِهِ بُلَندِ غَنا وارَد شَوی

O thou dear one! Impoverish thyself, that thou mayest enter the high court of riches; وَ جِسَدرا ذَليل كُن تا اَز شَريعِهُ عِزَّت بِياشامي

and humble thy body, that thou mayest drink from the river of glory,

وَ بِجَميعِ مَعانی اَشعار کِه سُؤال فَرمودی بِرَسی

and attain to the full meaning of the poems whereof thou hadst asked.

پَس مَعلوم شُد کِه این مَراتِب بَستِه بِسِیرِ سالِک اَست

Thus it hath been made clear that these stages depend on the vision of the wayfarer.

وَ دَر هَر مَدينِه عالَمى بينَد وَ دَر هَر وَ دَر هَر وَادى بِچَشمِه اى رِسَد وَ دَر هَر صَحرا نَعْمِه اى شِنوَد

In every city he will behold a world, in every Valley reach a spring, in every meadow hear a song.

وَلَى شاه بازِ هَوايِ مَعنَوى را شَهنازهايِ بَديعِ روحاني دَر دِل اَست

But the falcon of the mystic heaven hath many a wondrous carol of the spirit in His breast, وَ مُرغِ عَراقی را آوازهایِ خُوشِ حِجازی در سر

and the Persian bird keepeth in His soul many a sweet Arab melody;

وَ لَكِن مُستور بودِه وَ مُستور خواهَد بود

yet these are hidden, and hidden shall remain.

گر بِگويَم عَقلها بَر هَم زَنَد

If I speak forth, many a mind will shatter,

ور نويسَم بس قلمها بشكَند

And if I write, many a pen will break.

وَ ٱلْسَّلَامُ عَلَىٰ مَنْ قَطَعَ هٰذَ ٱلْسَّفَرِ ٱلْاَعْلَىٰ وَ اِتَّبَعَ ٱلْحَقِّ بِٱنْوَارِ ٱلْهُدىٰ

Peace be upon him who concludeth this exalted journey and followeth the True One by the lights of guidance.

مدينة استغنا

THE VALLEY OF CONTENTMENT

وَ سَالِکَ بَعد اَز قَطعِ مَعارِجِ این سَفَرِ بُلَندِ اَعلیٰ دَر مَدینِهِ اِستِغنا وارد میشود

And the wayfarer, after traversing the high planes of this supernal journey, entereth the Valley of Contentment.

وَ دَر این وادی نَسائِمِ اِستِغنایِ اِلهی را بِبینَد کِه اَز بَیدایِ روح میوزَد

In this Valley he feeleth the winds of divine contentment blowing from the plane of the spirit.

وَ حِجابِ هاي فَقررا ميسوزَد

He burneth away the veils of want,

وَ »يُومِ يَغْنِي أَلْلَهْ كُلاً مِنْ سَعَتِهِ « را بِچَشمِ ظاهِر وَ باطِن دَر غِيب وَ شِهادَة أشياء مُشاهِدِه فَرمايَد

and with inward and outward eye, perceiveth within and without all things the day of: "God will compensate each one out of His abundance."

از حُزن بِسُرور آید وَ اَز غَم بِفَرَح راجِع شَوَد

From sorrow he turneth to bliss, from anguish to joy.

قَبض وَ إنقِباض را بِبَسط وَ إنبِساط تَبديل نَمايَد

His grief and mourning yield to delight and rapture.

مُسافِرانِ این وادی اَگر دَر ظاهِر بَر خاک ساکِن اَند

Although to outward view, the wayfarers in this Valley may dwell upon the dust,

أمّا دَر باطِن بَر رَفرَفِ مَعانى جالِس

yet inwardly they are throned in the heights of mystic meaning;

وَ اَز نِعمَت هایِ بی زَوال مَعنَوی مَرزوق اَند

they eat of the endless bounties of inner significances,

وَ اَز شَراب هاي لَطيفِ روحاني مَشروب

and drink of the delicate wines of the spirit.

زَبان دَر تَفصيلِ اين سِه وادى عاجِز اَست وَ بَيان بِغايَت قاصِر

The tongue faileth in describing these three Valleys, and speech falleth short.

قَلَم دَر این عَرصِه قَدَم نَگُذارَد وَ مِداد جُز سَواد ثَمَر نَیارَد

The pen steppeth not into this region, the ink leaveth only a blot.

بُلبُلِ قَلبرا در این مقامات نوا های دیگر است و اسرار دیگر

In these planes, the nightingale of the heart hath other songs and secrets,

کِه دِل اَز او بِجوش وَ روح دَر خُروش

which make the heart to stir and the soul to clamor,

وَ لَكِن اين مُعَمَّايِ مَعانى را دِل بِدِل بايد گُفت وَ سينِه بِسينِه بايد سِپُرد

but this mystery of inner meaning may be whispered only from heart to heart, confided only from breast to breast.

