

Ghadir Khumm: The Day of Perfection*

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*Rejoice. Arise! It's time to open your eyes!
The Sun has risen outside, can you feel it inside!? (1)*

*There's a special feeling within the air
Not just in Ghadeer Khumm but everywhere! (2)*

*The animals & Jinn – You know they heard it too
Mankind's new Mawla, it's really true! (3)*

*The announcement was made right between the 2 cities
It sunk deep within my heart with joy & with ease (4)*

*Noorun ala Noor. This means Light upon Light!
The Truth would be known by those with insight' (5)*

*The Imam was now Chosen. He would guide us like the Sun
Now let me unfold how the story begun... (6)*

*The spirit of search had been there, right from the very start
The Messenger encouraged the quest of the heart. (7)*

We'd performed the Hajj seeking transformation
Our souls had been deeply immersed in contemplation. (8)

But on return from the House, a Message was received.
Inspired in the one that our hearts all believed. (9)

He had guided & enlightened our paths for so long
With love & with kindness, how could we ever go wrong? (10)

Now something had descended from the Lord of Creation.
All stopped & was still with anticipation. (11)

On the crowd fell a silence a desire to hear
The words of the Messenger received from the "Near"² (12)

The Beloved of Allah ascended the mountain
Of saddles & palms, way too many to count them! (13)

He raised his voice so that all of us could hear
Yet with whispered beauty, He said: "My time is near" (14)

No! It cannot be! My Father & Friend!
How can it be that this is the End!? (15)

Our hearts grew so heavy & our eyes began to tear...
But with love overflowing we lent him our ear. (16)

“The end!?” he asked!? “You know it will never be so!”
We all looked so stunned as his smile began to grow! (17)

“What can he mean? Isn’t he departing forever...?”
The thought made me weak at the knees but I held it together (18)

He was smiling so wide now I couldn’t believe it.
We knew that he had news & was so eager to share it! (19)

All of a sudden the crowd softened to hush
He began to speak & said “In Allah I Trust!” (20)

“The Lord of the Worlds has informed me of my time...
“But don’t think He will leave you unguided with no Sign!”³ (21)

“Have I conveyed His message to you!?
Yes of course O Messenger, it is so! It is true!” (22)

His smile grew so wide almost encompassing all things
A joy inconceivable. What felt like a win! (23)

Not just for the Umma but the whole of mankind
Someone was to continue so that we would never go blind!⁴ (24)

Allah loved us so, He would never leave us wandering
But who was to continue!? My soul could not stop wondering! (25)

The Beloved reminded us to hold true to Revelation!
This chapter was closed. Now it was time for interpretation. (26)

Prophecy would end but guidance would remain
The figure would change but the essence was the same! (27)

Revelation was just one of the Two Weighty Things!⁵
His Family, the Ark would save all things! (28)

It was with them that His Treasures would be kept & protected
Ensuring that the essence would never be affected. (29)

The Book of Allah & the Progeny of Rasool
Follow one without other!? You must think that I'm a fool! (30)

He continued his speech & my ears continued to listen
In the warmth of the Sun, my eyes began to glisten... (31)

Words flowed from his mouth like pearls from the Sea.
I remembered his teachings which had so set me free! (32)

I continued to ask now, who could it be!?
But I had to wait no longer for he summoned 'Ali! (33)

The bravest of all who had led from the very front
In speech he was so eloquent but could also be very blunt! (34)

His speech could cut through the false & the true
& the power of his intellect took deep root within you! ⁶ (35)

This was the one whom the Prophet had called Lion
Haydar & Murtaza – He was now the scion! (36)

The news was now spreading so far & so wide.
This was a new dawn. The turning of the tide. (37)

With this Revelation was a victory for the World!
We began to rejoice for 'Ali was unfurled! (38)

This was a moment a Day of Perfection
In him was the Truth, with perfect Reflection. ⁷ (39)

This was the day of the mighty 'Ali
One day the world would witness & see. (40)

His Light comes neither from the East nor West⁸
& the ones who see Him are those truly blessed. (41)

He lights the way to spiritual vision
& bestows abundantly on spiritual children (42)

