

SELECTIONS FROM MUNAJAT NAMA  
(LITANIES, OR INTIMATE  
CONVERSATIONS WITH ALLAH)

BY  
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O Allah,

When you brand a heart with your love,  
You scatter its heap of being to the winds of  
nonexistence.

O Allah, Whosoever comes to know you  
And raises the banner of your love  
Will cast off all that is other than you

O Allah,

Life in my body pulsates only for thee  
My heart beats in resignation to thy will.  
If on my dust a tuft of grass were to grow,  
Every blade would tremble with my devotion for thee.

O Allah,

Even though I am not very  
Still I have no one but you

O Allah,

There is no limit to your grace.  
There is no tongue capable of uttering thanks to you.

O Allah,  
Ask us not what we have produced  
that we should not be perplexed!  
Ask us not what we have done  
that we should not be disgraced!

O Allah,  
Seek not from us obedience to you,  
for we are not capable.  
Speak not of our worthiness of you,

O Allah,  
What use has he of his soul who has known you?  
What use has he of offspring and family?  
When you drive one mad,  
You give him both this world and the next:  
What use has the madman for this world or the next?

O Allah,  
You commanded us to obey you  
and then prevented us from doing so.  
You forbade us to disobey you  
and then made us disobedient.  
You who are slow to anger and swift to make amends,  
You have raised the banner of imperfection over our  
heads.

O Allah,  
You summon us down a path in which are pitfalls

If I fall into a pit, what fault is it of my companions?

O Allah,

What is it to have mercy on the obedient?  
What is the value of mercy when it extends to everyone?

O Allah,

If Satan taught man evil,  
who provided him with the wheat?

O Allah,

You are ever-present. Why then should I search?  
You are ever-mindful. What then should I say?

O Allah,

Although Heaven is bright and beautiful beyond  
compare,  
without the vision of you it is painful and searing.

Although musk is sweet-scented,  
it has not the life-giving breath of your odour.  
A beautiful and pleasant station is Paradise,  
but it has not the splendour of your lane.

O Allah,

If I devote but a moment to you,  
how then could I fancy houris and mansions in Paradise?

O Allah,

Beauty is yours alone:  
All else is hideous.

Ascetics are given Heaven as a wage.

O Allah,

Everyone fears you,  
But Abdullah fears himself,  
for all that comes of you is good,  
But what comes of Abdullah, bad.

O Allah,

Others are intoxicated by wine:  
I am intoxicated by the cupbearer.  
Their intoxication is ephemeral,  
but mine abides forever.

O Allah,

I am intoxicated by you.  
I am free from the draught and goblet.  
I am your bird. I am free of the grain and the snare.  
You are what I seek in the Kaaba and the idol-temple  
Otherwise, I am free of both these states.

O Allah,

You cast pearls of purity into Adam's lap.  
You smeared the dust of rebellion on Satan's brow.  
These two natures you mingled together.  
We humbly confess that we have done wrong.  
Blame us not!  
It was you who stirred up the dust of temptation!

O Allah,

For a long time I sought you and found myself.

Now I seek myself and find you.  
You were stealthily apparent, and I unaware.  
You were hidden in my breast, and I unaware.  
To the exclusion of all the world I sought you openly.  
You were the whole world, and I was unaware.

O Allah,  
I am aware of my own inability,  
I bear witness to my own helplessness.  
All will is yours. What can I will?  
I want not eternal life from you,  
I want not the good things of this life,  
I want not my heart's desire or my soul's repose.  
What I desire of you is whatever your pleasure is.

O Allah,  
When you had the flame of separation,  
why did you kindle the fire of hell?

O Allah,  
To sin in the face of your generosity is contemptible  
because your generosity is eternal  
and sin is of the moment.

O Allah,  
What grace is this that you have bestowed on your  
friends?  
Whoever recognizes you finds them,  
and whoever finds you recognizes them.

O Allah,  
If you wish to burn Abdullah,  
Then it will take another hell to consume him.  
If you wish to soothe him,  
it will take another Heaven to give him rest.

O Allah,  
I am annoyed by those acts of obedience  
that cause me to be proud.  
Happy that disobedience that brings me to my knees.

O Allah,  
The rose of Heaven is a thorn in the feet of mystics.  
What cares he for Heaven who is searching for you?