شَرحِ حالِ عارِفان دِل بِدِل تَوانَد گُفت

Only heart to heart can speak the bliss of mystic knowers;

این نه شیوهٔ قاصِد و این نه حَدِّ مکتوب است

No messenger can tell it and no missive bear it.

وَاسْكُتْ عَجْزاً عَنْ أُمُورِ كَثِيرَةٍ

I am silent from weakness on many a matter.

بِنُطْقِي لَنْ تُحْصِيلِ وَ لُو قُلْتُ قَلَّتٍ

For my words could not reckon them and my speech would fall short.

ای رَفیق تا بِحَدیقِهٔ این مَعانی نَرسی از خَمرِ باقی این وادی نَرسی نَرِسی

O friend, till thou enter the garden of such mysteries, thou shalt never set lip to the undying wine of this Valley.

وَ اَگُر چِشی اَز غِیر چَشم پوشی وَ اَز بادِهِٔ اِستِغنا بِنوشی And shouldst thou taste of it, thou wilt shield thine eyes from all things else, and drink of the wine of contentment;

وَ اَز هَمِه بُگسَلی وَ بِه او پِیوَندی وَ جان دَر رَهَش بازی وَ رَوان رایِگان بَر اَفشانی

and thou wilt loose thyself from all things else, and bind thyself to Him, and throw thy life down in His path, and cast thy soul away. اَگُر چِه غِیری دَر این مَقام نیست تا چَشم پوشی »کَانَ ٱللهِ وَ لَمْ يَکُنْ مِعَهُ مِنْ شَيْئِ «

However, there is no other in this region that thou need forget: "There was God and there was naught beside Him."

زیرا کِه سالِک دَر این رُتبِه جَمالِ دوسترا دَر هَر شَيء بیند

For on this plane the traveler witnesseth the beauty of the Friend in everything.

أز نار رُخسارِ يار بيند و در مجاز رَمزِ حَقيقَت مُلاحِظِه كُند و أز صِفات سِرِّ هُوييَت مُشاهِدِه نَمايَد

Even in fire, he seeth the face of the Beloved. He beholdeth in illusion the secret of reality, and readeth from the attributes the riddle of the Essence.

زیرا پَردِه هارا بِآهی سوختِه وَ حِجابِ هارا بِنِگاهی بَر داشتِه

For he hath burnt away the veils with his sighing, and unwrapped the shroudings with a single glance;

بِبَصَرِ حَدید در صُنعِ جَدید سِیر نَمایَد

with piercing sight he gazeth on the new creation;

وَ بِقَلبِ رَقيق آثارِ دَقِق إدراك كُند

with lucid heart he graspeth subtle verities.

وَ جَعَلْنَا أَلْيُومْ بَصَرِكَ حَدِيداً شاهِدِ مَقال وَ كافي أحوال آست

This is sufficiently attested by: "And we have made thy sight sharp in this day."

وادی حیرت

THE VALLEY OF WONDERMENT

وَ سالِک بَعد اَز سِیرِ مَراتِبِ اِستِغنایِ بَحت در وادی حِیرَت واصِل میشود

After journeying through the planes of pure contentment, the traveler cometh to the Valley of Wonderment

وَ دَر بَحرهايِ عَظَمَت غوطِه ميخوُرَد وَ دَر هَر آن بَر حِيرَتَش مي أفزايد

and is tossed in the oceans of grandeur, and at every moment his wonder groweth.

گاهی هَیکَلِ غَنارا نَفسِ فَقر میبینَد و جُوهرِ اِستِغنارا صِرفِ عَجز

Now he seeth the shape of wealth as poverty itself, and the essence of freedom as sheer impotence.

گاهی مَحوِ جَمالِ ذو أَلْجَلال ميشَوَد وَ گاهي اَز وُجودِ خُود بيزار

Now is he struck dumb with the beauty of the All-Glorious; again is he wearied out with his own life.

این صَرصَرِ حِیرَت چِه دَرَخت هایِ مَعانی را کِه از پا انداخت و چِه نُفوس هارا کِه از نَفس بَر اَنداخت How many a mystic tree hath this whirlwind of wonderment snatched by the roots, how many a soul hath it exhausted.

زیرا کِه این وادی سالِکرا دَر اِنقِلاب آوَرَد

For in this Valley the traveler is flung into confusion,

وَ لیکن این ظُهورات دَر نَظَرِ واصِل بِسیار مَحبوب وَ مَرغوب اَست

albeit, in the eye of him who hath attained, such marvels are esteemed and well beloved.

وَ دَر هَر آن عالَمِ بَدیعی وَ خَلقِ جَدیدی مُشاهِدِه کُند

At every moment he beholdeth a wondrous world, a new creation,

وَ حِيرَت بَر حِيرَت اَفزايَد مَحوِ صُنع جَديدِ سُلطانِ اَحَدِيّه شَوَد

and goeth from astonishment to astonishment, and is lost in awe at the works of the Lord of Oneness.