Today He exists as the One Most Giving⁹
His Nur is pervading, All-Knowing, All-Seeing¹⁰ (43)

The gift of Imamatus began on that blessed Day.
& since that moment He's guided our every Way! (44)

Now you know the story of the Day of Perfection!
We hope that its meanings will inspire reflection... (45)

On the day of Ghadir, time & space stood still
To witness the unfolding of the Divine Will" (46)

All rejoiced within the heavens & the earth
From far-flung corners across the universe. (47)

It came from His Love
A grace from above (48)

The Imamatus was manifest and had now begun!
On this day we witnessed the rising of the Sun! (49)

1. Reference to both the ***Quranic verse (41:53)*** in which Allah says “We shall show them our Signs in the horizons and within themselves until it becomes manifest that this is the Truth” but also to the ***Shi’i notion*** that the Prophets and the Imams are the *mazahir* (loci of manifestation and perfect reflections) of the Divine Qualities which reflect themselves in the mirror of their pure souls. In this sense, al-Haqq (the Truth/Reality) is revealed through the *Batini Noorani Didar* of the Imam in which perception and experience of the Imam’s Noor is identified with the Divine recognition - The fact that it is an inner experience is also reflected in the ***Hadith*** of Imam Ali (a.s.) in which he explains that it is indeed possible to have a Vision or ‘Didar’ of the Lord but that physical eyes do not perceive Him rather He is recognised by the Inner Realities of Faith (*haqa’iq al-iman*).
2. Reference to ***Quranic verse (2:186)*** in which Allah tells believers to remember that when we call upon Him, He is indeed Near.
3. Reference to the ***Hadith*** of Imam Ali (a.s.) and the subsequent Shi’i notion that the Imam is the greatest or most Supreme Sign or Proof of Allah upon the Earth.
4. Reference to ***Preamble F*** of the Ismaili Constitution which articulates how the Imam's *Ta’lim* lights the *murid’s* (disciple’s) path to “spiritual enlightenment and vision”.
5. Reference to the famous ***Prophetic Hadith al-Thaqalayn*** (the Two Weighty Things) in which the Prophet declared that he would be leaving behind the *Kitab* of Allah and his progeny, the Imams descended from the *Ahl al-Bayt* for salvation of the believers. The two would never separate until they reached him at the pond of Paradise in the hereafter.
6. Reference to a ***Speech*** made by the 49th Imam of the Shia Ismaili Muslims at the Inauguration Address at the Aga Khan University in Karachi, Pakistan, 11th November 1985.
7. Reference to the ***Quranic verse (5:3)*** in which Allah refers to the perfection of Islam which - in the Shi’i belief - occurred at this point when the Imamatus was proclaimed.
8. Reference to the ***Quranic verse (24:35)*** known famously as the “Light Verse” in which Allah is described through the beautiful metaphor of Light unfolding throughout creation. The early Shi’i Imams, in commenting on the verse, described themselves as the “Light of the Heavens and the Earth”, this Light being drawn neither from the East nor West, but directly from the Divine Essence.
9. Reference to the ***Divine Name of*** “al-Karim” meaning “The Most Generous” which is the name of the current 49th Ismaili Imam Prince Karim al-Husayni Aga Khan.
10. Reference to the ***Quranic verse (36:12)*** in the Ismaili Du’a in which Allah explains that “We have vested everything in the Manifest Imam” and the subsequent ***Shi’i notion*** that the Imams are in possession of special and divinely-inspired knowledge *ilm* which is bestowed upon them as bearers of the *Nur* (Light) of Allah.
11. Reference to ***Shi’i notion*** that the appointment by the Prophet of Hazrat Imam Ali (a.s.) as the *Mawla* of the believers at Ghadir Khumm was by way of *Nass* (on Divine Command) just as the Holy Prophet himself had been divinely-appointed by Allah.

* The above poem has been composed with **49 verses** as an expression of love, praise, and devotion, in honour of the present living Imam, Mawlana Shah Karim al-Husayni, of the Shia Imami Ismaili Muslims who is the 49th Imam and direct lineal descendant of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (s.a.s.)