

Knocking at Allah's door

Habib Ali bin Muhammad al-Habshi's supplication for the beginning of the year.

In his book, *A Breath of Fragrance*, al-Habib Umar bin Ahmad bin Abi Bakr bin Sumeit refers to Habib Ali in the following terms: 'He is an Imam about whose sublime sainthood there is unanimity, as there was universal witness to the fact he was the rising sun of the horizons, the vicegerent of the master of all Envoys and the incumbent of an exalted station in the ranks of those drawn nigh to Allah, the blessing of existence and the ka'ba of munificence'. Come and share with us the oratory of his soul.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allah the All-Merciful the All-Compassionate

أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ.

All praise is Allah's, Lord of all creations.

اللَّهُمَّ

O Lord, with all beautiful names (Allahuma),

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ

bestow blessings and peace upon our master Muhammad,

وَسَيِّدَتِنَا الْعُظْمَى إِلَيْكَ

our supreme access to You

فِي اسْتِجَابَةِ مَا دَعَوْنَاهُ

in the answer to what we supplicate for,

وَتَحْقِيقِ مَا رَجَوْنَاهُ

the achievement of what we aspire to,

وَعَفْرِ مَا جَنَّبْنَاهُ

and the forgiving of such wrongdoings as we have committed,

وَعَلَىٰ آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَمَنُ وَالآه.

and upon members of his household and his companions and those who support him.

اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّهُ مَضَىٰ عَلَيْنَا مِنْ مُدَّةِ الْحَيَاةِ عَامٌ

Indeed, elapsed in our span of life is a whole year,

قَدَّرْتَنَا فِيهِ مِنْ نِعَمِكَ

You have garlanded us in it with Your bounties

مَا لَا نَسْتَطِيعُ أَدَاءَ الشُّكْرِ عَلَيْهِ

for which we are unable to offer gratitude,

وَحَفِظْتَنَا فِيهِ

and You have protected us in it

مِنَ الْأَسْوَاءِ وَالْمَكَارِهِ

from evils and unpleasant things

مَا لَا نَسْتَطِيعُ دَفْعَهُ.

from which we could not have protected ourselves,

وَقَدَّ أَوْدَعْنَاهُ مِنَ الْأَعْمَالِ

and we have put into it works

مَا أَنْتَ عَلِيمٌ بِهِ.

of which You are All-Knowing.

فَمَا وَقَفْتَنَا فِيهِ مِنْ حَسَنَاتٍ

Such good deeds which You have enabled us to do in it,

فَتَقَبَّلْ ذَلِكَ مِنَّا

may You please accept that from us,

وَاطَّيَّبْهُ لَنَا عِنْدَكَ مِنَ الْأَعْمَالِ الصَّالِحَاتِ

and may You record them in Your presence as virtuous works,

وَاعْفِرْ لَنَا مَا دَاخَلْنَا فِيهِ مِنْ سَوَائِبٍ

and may You forgive us the blemishes

الرِّيَاءِ

of ostentation,

وَالْعُجْبِ

and self-glory,

وَالنَّصْنَعِ

and self-embellishment,

وَعَيْرَ ذَلِكَ

and other things as have interfered with them,

وَاجْعَلْهُ وَسِيلَةً لَنَا

and may You make them a means through which

إِلَى رِضَاكَ عَنَّا وَرُفْقَى لَدَيْكَ.

we are led to Your good pleasure and drawn near to You,

وَمَا قَارَفْنَا فِيهِ مِنْ سَيِّئَاتٍ وَخَطِيئَاتٍ. وَأَفْعَالٍ غَيْرِ مَرْضِيَّاتٍ. وَنِيَّاتٍ غَيْرِ صَالِحَاتٍ.

and such evil deeds and errors as we have committed. And actions unpleasing in Your sight. And intentions which are unrighteous

بِجَوَارِحِنَا وَقُلُوبِنَا

[such of these that we may have committed] with our limbs and our hearts

فَنَسْأَلُكَ اللَّهُمَّ

we ask You, Allahuma,

بِحَقِّ دَانِكَ

by virtue of Your essence

وَأَسْمَائِكَ

and Your names

وَصِفَاتِكَ

and Your attributes,

وَبِحَقِّ الْفَرَّانِ الْعَظِيمِ

and by virtue of the sublime Quran

وَكُتُبِكَ الْمُنزَّلَةِ،

and Your revealed books,

وَبِحَقِّ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

and by virtue of our master Muhammad, Allah bless him and bestow peace upon him as well as members of his household,