بَلی اِی بَرادَر اَگر دَر هَر خَلقی تَفَکُر نَمائیم

Indeed, O Brother, if we ponder each created thing,

صد هِزار حِكمَتِ بالِغِه بينيم وَ صد هِزار عُلومِ بَديعِه بِياموزيم

we shall witness a myriad perfect wisdoms and learn a myriad new and wondrous truths.

أز جُملِه مَخلوقات نُوم اَست

One of the created phenomena is the dream.

مُلاحِظِه كُن چِقَدر اَسرار دَر او وَديعِه گُذاستِه شُدِه اَست

Behold how many secrets are deposited therein,

وَ چِه حِكمَتها دَر او مَخرون گُشتِه اَست وَ چِه عَوالِم دَر او مَستور ماندِه

how many wisdoms treasured up, how many worlds concealed.

مُلاحِظِه فَرمائید کِه شُما دَر بَیتی میخوابید و دَرهای آن بَیت بَستِه اَست

Observe, how thou art asleep in a dwelling, and its doors are barred;

یک مَرتَبِه خُودرا دَر شَهرِ بَعیدی مُشاهِدِه میکُنید بی حَرِکَتِ رِجل وَ تَعَبِ جَسَد بِآن شَهر داخِل میشوید تَعَبِ جَسَد بِآن شَهر داخِل میشوید

on a sudden thou findest thyself in a far-off city, which thou enterest without moving thy feet or wearying thy body;

وَ بى زَحمَتِ چَشم مُشاهِدِه میکُنید و بی مِحنَتِ گوش میشِنوید و بی لِسان تَکَلُم مینَمائید without using thine eyes, thou seest; without taxing thine ears, thou hearest; without a tongue, thou speakest.

وَ گاهَست کِه آنچِه اِمشَب دیدِه اید دَه سال بَعد دَر عالَمِ زَمان بِحَسَبِ ظاهِر بِعِینِه آنچِه دَر خواب دیده اید مسنید

And perchance when ten years are gone, thou wilt witness in the outer world the very things thou hast dreamed tonight.

حال چَند حِكمَت اَست كِه دَر اين نُوم مَشهود اَست

Now there are many wisdoms to ponder in the dream,

وَ غِيرِ اَهلِ اين وادى بَر كَماهِىَ اِدراك نِميكُنند

which none but the people of this Valley can comprehend in their true elements.

اوَّل آنكِه آن چِه عالَم اَست كِه بى چَشم وَ گوش وَ دَست وَ لِسان حُكم هَمِه اينها دَر او مَعمول ميشوَد

First, what is this world, where without eye and ear and hand and tongue a man puts all of these to use?

وَ ثانی آنکِه دَر عالَمِ ظُهور اَثَرِ خوابرا اِمروز مُشاهِدِه میکُنی وَ لیکن این سِیررا دَر عالَم نُوم دَر دَه سال قبل دیدِه ء

Second, how is it that in the outer world thou seest today the effect of a dream, when thou didst vision it in the world of sleep some ten years past?

حال تَفَكُّر نَما فَرقِ این دو عالَم وَ اَسرارِ مُودِعِهِ آنرا تا بِتَأییدات وَ مُکاشِفاتِ سُبحانی فائِز شَوی وَ بِعالَمِ قُدس بَری

Consider the difference between these two worlds and the mysteries which they conceal, that thou mayest attain to divine confirmations and heavenly discoveries and enter the regions of holiness.

وَ این آیات را حضرَتِ باری در خلق گذاشتِه تا مُحَقِّقین اِنکارِ اَسرارِ مُعاد نَکُنند وَ بِآنچِه وَعدِه دادِه شُدِه اَند سَهل نَشمُرند

God, the Exalted, hath placed these signs in men, to the end that philosophers may not deny the mysteries of the life beyond nor belittle that which hath been promised them.

مِثلِ این کِه بَعضی تَمَسُک بِعَقل جُستِه وَ آنچِه بِعَقل نَیایَد اِنکار نَمایَند

For some hold to reason and deny whatever the reason comprehendeth not,

وَ حال آن كِه هَر گِز عُقولِ ضَعيفِه هَمين مَراتِبِ مَذكورِه را اِدراك نَكُنَد مَكَر عَقل كُلّى رَبّانى

and yet weak minds can never grasp the matters which we have related, but only the Supreme, Divine Intelligence can comprehend them: عَقلِ جُزئی کِی تَوانَد گَشت بَر قُرءان مُحیط

How can feeble reason encompass the Qur'án,

عَنكَبوتی كِی تَوانَد كَرد سيمُرغی شِكار شِكار

Or the spider snare a phoenix in his web?

وَ این عَوالِم کُلّ دَر وادی حِیرَت دَست دَهَد وَ مُشاهِدِه گَردَد

All these states are to be witnessed in the Valley of Wonderment,

وَ سالِک در هر آن زیادتی طلب نَشود نَماید و کسِل نَشود

and the traveler at every moment seeketh for more, and is not wearied.

