

Munājāt Sha‘bāniyyah (12) – Don’t turn away from me!

Based on the exposition by ‘Āyatullāh Shaykh Muḥammad Bāqir Tahrīrī

26 Sha‘bān 1446 – 25 February 2025

إِلَهِي أَقْمِنِي فِي أَهْلِ وَلَايَتِكَ مُقَامَ مَنْ رَجَا الزِّيَادَةَ مِنْ مَحَبَّتِكَ

My God! Position me amongst people of Your Guardianship and Love, the position of the one who hopes for increase in Your Love.

إِلَهِي وَ الْهَمْنِي وَلَهَا بِذِكْرِكَ إِلَى ذِكْرِكَ وَ هَمَّتِي فِي رُوحِ نَجَاحِ
أَسْمَائِكَ وَ مَحَلِّ قُدْسِكَ

My God! Inspire me with an ecstatic passion through Your Remembrance, for (more of) Your Remembrance, and (grant me) an exertion in reaching the tranquility of Your Felicitous Names and Your Sacred Position.

إِلَهِي بِكَ عَلَيْنِكَ إِلَّا أَلْحَقْتَنِي بِمَحَلِّ أَهْلِ طَاعَتِكَ وَ الْمُنَى
الصَّالِحِ مِنْ مَرْضَاتِكَ

My God! I intercede to You for Your sake, that You admit me to the position of the people of Your Obedience, and the Befitting Station from Your Pleasure.

فَإِنِّي لَا أَقْدِرُ لِنَفْسِي دَفْعًا وَ لَا أَمْلِكُ لَهَا نَفْعًا

Since I am surely not capable of barring (any harm) from myself, nor do I own for it any benefit.

إِلَهِي أَنَا عَبْدُكَ الضَّعِيفُ الْمُنْذِبُ وَ مَمْلُوكُكَ الْمُنِيبُ (الْمُعِيبُ)
فَلَا تَجْعَلْنِي مِمَّنْ صَرَفَتْ عَنْهُ وَجْهَكَ وَ حَجَبَهُ سَهْوُهُ عَنِ عَفْوِكَ

My God! I am Your weak and sinful servant, and Your penitent slave; so do not place me from those that You have turned Your Face away from him, and his oblivion has veiled him from Your Pardon.

My God, increase me in Your Walayah, Your Mahabbah, Your Dhikr, ability to reach Your Names, Your Sanctity!

In this section of the Munājāt, the servant seeks the quintessence from his Lord – the station of Guardianship and Walāyah, which makes the humble obedient servant reach the position where the secrets of God’s creation are exposed to the wayfarer, and he in his journey becomes more proximate, and resultantly an agent for execution of the Divine mission. With this rise comes increase in Love; not only sought, but acquired, through the constant and perpetual, unadulterated Remembrance of the Beloved, whose Mention evokes endearment, whose Names are sources of human felicity and whose Sanctified Position is the ultimate goal.

The infatuation is so strong, and the ecstatic passion is so penetrating to the soul, that the wayfarer enters into a state of seeing none but Him; not interceding through any Names, rather through the Essence (bika ‘alayka), wanting to enter into the ultimate realm of servitude and utter obedience, which shall make him rise to the station befitting the beholding of ultimate Divine Pleasure. Now more than ever, the whisperer sees nothing in himself of himself; no ability except through Him, no strength except His, and no way to protect or benefit himself except through Him!

Divine Love is the essence of creation, through which it was sourced, it progresses, it seeks perfection. The believers have the most intense love for the Almighty¹, which leads them from trivial goals for servitude such as fear of Hellfire, or desire for Heaven, towards the higher goal of worship and obedience out of love for Him, considering Him worthy of their adulation, and reaching ultimate freedom². A person entering God’s Loving Walāyah is such a worthy servant, not only gains perpetual guidance³, enters the station of no fear and no worry⁴, and a state where the Almighty goes to war for his sake and grant him more of His Love due to his performance of obligatory and supererogatory acts⁵. The remembrance of the Almighty is central to the process – Dhikr is the deep connection and attachment to the Names and the Sacred Station of the Beloved; one calls He responds, one remembers He Remembers even more, and fills the servant’s heart with tranquility and solace⁶.

Insignificance seeking Significant Attention: The humble whisperer, in secret conversation, has a desperate ask from the All-Mighty. Knowing that he is nothing but insignificance and existential poverty, the only link to survival is the constant Attention from the Significant. At this stage, words cannot describe, hearts cannot fathom but through the Mercy and Strength of the One who Pardons and Perfects!

Reflection: What does it mean to be an agent of the Almighty, executing His Mission, being under His Walāyah?

Discussion (with a scholar): Oblivion takes away while Remembrance returns – how does one maintain perpetual Remembrance of the Almighty?

¹ Sūrah al-Baqarah 2:165

² ‘Imām as-Ṣādiq ‘a - ‘Usūl al-Kāfi v.2 p.84, n.5

³ Sūrah al-Baqarah 2:257

⁴ Sūrah Yūnus 10:62

⁵ The Holy Prophet S - ‘Usūl al-Kāfi v.2 p.352, n.7,8

⁶ Sūrah al-Ra’d 13:28