O Allah,  
You exist. I exist not.  
Can that which exists not demand something  
from that which exists?  
Who am I to do such a thing?

O Allah,  
Though I may be an offender,  
I am a Muslim.  
If I am a sinner,  
I am regretful.  
If you want to punish me,  
I'll obey your command.  
If you have mercy,  
I deserve it.

O Allah,  
If the pure must beg forgiveness,  
what must the impure have to do?  
There where the eagle will be overturned,  
Contemplate how the owl will be.

O Allah,  
Your glorious Book is a keepsake from you.  
Since you are present therein,  
what need is there of a memento?

O Allah,  
Everybody fears the day of retribution,  
But Abdullah fears the day of pre-eternity  
Because what you decreed in the beginning  
Will never be changed in the end.

O Allah,  
You have said that you are generous.  
Therein lie all our hopes.  
Since you have said that you are merciful,  
we are forbidden to be despondent.

O Allah,  
If I have not been a friend,  
I have not been an enemy either.  
Although I persist in sinning,  
still I confess your oneness.  
No matter how much you take away from me,  
I take nothing away from you.

O Allah,  
In this world the disobedience we do  
makes your beloved Muhammad sad  
and your enemy Iblis happy.  
If you torment us at the Resurrection,  
again your beloved will be sad  
and your enemy happy.

O Allah,  
Don't give your enemy two occasions for happiness  
and your beloved two occasions for sorrow.

O Allah,  
You made Creation gratis.  
You provided sustenance gratis.  
Have mercy on us gratis:  
You are Allah, not a merchant!

O Allah,  
Bu-Jahl comes from the Kaaba,  
and Abraham from the idol temple.  
Everything depends upon your favour:  
The rest is just pretext.  
If I am not worthy of the trust,  
on the first day you knew what I was like.  
Forgive my sorrowful heart,  
for humanity is torment in my religion.  
With your eternal knowledge you me.



You what you were buying, in spite of my faults.  
You and your knowledge.  
Me and my faults.  
Don't send back what you once approved.

O Allah,  
Of your grace give Abdullah wine,  
that his vision be not clouded by his intellect.

O Allah,  
What value have I to be worthy of you?  
If you will, chastise me.  
If you will, forgive me.  
You hold the key: How should I open the door?

O Allah,  
What am I to do with Paradise?  
What games am I to play with the houris?  
Give me an eye to make a Paradise of my every glance.

O Allah,  
What I, a mere beggar, desire of you  
is more than a thousand kings could wish.  
Everyone has a request to make of you,  
but I have come to ask you for yourself.

O Lord,  
Provide me with repentance.  
Provide me with obedience worthy of you.  
Before I finish my labour in this world,

provide me with freedom  
from this world and the next.

O Paradise,  
I am not concerned with you: Don't be so long-winded!  
O Hell,  
I am not afraid of you: Don't tell me about yourself!

If one abandons the rigor of knowledge  
for the delights of the black-eyed "houris",  
the purity of his knowledge is shattered.

If you walk on water, you are wet.  
If you fly in the air, you are a fly.  
Fall in love in order to be somebody!  
Fasting to endurance is a way to save on food.  
Vigil and prayer is a labour for old women.  
The pilgrimage is an occasion for tourism.  
To distribute bread in alms is something for  
philanthropists:

Fall in love:  
That is doing something!

Knowledge is a shoreless ocean  
in which the knower's soul is a signpost.

Hallaj said, "I am Allah" and crowned the gallows.  
Abdullah said, "Allah" and was crowned.  
What Hallaj said, I too have said

He said it aloud.

I, silently

He who knows three things is saved from three things:

Who knows that the Creator made no mistakes at  
Creation

is saved from cavilling.

Who knows that He made no favouritism in allotting  
fortune

is saved from jealousy.

Who knows of what he is created  
is saved from pride.

What grief does the humble have for his daily bread?

He who conceals his affair is given no less;

He who seeks openly is given no more

That which Allah has allotted neither increases one iota  
nor occurs one instant sooner.

Beginners have speech on their tongues.

The advanced have neither the power to speak

Nor the means to express.

Allah's favour comes unexpectedly,

But only to an alert heart.

Put not your hope in people,

for you will be wounded.

Put your hope in Allah  
that you may be delivered.