اینست که سِیِّدِ اَوَّلین وَ آخِرین دَر مَراتِبِ فِکرَت وَ اِظهارِ حِیرَت »رَبِّ زِدْنِی فِیکَ تَحَیُّرًا « فَرمودِه

Thus the Lord of the First and the Last in setting forth the grades of contemplation, and expressing wonderment hath said: "O Lord, increase my astonishment at Thee!"

وَ هَمچِنين تَفَكُر دَر تَمامِيَتِ خَلقِ إِنسان كُن

Likewise, reflect upon the perfection of man's creation,

کِه این هَمِه عَوالِم وَ این هَمِه مَراتِب دَر او مُنطَوى وَ مَستور شُدِه

and that all these planes and states are folded up and hidden away within him.

اَتَحْسْبَ اِنِّکَ جُرْمٍ صَغِيرْ

Dost thou reckon thyself only a puny form

وَ فِيكَ أَنْطُولَى أَلْعَالَمَ ٱلْأَكْبَرْ

When within thee the universe is folded?

پُس جَهدی باید کِه رُتبِهِ حِیوانی مَعدوم کُنیم تا مَعنی اِنسانی ظاهِر شَوَد

Then we must labor to destroy the animal condition, till the meaning of humanity shall come to light.

هَمچِنین لُقمان کِه اَز چَشمِهٔ حِکمَت نوشیدِه وَ اَز بَحرِ رَحمَت چَشیدِه

Thus, too, Luqmán, who had drunk from the wellspring of wisdom and tasted of the waters of mercy, بِيِسَرَش ناتان بِجَهَتِ اِثباتِ مَقاماتِ حَشر وَ مُوت هَمين خوابرا دَليل آوُردِه وَ مَثَل زَدِه

in proving to his son Nathan the planes of resurrection and death, advanced the dream as an evidence and an example.

دَرین مَقام ذِکر مینَمائیم تا ذِکری از آن جَوانِ مَصطَبِهٔ تُوحید و پیرِ مَراتِبِ تَعلیم و تَجرید از این بَندِهٔ فانی باقی بِماند

We relate it here, that through this evanescent Servant a memory may endure of that youth of the school of Divine Unity, that elder of the art of instruction and the Absolute.

فرمود ای پِسَر آگر قادِر باشی کِه نَحوابی پَس قادِری بَر آنکِه نَمیری

He said: "O Son, if thou art able not to sleep, then thou art able not to die.

وَ اَگُر بِتُوانی بَعد اَز خواب بیدار نَشُوی میتَوانی کِه بَعد اَز مَرگ مَحشور نَگَردی

And if thou art able not to waken after sleep, then thou shalt be able not to rise after death."

اِی دوست دِل کِه مُحَلِّ اَسرارِ باقِیه اَست

O friend, the heart is the dwelling of eternal mysteries,

مُحَلِّ اَفكارِ فانيه مَكُن وَ سَرمايةِ عُمرِ گِران مايه را بِإشتِغالِ دُنيايِ فانيه از دَست مَدِه

make it not the home of fleeting fancies; waste not the treasure of thy precious life in employment with this swiftly passing world.

أز عالَمِ قُدسي بِتُراب دِل مَبَند

Thou comest from the world of holiness—bind not thine heart to the earth;

وَ اَهلِ بَساطِ أُنسى وَطَنِ خاكى مَيْسَند

thou art a dweller in the court of nearness—choose not the homeland of the dust.

باری ذِکرِ این مَراتِبرا اِنتِهائی نَه

In sum, there is no end to the description of these stages,

وَ این بَندِه را اَز صَدَمِهِٔ اَهلِ روزِ گار اَحوالی نَه but because of the wrongs inflicted by the peoples of the earth, this Servant is in no mood to continue:

این شُخَن ناقِص بِماند وَ بیقرار

The tale is still unfinished and I have no heart for it—

دِل نَدارَم بيدِلَم مَعذور دار

Then pray forgive me.

قَلَم نالِه میکُند و مِداد میگِریَد و جِیحونِ دِل خون مُوج میزَند

The pen groaneth and the ink sheddeth tears, and the river of the heart moveth in waves of blood.

» لَنْ يُصِيبَنَا إِلَّا مَاكِتَبَ ٱللَّهِ لَنَا «

"Nothing can befall us but what God hath destined for us."

وَ ٱلْسَّلَامُ عَلَىٰ مَنْ اِتَّبَعَ ٱلْهُدَىٰ

Peace be upon him who followeth the Right Path!

وادی فقر حقیقی و فنای اصلی

THE VALLEY OF TRUE POVERTY AND ABSOLUTE NOTHINGNESS

وَ سالِک بَعد از اِرتِقایِ بِمَراتِبِ بُلَندِ حِیرَت بِوادی فَقرِ حَقیقی وَ فَنایِ اَصلی وارِد شَوَد

After scaling the high summits of wonderment the wayfarer cometh to the Valley of True Poverty and Absolute Nothingness.

وَ این رُتبِه مَقامِ فَنایِ اَز نَفس وَ بَقای بِأَلله اَست

This station is the dying from self and the living in God,

وَ فَقر از خُود وَ غَناي بِمَقصود است

the being poor in self and rich in the Desired One.

