

DAILY QUR'ANIC REFLECTIONS

From Juz' 22: The Spiritual Symphony

إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا

Indeed Allāh and His angels send choicest mercy on the Prophet (S), O believers! Send your choicest blessings upon him and be subservient to him completely (or send peace upon him utterly). (ʿal-ʿAḥzāb:56)

Reflections:

If there is one way to achieve pristine synchrony with the metaphysical realms of Allāh's creation, it is through becoming in-sync with the Creator and angelic beings. The Almighty invites us in the Holy Qur'ān to join Him, his angels and all angelic aspirants (the Believers) to send Ṣalawāt on the Holy Prophet (S) and to submit utterly to his station in full peace and tranquility. The salutations that are such a central component of our spiritual tradition, are rather keys that hold the secret to our inner tranquility by joining in the angelic symphony.

Holding the Prophet (S) of Mercy in the highest regard: The believers are not only invited to hear the message and follow the guidance of the Prophet (S), but the regard shown to the Prophet (S) is meant to be the highest possible for any creation. What can be said of the being who is the Most Beloved of the Beloved, a complete and pristine manifestation of the Divine perfections, and the light that invites to Eternal Felicity. No doubt the All-Merciful has granted His Prophet (S) the station of being the mercy unto all realms of existence; the primary conduit for the transmission of all Divine Mercy. Sending Ṣalawāt, not only invokes God's mercy on the Prophet, rather it prepares our beings to let Divine mercy touch our core, transform and purify us towards Godliness.

The Holy Progeny (ʿa) inseparable from the Holy Prophet (S): In numerous instances the Holy Prophet (S) has taught the salawāt, as one that sends mercy upon him and his progeny together, even warning against sending incomplete invocations that leave the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa) out of the supplication. No doubt the Holy Household holds the status vis-à-vis the creation that the Holy Prophet (S) holds, as a continuation of the blessed presence of the Prophet (S) himself. They infact belong to the same existential reality – an Illumination that drives the ones astray towards the Lord Himself. In the same Sūrah, the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa) have been certified to be the holders of the station of being Divinely purified, a thorough purification¹.

Turn to the spiritual symphony for synchrony: The heaviest thing on the scale of deeds on the Day of Judgement, the key to the fulfillment of desires, acceptance of deeds, seeking supplication, and the light on the Ṣirāt is the Ṣalawāt on the Holy Prophet (S) and His Progeny (ʿa). This act out of all is the cure for hypocrisy and our moral illnesses. If the mere invocation of the name and seeking mercy on the Infallibles (ʿa) has this impact, what if we were to follow them with full subservience and utter obedience?! A believer reaches a station in his commitment that even he becomes part of the Divine invocation - "He is the one who sends Ṣalawāt upon you, and (likewise) his angels, to draw you out of darkness towards the Light"².

To ponder: On this night of Qadr unfathomable in its greatness, why may the core of the Prophet (S) – Lady Fatimah (SA) be termed the secret to the night – unfathomable in her status and how may it relate to Ṣalawāt?

References: ʿAllāmah Ṭabaṭabei, *Tafsir al-Mizān*. Āyatullāh Makārim Shirāzī, *Tafsir Nimuneh*.