

To Shaykh Abu Yusuf al-Mu'tazili
Head of Philosophy at Bayt al-Hikma
BASRA

2nd of Jumada al-Thani, Anno Hegirae 656
In the 7th year of Al-Musta'sim's Caliphate

Abu Yusuf,

You taught me that knowledge is light, and that light is the clearest name of Allah. Today, I saw that light swallowed.

Above the smoking dome of the great mosque, as the Mongol banners climbed the minarets, I saw a red-tailed comet, unmoving, like a wound in the sky. It did not streak. It did not arc. It hung—as if someone had nailed fire into the firmament.

We used to name such things: Harbinger, Sword, Messenger. But this one gives no message. It does not speak in the language of orbit. It does not follow law.

It is still, and unreasoned.

The Tigris runs black with ink and blood. The Bayt al-Hikma is gone. Al-Khwarizmi's works burn with the Greek scrolls. The translation tables you built are ash. Logic, poetry, geometry—all fed to fire.

And yet this comet remains.

You would ask: *What is its source?* I no longer ask. I wonder instead: What has been removed that it now remains?

I taught students that Allah's justice is knowable, that the Qur'an speaks to the intellect as much as to the soul. But now, the stars flicker like broken numerals, and even the moon tilts wrongly in her orbit. It is not anger I feel—it is the collapse of meaning.

Genghis's grandson rides through the garden where once we taught Al-Kindi's commentaries. The Mongols do not debate—they erase.

Let it be known:

In the final year of the Abbasid Caliphate, when a red sword burned above Baghdad, Ahmad al-Kindi, seeker of light, wrote the last letter of reason against the ash of the libraries.

You are receiving this because you still know the difference between silence and denial. Bury this letter beneath the roots of the great fig tree in the eastern courtyard, if it still stands.

Let it say: *Baghdad fell not when the gates opened, but when the heavens stopped offering questions.*

We asked, and the sky turned away.

In the last breath of reason,

Ahmad al-Kindi

Student of the Lost House of Wisdom

BAGHDAD