وَ دَر این مَقام کِه ذِکرِ فَقر میشَوَد یَعنی فَقیر است از آنچِه دَر عالمِ خَلق است و غَنی است بِآنچِه دَر عَوالِم حَق است

Poverty as here referred to signifieth being poor in the things of the created world, rich in the things of God's world.

زيرا كِه عاشِقِ صادِق وَ حَبيبِ مُوافِق چون بِلِقايِ مَحبوب وَ مَعشوق رَسيد

For when the true lover and devoted friend reacheth to the presence of the Beloved,

از پَرتُوِ جَمالِ مَحبوب وَ آتِشِ قَلبِ حَبیب ناری مُشتَعِل شَوَد وَ جَمیعِ سَرادِقات وَ حُجُبات را بِسوزاند

the sparkling beauty of the Loved One and the fire of the lover's heart will kindle a blaze and burn away all veils and wrappings. بَلکِه آنچِه با او اَست حَتّی مَغز وَ پوست مُحتَرِق گَردَد وَ جُز دوست چیزی نَمانَد

Yea, all he hath, from heart to skin, will be set aflame, so that nothing will remain save the Friend.

چون تَجَلّى كَرد أوصافِ قَديم

When the qualities of the Ancient of Days stood revealed,

پُس بِسوزَد وَصفِ حادِثرا كَليم

Then the qualities of earthly things did Moses burn away.

وَ دَر این مَقام واصِل مُقَدَّس اَست اَز آنچه مُتَعَلِّق بِدُنیا ست

He who hath attained this station is sanctified from all that pertaineth to the world.

پُس آگر دَر نَزدِ واصِلینِ بَحرِ وِصال از آشیای مَحدودِه کِه مُتَعَلِّق بِعالَمِ فانی اَست یافت نَشَوَد

Wherefore, if those who have come to the sea of His presence are found to possess none of the limited things of this perishable world,

چِه اَز اَمُوالِ ظاهِرِیِّه باشد وَ چِه اَز تَفَکُّراتِ نَفسِیِّه بَأسی نیست

whether it be outer wealth or personal opinions, it mattereth not.

زيرا كِه آنچِه نَزدِ خَلق اَست مَحدود اَست بِحَدودِ ايشان وَ آنچِه نَزدِ حَق اَست مُقَدَّس اَز آن

For whatever the creatures have is limited by their own limits, and whatever the True One hath is sanctified therefrom;

این بَیان را بِسیار فِکر باید تا پایان آشکار شَوَد

this utterance must be deeply pondered that its purport may be clear.

»إِنَّ ٱلْاَبْرَارْ يَشْرِبُونَ مِنْ كَأْسِ كَانَ مِزَاجِهَا كَافُورَا ﴿

"Verily the righteous shall drink of a winecup tempered at the camphor fountain."

آگر مَعنی کافور مَعلوم شَوَد مَقصودِ حَقیقی مَعلوم گردَد

If the interpretation of "camphor" become known, the true intention will be evident.

این مَقام اَز فَقر اَست کِه میفَرماید »أَلْفَقْرُ فَخْرِي «

This state is that poverty of which it is said, "Poverty is My glory."

وَ أَز بَرايِ فَقرِ باطِنى وَ ظاهِرى مَراتِبها وَ مَعنيها أست كِه ذِكر آنرا مُناسِب اين مَقام نَديدَم

And of inward and outward poverty there is many a stage and many a meaning which I have not thought pertinent to mention here;

لِهٰذَا بِعُهدِهِ وَقتى كُذَاشتَم تا خُدا چِه خِواهَد وَ قَضا چِه اِمضا نَمايَد

hence I have reserved these for another time, dependent on what God may desire and fate may seal.

وَ این مَقام اَست کِه کَثَراتِ کُلِّ شَیء در سالِک هالِک شَوَد

This is the plane whereon the vestiges of all things are destroyed in the traveler,

وَ طَلعَتِ وَجه اَز مَشرِقِ بَقا سَر اَز غِطا بيرون آورَد

and on the horizon of eternity the Divine Face riseth out of the darkness,

وَ مَعنى »كُلِّ شَيْئٍ هَالَکْ اِلَّا وَ مَعنى »كُلِّ شَيْئٍ هَالَکْ اِلَّا وَجْهِهُ « مَشهود گَردَد

and the meaning of "All on the earth shall pass away, but the face of thy Lord..." is made manifest.

اِی حَبیبِ مَن نَغَماتِ روح را بِجان وَ دِل گوش کُن وَ چون بَصر حِفظَش نَما

O My friend, listen with heart and soul to the songs of the spirit, and treasure them as thine own eyes.