وَبِحَقِّ مَنْ لَهُ وَجَاهَةٌ عِنْدَكَ

and by virtue of whosoever has rank before You

مِنْ جَمِيعِ خَلْقِكَ

amongst all Your created beings,

أَنْ تَغْفِرَ الذُّنُوبَ كُلَّهَا

that You will forgive all those wrongdoings

وَتَسْتُرَ الْعُيُوبَ كُلَّهَا،

and cover all those defects,

وَتَنْفِضَ عَلَيْنَا

and that You will favour us

مِنْ وَاسِعِ جُودِكَ الْعَظِيمِ

from Your ample, magnificent, generosity

بِجَمِيعِ مَا نُؤْمَلُ،

with all that we aspire to,

وَأَنْ تُبَدِّلَ سَيِّئَاتِنَا حَسَنَاتٍ،

and that You will exchange our evils actions for good ones,

وَتُبَلِّغَنَا مِنْ رِضَاكَ عَنَّا

and that You will enable us to attain Your good pleasure

أَقْصَى الْأُمْنِيَّاتِ

at the highest level of our aspirations

وَنِهَآيَةَ الْمُرَادَاتِ

and the uppermost limit of our wishes.

وَنَحْنُ كَمَا نَعْلَمُنَا

And we, as You know us,

نَوَاصِيئِنَا بِيَدِكَ

have our forelocks in Your hands

وَأَمْرُنَا فِي جَمِيعِ حَالَاتِنَا إِلَيْكَ،

and our entire affair, in all our states, come back to You,

وَمَا قَامَ مَعَنَا مِنْ ظَنٍّ جَمِيلٍ بِكَ أَنْتَ تَعْلَمُهُ،

and whatever good opinion we cherish regarding You, You are well aware of it,

وَأَضْطَرَّارُنَا إِلَيْكَ

and our absolute dependence upon You,

وَأَفْتِقَارُنَا لَكَ

and extreme need of You,

لَا يَخْفَى عَلَيْكَ،

are not concealed from You,

وَهَذِهِ أَيْدِينَا

and here are our hands

مَبْسُوطَةٌ لَدَيْكَ

stretched out towards You

وَقُلُوبُنَا مُتَوَجِّهَةٌ إِلَيْكَ،

and our hearts are focused upon You,

فَلَا تُخَيِّبِنَا

do not therefore, turn us away empty handed,

يَا أَمَلَ الْمُؤْمَلِينَ

O, the Hope of all aspirers!

وَيَا مَلَأَ اللَّائِذِينَ،

And the Refuge of all refuge seekers!

ارْحَمْ مَنْ نَادَاكَ

Show mercy unto he who calls You

وَهُوَ يَعْتَقِدُ أَنَّكَ رَبُّهُ،

when he believes that You are his Lord

وَقَصَدَكَ وَأَنْتَ حَسْبُهُ،

and comes exclusively to You, when indeed, You are his sufficiency,

وَقَدْ اسْتَقْبَلْنَا مِنْ بَعْدِ عَامِنَا الْمَاضِي

After the outgoing year

عَامٌ جَدِيدٌ

a new year has come upon us

مَا نُدْرِي

while we do not know

مَاذَا سَبَقَ فِي عِلْمِكَ فِينَا،

what has been pre-ordained in Your knowledge regarding us.

وَرَجَاؤُنَا

And our hope is

أَنْ تَفْتَحَ لَنَا فِي هَذَا الْعَامِ الْجَدِيدِ

that You will open for us, in this new year,

بَابَ التَّوْبَةِ الصَّادِقَةِ الْخَالِصَةِ

a door of sincere, genuine, repentance

الَّتِي لَا يَعْفُوبُهَا نَكْتٌ،

from which we shall not renege,

وَأَنْ تَرَزُقَنَا فِيهِ

and that You will grace us in it

مِنَ التَّوْفِيقِ

with the ability

لِلْأَعْمَالِ الصَّالِحَةِ

for virtuous works,

الْمَقْبُولَةِ عِنْدَكَ

acceptable to You,

مَا يُوجِبُ لَنَا رِضَاكَ عَنَّا،

that will in turn grace us with Your good pleasure towards us,

وَأَنْ تَعْمُرَ جَوَارِحَنَا

and that You will employ our limbs

بِطَاعَتِكَ الْمَرْضِيَّةِ عِنْدَكَ،

in obedience that is well-pleasing in Your sight,

وَقُلُوبَنَا بِحُبِّكَ

and our hearts with love for You,

وَحُبِّ مَنْ نُحِبُّهُ

and love for whomsoever You love,

وَحُبِّ مَا نُحِبُّهُ،

and love for whatsoever You love,

وَتُوسِّعَ قُلُوبَنَا

and that You will expand our hearts

وَتُوَهَّلَهَا

and grant them the capacity

لِمَعْرِفَتِكَ الْخَاصَّةِ

for Your special knowledge,

الَّتِي أَكْرَمْتَ بِهَا عِبَادَكَ الْعَارِفِينَ

with which You have ennobled such of Your servants that are possessed of knowledge about You

