



5 Rabi al Thani 1436

Dearest RasoolAllah,

As salaamu 'alayka ayuhan Nabi wa Rahmatullah wa Barakatuh,

I pray these words, as utterly feeble as they are, reach you in state that you are pleased with me. I pray that you smile such that your noble teeth shine with a light that greets me here so many miles from your Abode. I pray that you are delighted such that you declare your love for me to the two Noble Companions with whom you reside there in your Blessed Garden. I ask this of my Lord by your Noble Name.

Do you remember that morning so many years ago when I was bidding farewell to your Illuminated City? There, in the Shade of Angels, I finally began to realize what was happening to me. There, in the Shade of your Green Dome, it occurred to me that perhaps I was leaving my heart at the foot of that Blessed Door of Peace. This was as much meaning I could make of my tears.

As I look back to that fortnight in Medina and its environs, I know I have fallen short of the precious lessons gifted there. I remember that I walked barefoot numerous times in the Old City perchance that I pay set foot upon the earth that remains blessed because of your walking there. These many years later, was this walking merely a ritual, O Beloved of Allah?

In the years that have passed, I have felt that warmth of reunion and the agony of separation many a time. Was this perhaps you returning my heart for examination? This is Divine Polishing, I know, but I am afraid that I have not followed your example of concern with the diligence nor the sincerity due upon it.

There have been too many nights that I have not cried in yearning for the Creator of the Heavens and Earth as you cried. There have been too many times that I have not smiled at my parents in grace and gratitude. There are too many times that I have not seen to my neighbor's needs.. There have been too many times when I have not raised my hands in prayer for the oppressed and needy as you have. There have been too many times that I have not served in the soup kitchens and the back alleys of the indigent. There are too many times when I have not remained patient with those who have sought my assistance. There have been too many times when my knowledge has fallen short of the needs of the community. There have been too many times when I, out of arrogance, have not responded to others in gentleness and mercy.

There have been too many times that I have not stood in prayer and worshiped as you stood.

It seems that I didn't quite succeed at leaving my heart there with you at the Door of Peace. I'm afraid that those were tears of a love lacking.

Nevertheless, I remain enveloped in mercy upon mercy. I know now that my heart is because you are. **I am** because you are. Endless peace and blessings be upon you. I know too that these realizations are mere specks of dust in the ocean that is your concern for me. I pray that by that concern, I am graced to follow your example, and perchance be granted the good fortune of truly leaving my heart with you. Aameen.

With a love infinite and a heart yearning,

Yours