کِه هَمیشِهٔ ایّام مَعارِفِ اِللهی بِمَثابِه اَبرِ نِیسانی بَر اَراضی قُلوبِ اِنسانی جاری نیست

For the heavenly wisdoms, like the clouds of spring, will not rain down on the earth of men's hearts forever;

اَگُر چِه فِيضِ فَيّاضِ را تَعطيلي وَ تَعويقي نَه

and though the grace of the All-Bounteous One is never stilled and never ceasing,

وَ لَكِن هَر زَمان وَ عَصررا رِزقى مَعلوم وَ نِعمَتى مُقَدَّر اَست وَ بِقَدر وَ اَندازه إفاضِه ميشَود

yet to each time and era a portion is allotted and a bounty set apart, this in a given measure.

»وَ إِنْ مِنْ شَيْئٍ إِلَّا عِنْدَنَا خَزَا إِئْنَهُ وَ مَا نَزَّلَهُ إِلَّا بِقَدْرِ مَعْلُومْ «

"And no one thing is there, but with Us are its storehouses; and We send it not down but in settled measure." سَحابِ رَحمَتِ جانان جُز بَر ریاضِ جان نَبارَد وَ دَر غِیرِ بَهاران این کَرَم نَفَرمایَد

The cloud of the Loved One's mercy raineth only on the garden of the spirit, and bestoweth this bounty only in the season of spring.

فُصول دیگررا از این فَضلِ اکبر نصیبی نیست و اراضی جرزه را از این کرم قِسمتی نه

The other seasons have no share in this greatest grace, and barren lands no portion of this favor.

اِی بَرادَر هَر بَحری لُؤلُؤ نَدارَد وَ هَر شاخی گُل نَیارَد وَ بُلبُل بَر آن نَسَرایَد

O Brother! Not every sea hath pearls; not every branch will flower, nor will the nightingale sing thereon.

پَس تا بُلبُلِ بوستانِ مَعنَوى بِكُلِستانِ اللهي باز نَكَشت

Then, ere the nightingale of the mystic paradise repair to the garden of God,

وَ اَنوارِ صُبحِ مَعانى بِشَمسِ حَقيقى راجِع نَشُد

and the rays of the heavenly morning return to the Sun of Truth—

سَعى كُنيد كِه شايَد دَر اين گُلخَنِ فانى بوئى اَز گُلشِنِ باقى بِشنَويد

make thou an effort, that haply in this dustheap of the mortal world thou mayest catch a fragrance from the everlasting garden,

وَ دَر ظِلِ اَهلِ این مَدینِهِ جاوید بِمانید

and live forever in the shadow of the peoples of this city.

وَ چون بِاین رُتبِهِ بُلَندِ اَعلیٰ رَسیدی وَ بِاین دَرَجِهِ عُظمیٰ فائِز شُدی

And when thou hast attained this highest station and come to this mightiest plane,

یار بینی و اَغیار فَراموش کُنی

then shalt thou gaze on the Beloved, and forget all else.

یار بیپَردِه اَز دَر و دیوار

The Beloved shineth on gate and wall

دَر تَجَلّي اَست يا اولي أَلْاَبصار

Without a veil, O men of vision.

از قَطرِهٔ جان گُذَشتی و بِبَحرِ جانان واصِل شُدی

Now hast thou abandoned the drop of life and come to the sea of the Life-Bestower.

اینست مقصودی که طلب فرمودی اِنشا أَلله بِآن فائِز شَوی

This is the goal thou didst ask for; if it be God's will, thou wilt gain it.

دَر این مَدینِه خُجِباتِ نور هَم خَرق میشَوَد وَ زائِل میگردَد

In this city, even the veils of light are split asunder and vanish away.

»لَا لِجَمَالِهُ حِجَابٍ سَوى أَلْنُورْ وَ لَا لِوَجْهِهِ نِقَابِ إِلَّا أَلْظُّهُورْ «

"His beauty hath no veiling save light, His face no covering save revelation."

ای عَجَب کِه یار چون شَمس آشکار و اَغیار در طَلَبِ زَخارُف وَ دینار

How strange that while the Beloved is visible as the sun, yet the heedless still hunt after tinsel and base metal.

بَلی اَز شِدَّتِ ظُهور پِنهان ماندِه وَ اَز کِثرَت بُروز مَخفی گَشتِه

Yea, the intensity of His revelation hath covered Him, and the fullness of His shining forth hath hidden Him. حَق عَيان چون مِهرِ رَخشان آمَدِه

Even as the sun, bright hath He shined,

حِيف كَندَر شَهرِ كوران آمَدِه

But alas, He hath come to the town of the blind!

در این وادی سالِک مَراتِبِ وَحدَتِ وُجود وَ شُهودرا طِی نَمایَد

In this Valley, the wayfarer leaveth behind him the stages of the "oneness of Being and Manifestation"

وَ بِوَحدَتی کِه مُقَدَّس اَز این دو مَقام اَست واصِل گردَد

and reacheth a oneness that is sanctified above these two stations.