وَأَوْلِيَانِكَ الصَّالِحِينَ،

and virtuous saints,

وَتَرْتِزُقُنَا مِنَ النَّقْوَى

and that You will sustain us with taqwa

الَّتِي أَكْرَمْتَ بِهَا عِبَادَكَ الْمُتَّقِينَ

with which You have ennobled servants of Yours who are endowed with taqwa

حَقِيقَتَهَا

[that You will sustain us] with its essence,

وَتَمَرَّتَهَا

its fruit,

وَأَصُولَهَا

its main roots

وَقُرُوعَهَا،

and its branches

وَنُنْزِلْنَا مِنَ الْإِسْتِقَامَةِ أَعْلَى مَنَازِلِهَا،

and may You lodge us in the highest stations of rectitude,

وَمِنَ الْيَقِينِ أَرْفَعَ مَرَاتِيهِ،

and raise us to certainty at the highest levels of certainty,

وَتَسْلُكَ بِنَا سَبِيلَ الْإِتِّبَاعِ

and that You may grant us entry to the path of following,

فِي الْأَقْوَالِ

in words,

وَالْأَفْعَالِ

deeds,

وَالنِّيَّاتِ

intentions,

وَالْأَعْمَالِ

and works,

لِحَبِيبِكَ

Your beloved,

أَشْرَفَ خَلْقِكَ عَلَيْكَ

the most honoured of created beings in your presence,

سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدَ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ،

namely our master Muhammad, may Allah bless him and bestow peace upon him, as well as his household,

وَتُوفِّرَ حَظَّنَا مِنْ حُبِّ

and that You may make ample our share of love

هَذَا الْحَبِيبِ

for this beloved

وَالتَّبَاعِهِ

and of following him

فِي كُلِّ أَحْوَالِنَا،

in all our states

وَتَجْعَلْنَا يَا رَبَّنَا

and that You make us, O our Lord,

مِنْ أَسْعَدِ النَّاسِ بِهِ

among the happiest of people by virtue of him,

وَأَقْرَبِ النَّاسِ إِلَيْهِ

and those closest to him,

وَمِنْ أَعْظَمِ الْخَلْقِ مَوَدَّةً لَهُ،

and among those who cherish the greatest lasting love for him,

وَسَرِّقْنَا بِرُؤْيَا وَجْهِهِ الشَّرِيفِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

and may You honour us with the vision of his honoured face, Allah bless him and bestow peace upon him and his household

وَهُوَ رَاضٍ عَنَّا

whilst he is well pleased with us,

فِي الْمَنَامِ

in sleep

وَالْيَقَظَةِ

and our wakeful moments,

وَفِي الدُّنْيَا

in this world,

وَالْبَرْزَخِ

the world in between

وَوَفِي الْآخِرَةِ،

and the hereafter,

وَأَكْرَمْنَا يَا رَبَّنَا

and may You honour us, O our Lord,

بِالْبَرَكَةِ التَّامَّةِ الوَاسِعَةِ فِي أَعْمَالِنَا،

with complete and copious blessing in our works,

وَفِي نِيَّاتِنَا

our intentions,

وَفِي أَرْزَاقِنَا

and our sustenance

وَفِي حَرَكَاتِنَا

and in our movements

وَسَكِّنَاتِنَا،

and stillness,

وَأَجْعَلِ الأَعْوَامَ المُسْتَقْبَلَةَ مِنْ أَعْمَارِنَا

and may You make the coming years of our lives

دَائِرَةً عَلَيْنَا بِالثَّبَاتِ عَلَى دِينِكَ،

rotate around firmness in our religion

وَالِإِقْبَالَ عَلَى خِدْمَتِكَ،

and dedication to Your service,

وَأَحْفَظْنَا فِي جَمِيعِ ذَلِكَ مِنْ شَرِّ الشَّيْطَانِ

and may You protect us in all this from the evil of Satan,

وَعَمَلِهِ

and his works,

وَشَرِّ النَّفْسِ الأَمَّارَةِ بِالسُّوءِ وَعَمَلِهَا،

and from the evil of the evil-commanding soul, and its work,

وَشَرِّ فِتْنَةِ الدُّنْيَا،

and from the evil of worldly temptation,

وَأَحْفَظْنَا مِنَ الوُقُوعِ مَعَ زَخَارِفِهَا

and may You protect us from plunging into its gewgaws,

وَزِينَتَهَا

and its decorations,

وَمِمَّا اخْتَبَرْنَا بِهِ فِيهَا مِنْ مَالٍ وَعِيَالٍ

and from such tests as derive from it in the area of wealth and dependents

وَاغْيَرِ ذَلِكَ،

and things other than these,

وَمِنْ مُطَاوَعَةِ الْهَوَى الْمُرْدِيِّ،

and from yielding to ruinous passions,

وَأَحْفَظْنَا مِنْ تَغْلِيْبِ جَانِبِ الْحَطُوْطِ الْعَاجِلَةِ،

and may You protect us from being overwhelmed in the domain of ephemeral desires,