أحوال بِي بِاين مَقال بَرَد نَه بَيان وَ جِدال

Ecstasy alone can encompass this theme, not utterance nor argument;

وَ هَر كَس دَرين مَحفِل مَنزِل گُزيدِه وَ يا از اين رياض نسيمي يافتِه ميداند چه عَرض ميشَود

and whosoever hath dwelt at this stage of the journey, or caught a breath from this garden land, knoweth whereof We speak. وَ سَالِکَ بَایَد دَر جَمیعِ این اَسفار بِقَدرِ شَعری اَز شَریعَت کِه فی اَز شَریعَت کِه فی اَلْحَقیقِه سِرِّ طَریقَت وَ ثَمَرِهُ شَجرِهُ لَحَقیقِه سِرِّ طَریقَت وَ ثَمَرِهُ شَجرِهُ حَقیقت اَست اِنجراف نَورزَد

In all these journeys the traveler must stray not the breadth of a hair from the "Law," for this is indeed the secret of the "Path" and the fruit of the Tree of "Truth";

وَ دَر هَمِهُ مَراتِب بِذِيلِ اِطاعَتِ اَوامِر مُتَشَبِّث باشَد

and in all these stages he must cling to the robe of obedience to the commandments,

وَ بِحَبلِ اِعراض اَز مَناهی مُتَمَسِّک تا اَز کَأْسِ شَریعَت مَرزوق شَوَد وَ بَر اَسرارِ حَقیقَت واقِف گَردَد

and hold fast to the cord of shunning all forbidden things, that he may be nourished from the cup of the Law and informed of the mysteries of Truth.

وَ هَر چِه أَز بَياناتِ اين بَندِه مَفهوم نَشَوَد وَ تَزَلزُلي إحداث كُند بايد مُجَدَّد سُؤال شَوَد تا شُبهِه نَمانَد

If any of the utterances of this Servant may not be comprehended, or may lead to perturbation, the same must be inquired of again, that no doubt may linger, وَ مَقصود چون طَلعَتِ مَحبوب از مَقام مَحمود ظاهِر گردَد

and the meaning be clear as the Face of the Beloved One shining from the "Glorious Station."

وَ این اَسفار کِه آنرا دَر عالَمِ زَمان اِنتِهائی پَدید نیست

These journeys have no visible ending in the world of time,

سالِکِ مُنقَطِعرا آگر اِعانَتِ غِیبی بِرَسَد وَ وَلی آمر مَدَد فَرماید

but the severed wayfarer—if invisible confirmation descend upon him and the Guardian of the Cause assist him—

این هَفت رُتبِه را دَر هَفت قَدَم طِی نَماید بَلکِه دَر هَفت نَفَس بَلکِه دَر یَک نَفَس بَلکِه دَر یِک نَفَس اِذَا شَاءْ أَلْلَهُ

may cross these seven stages in seven steps, nay rather in seven breaths, nay rather in a single breath, if God will and desire it.

وَ اَرَادَ وَذٰلِکَ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ عَلَىٰ مَنْ يَشَاءْ

And this is of "His grace on such of His servants as He pleaseth."

طايرانِ هَوايِ تُوحيد وَ واصِلانِ لُجِّهِ تَجريد اين مَقام را كِه مَقامِ بَقاء بِأَلْله اَست

They who soar in the heaven of singleness and reach to the sea of the Absolute, reckon this city—which is the station of life in God—

دَر اين مَدينِه مُنتَهيل رُتبِهِ عارِفان وَ مُنتَهيل وَطنِ عاشِقان شُمُردِه أند

as the furthermost state of mystic knowers, and the farthest homeland of the lovers.

وَ نَردِ این فانی بَحرِ مَعنی این مَقام اوّل شَهر بَندِ دِل اَست

But to this evanescent One of the mystic ocean, this station is the first gate of the heart's citadel,

يَعَنى آوَّل وَرودِ إنسان آست بِمَدينِهُ قَلب

that is, man's first entrance to the city of the heart;

وَ قُلبرا چِهار رُتبِه مُقَرَّر اَست

and the heart is endowed with four stages

آگر اَهلَش يافت شُد مَذكور آيد

which would be recounted should a kindred soul be found.

چون قلم در وصفِ این حالت رسید

When the pen set to picturing this station,

هَم قَلَم بِشِكَست و هَم كاغَذ دَريد

It broke in pieces and the page was torn.

وَ ٱلْسَّلَامْ

Salám!

مؤخره

EPILOGUE

اِی حَبیبِ مَن این غَزالِ صَحرایِ اَحَدِیِّه را کَلابی چَند دَر پی

O My friend! Many a hound pursueth this gazelle of the desert of oneness;

وَ این بُلبُلِ بُستانِ صَمَدِیّه را مَنقاری چَند دَر تَعاقُب

many a talon claweth at this thrush of the eternal garden.

وَ این طایرِ هَوایِ اِلْهی را غُرابِ کین در کمین و این صِیدِ بَرِّ عِشق را صَیّادِ حَسَد در عَقَب

Pitiless ravens do lie in wait for this bird of the heavens of God, and the huntsman of envy stalketh this deer of the meadow of love. اِی شِیخ هِمَت را زُجاج کُن کِه شاید این سِراج را از بادهای مُخالِف حِفظ نَماید

O Shaykh! Make of thine effort a glass, perchance it may shelter this flame from the contrary winds;

اَگر چِه این سِراجرا اُمید چِنان اَست کِه دَر زُجاجِهٔ اِلهی مُشتَعِل گردَد وَ دَر مُشکوةِ مَعنَوی بَر اَفروزَد

albeit this light doth long to be kindled in the lamp of the Lord, and to shine in the globe of the spirit.

زيرا گردنى كِه بِعِشقِ اِلهى بُلَند شُد اَلبَتِه بشَمشير أُفتَد

For the head raised up in the love of God will certainly fall by the sword,

وَ سَرى كِه بِحُبّ بَر اَفراخت اَلبَتّه بِباد رَوَد

and the life that is kindled with longing will surely be sacrificed,

وَ قَلْبَى كِه بِذِكُر مَحبوب بِيوَسَتُ الْبَتِّه پُر خون گَردَد

and the heart which remembereth the Loved One will surely brim with blood.

فَنَعَمْ مَا قَالْ

How well is it said:

وَعَشْ خَالِياً فَٱلْحُبِّ رَاحَتاً عَنَا

Live free of love, for its very peace is anguish;

فَاوَّلَهُ شُقْمٍ وَ آخِرِهُؤْ قَتْلٍ

Its beginning is pain, its end is death.

وَ ٱلْسَّلَامُ عَلَىٰ مَنْ اِتَّبَعَ ٱلْهُدَىٰ

Peace be upon him who followeth the Right Path!

آنچِه اَز بَدایعِ فِکر دَر مَعنی طَیرِ مَعنی طَیرِ مَعروف کِه بِفارسی گُنجِشک مینامَند ذِکر فَرمودَند مَعلوم وَ مُحَقَّق شُد

The thoughts thou hast expressed as to the interpretation of the common species of bird that is called in Persian Gunjishk (sparrow) were considered.

گویا بَر اَسرارِ مَعانی واقِف شُدِه اَند

Thou appearest to be well-grounded in mystic truth.

وَ لَكِن هَر حَرفي را دَر هَر عالَمي بِإقتِضاي آن مَقصودي مُقَرَّر اَست

However, on every plane, to every letter a meaning is allotted which relateth to that plane.

بَلی سالِکین از هر اِسمی رَمزی وَ اَز هر حَرفی مینَمایند

Indeed, the wayfarer findeth a secret in every name, a mystery in every letter.

وَ این خُروفات در مقامی اِشارِه بِتَقدیس اَست

In one sense, these letters refer to holiness.

كْ أَيْ كَفَّ نَفْسِكَ عَمَّا يَشْتَهِيهُ هُوَ أَكَ ثُمَّ أَقْبِلْ إلى مُوْلئِكَ

Káf or Gáf (K or G) referreth to Kuffih ("free"), that is, "Free thyself from that which thy passion desireth; then advance unto thy Lord."

نْ نَزِهْ نَفْسِكَ عَمَّا سَوَئِهْ لِتَفْدِيَ بِرُوحِكَ فِي هَوَئِهْ لِتَفْدِيَ

Nún referreth to Nazzih ("purify"), that is, "Purify thyself from all else save Him, that thou mayest surrender thy life in His love."

Jím is Jánb ("draw back"), that is, "Draw back from the threshold of the True One if thou still possessest earthly attributes." شْ اَشْكُرْ رَبِّكَ فِي اَرْضِهُ لِيَشْكُرِكَ فِي اَرْضِهُ لِيَشْكُرِكَ فِي سَمَائِهُ وَ إِنْ كَانَتِ ٱلْسَّمَاءْ فِي عَالَمُ ٱلْاَحَدِيِّةُ نَفْس اَرْضَهُ

Shín is Ashkur ("thank")—"Thank thy Lord on His earth that He may bless thee in His heaven; albeit in the world of oneness, this heaven is the same as His earth."

كُ كَفِّرْ عَنْكَ ٱلْحُجِبَاتِ ٱلْمُحْدُودَةِ لِتَعْرِفَ مَالَا عَرَفْتَهُ مِنْ أَلْمَقَامَاتِ ٱلْقُدْسِيَّةِ وَ اِنكَ لُوْتَسْمَعَ نَغَمَاتْ

Káf referreth to Kaffir, that is: "Take off from thyself the wrappings of limitations, that thou mayest come to know what thou hast not known of the states of Sanctity."

هٰذَهِ ٱلْطِّيْرِ ٱلْفَانِيَةْ لِتَطْلُبَ مِنْ أَلْكُوُسِ ٱلْبَاقِيَّةِ ٱلْدَّائِمَةْ وَ تَتْرَكَ ٱلْكُونِ ٱلْفَانِيَّةِ ٱلْزَّائِلَةْ

Wert thou to harken to the melodies of this mortal Bird, then wouldst thou seek out the undying chalice and pass by every perishable cup.

وَ ٱلْسَّلَامُ عَلَىٰ مَنْ اِتَّبَعَ ٱلْهُدَىٰ

Peace be upon those who walk in the Right Path!