وَمِنْ فِرْنَاءِ السُّوءِ وَمُخَالَطَتِهِمْ،

and from evil companions and their companionship,

وَأَجْعَلْ أَوْقَاتَ أَعْمَارِنَا الْمُتَجَدِّدَةِ

and may You make our renewed spans of life

مَصْرُوفَةً كُلُّهَا فِيْمَا يُرْضِيْكَ عَنَّا،

all employed in what is well pleasing to You,

وَمَا تَفَضَّلْتَ بِهِ عَلَيْنَا مِنْ نِعَمٍ

and such bounties as You have generously bestowed upon us,

وَقَفْنَا فِيْهِ لِلسُّكْرِ عَلَى ذَلِكَ،

may You enable us to offer gratitude for that,

وَأَجْعَلْنَا يَا رَبَّنَا

and may You make us, O our Lord,

مِنَ الْمُسْتَمْسِكِيْنَ بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقَى

among those who hold firm to the firm handhold

مِنَ الصِّدْقِ مَعَكَ فِي جَمِيعِ تَوَجُّهَاتِنَا.

of sincerity towards You, in all our pursuits,

وَعُمَّ بِهَذِهِ الدَّعَوَاتِ

and may You embrace in all these supplications

أَوْلَادِنَا

our children

وَوَالِدِينَا

and our parents,

وَأَصْحَابِنَا

and our friends

وَإِخْوَانِنَا فِي الدِّينِ،

and our brethren in religion,

وَهَبْ لَنَا قُوَّةً

and endow us with an immense strength

تَقْوَىٰ بِهَا عَلَى طَاعَتِكَ

which will [further] strengthen us in obedience to You,

وَأَدَاءِ حَقِّكَ عَلَى الْوَجْهِ الَّذِي تُحِبُّهُ وَتَرْضَاهُ،

and in the discharge of Your obligation upon us, in the manner that You like,
and with which You are well pleased,

وَأَجْعَلْ لَنَا حِطًّا وَأَفِرًّا مِنَ التَّشْمِيرِ فِي خِدْمَتِكَ

and may You grant us a plentiful share with which to strive vigorously in Your
service,

وَمُواصَلَةَ الْأَعْمَالِ الْمُوجِبَةِ لِرِضَاكَ،

and in the constancy of such works as will earn Your good pleasure,

وَأَفْتَحْ لَنَا فِتْحًا مُبِينًا

and may You open for us, a manifest opening,

فِي تَدَبُّرِ الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ

in the reflection of the magnificent Quran,

وَالْوُفُوفِ عَلَى أَسْرَارِهِ

and in the access to its secrets,

وَحُسْنِ الْأَدَبِ عِنْدَ تِلَاوَةِ آيَاتِهِ

and in the excellent manners at the time of reciting its verses,

وَسَمَاعِهَا،

and when listening to them,

وَارْزُقْنَا يَا رَبَّنَا

and may You grant us, O our Lord,

حِفْظَ أَلْفَاظِهِ

the memorisation of its words

وَحِفْظَ حَقِّهِ

and the fulfilling of its obligations,

وِإِجَابَةَ دَاعِيهِ

and the response to its call,

وَالْمُبَادَرَةَ إِلَى إِمْتِثَالِ أَمْرِهِ

and the hastening to abide by its commands

وَأَجْتِنَابَ نَهْيِهِ،

and the avoidance of its prohibitions,

وَأَجْعَلْنَا مِنْ أَهْلِ الْوَقَاءِ بِحَقِّهِ

and may You make us amongst a people who are loyally wedded to its rights,

وَأَجْعَلْهُ لَنَا عِنْدَكَ شَاهِدًا بِالصِّدْقِ فِي الْعَمَلِ بِمَا دَعَانَا إِلَيْهِ يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ.

and may You appoint it for us, in Your presence, a witness of sincerity through fulfilling what it calls us to, O Most Merciful of the Merciful, [since every merciful one receives the gift of mercy from You],

وَصَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ.

and may Allah bestow blessings on our master Muhammad and his household, and upon his companions in their entirety, and the praise is Allah's, Lord of all universes.

Credits:

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