Knocking at Allah’s door

Habib Ali bin Muhammad al-Habshi’s supplication for the beginning of the year.

In his book, *A Breath of Fragrance*, al-Habib Umar bin Ahmad bin Abi Bakr bin Sumeit refers to Habib Ali in the following terms: ‘He is an Imam about whose sublime sainthood there is unanimity, as there was universal witness to the fact he was the rising sun of the horizons, the vicegerent of the master of all Envoys and the incumbent of an exalted station in the ranks of those drawn nigh to Allah, the blessing of existence and the ka’ba of munificence’. Come and share with us the oratory of his soul.

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

*In the Name of Allah the All-Merciful the All-Compassionate*

آخرم الله رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

All praise is Allah’s, Lord of all creations.

أَلْهَمْنَاهُ مُحَمَّدًا 

O Lord, with all beauteous names (Allahuma),

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ 

bestow blessings and peace upon our master Muhammad,

إِلَيْكَ 

our supreme access to You

مَا رَجَعْنَاهُ مَعَلَمَةً 

in the answer to what we supplicate for,

مَا سَجَدْنَاهُ مَأْتِرَأً 

the achievement of what we aspire to,

وَعَفَرَ مَا جَنَّتَاهُ 

and the forgiving of such wrongdoings as we have committed,
and upon members of his household and his companions and those who support him.

Indeed, elapsed in our span of life is a whole year,

You have garlanded us in it with Your bounties

for which we are unable to offer gratitude,

and You have protected us in it

from evils and unpleasant things

from which we could not have protected ourselves,

and we have put into it works

of which You are All-Knowing.

Such good deeds which You have enabled us to do in it,

may You please accept that from us,

and may You record them in Your presence as virtuous works,
and may You forgive us the blemishes

الرِّياء

of ostentation,

والعُجِب

and self-glory,

والتصنع

and self-embellishment,

وَغَيْرِ ذلِك

and other things as have interfered with them,

واجعلها وسيلة لنا

and may You make them a means through which

إلى رضاك عنا ورافقى لديك

we are led to Your good pleasure and drawn near to You,

وَمَا قارفنا فيه من سيِنات وخطيِّات

and such evil deeds and errors as we have committed. And actions unpleasing

نفَرُنا وفلعِبنا

in Your sight. And intentions which are unrighteous

بجوارتنا وفلعِبنا

[such of these that we may have committed] with our limbs and our hearts

فسألك الفهم

we ask You, Allahuma,

بِحَقّ ذائك

by virtue of Your essence

وآسمائك

and Your names
and Your attributes,

and by virtue of the sublime Quran

and Your revealed books,

and by virtue of our master Muhammad, Allah bless him and bestow peace upon him as well as members of his household,

and by virtue of whosoever has rank before You

amongst all Your created beings,

that You will forgive all those wrongdoings

and cover all those defects,

and that You will favour us

from Your ample, magnificent, generosity

with all that we aspire to,

and that You will exchange our evils actions for good ones,
and that You will enable us to attain Your good pleasure

أقصى الأمانيات

at the highest level of our aspirations

وهنئال المرادات

and the uppermost limit of our wishes.

ونحن كما تعلمنا

And we, as You know us,

نوصيننا بيدك

have our forelocks in Your hands

وأمرنا في جميع حالاتنا إليك،

and our entire affair, in all our states, come back to You,

ومما قام معنا من طن جميل بك أنت تعلمه،

and whatever good opinion we cherish regarding You, You are well aware of it,

واضطرارنا إليك

and our absolute dependence upon You,

واقتافتنا لك

and extreme need of You,

لا يخفى عليك،

are not concealed from You,

وهذه أكثنا

and here are our hands

مبسوطة لديك

stretched out towards You

وقلونا موجهة إليك،

and our hearts are focused upon You,
do not therefore, turn us away empty handed,

O, the Hope of all aspirers!

And the Refuge of all refuge seekers!

Show mercy unto he who calls You

when he believes that You are his Lord

and comes exclusively to You, when indeed, You are his sufficiency,

After the outgoing year

a new year has come upon us

while we do not know

what has been pre-ordained in Your knowledge regarding us.

And our hope is

that You will open for us, in this new year,
باب الثواب الصادقة الخالصة

a door of sincere, genuine, repentance

التي لا يعجّيها نكث،

from which we shall not renege,

وأن ترزقنا فيه.

and that You will grace us in it

من التوفيق

with the ability

لالأعمال الصالحة

for virtuous works,

المقبولة عذلك

acceptable to You,

ما يوجب لنا رضاك عنا،

that will in turn grace us with Your good pleasure towards us,

وأن تعم جوارحنا

and that You will employ our limbs

بطاعة عذلك المرضية عذلك

in obedience that is well-pleasing in Your sight,

وقلو بنا بحبك

and our hearts with love for You,

وبحب من نحب

and love for whomsoever You love,

وبحب ما نحبه،

and love for whatsoever You love,
and that You will expand our hearts

وْتَؤْهَلْهَا

and grant them the capacity

لِمَعْرِفَتِكَ الْخَاصَّةَ

for Your special knowledge,

الَّتِى أَكْرَمْتُ بِهَا عِبَادَكَ الْعَارِفِينَ

with which You have ennobled such of Your servants that are possessed of knowledge about You

وَأَوْلِيَانِكَ الصَّالِحِينَ

and virtuous saints,

وَنَرْزَقْنَاهَا مِنَ النِّقْوَى

and that You will sustain us with taqwa

الَّتِى أَكْرَمْتُ بِهَا عِبَادَكَ المَقْتَينَ

with which You have ennobled servants of Yours who are endowed with taqwa

حَقِيقَتِهَا

[that You will sustain us] with its essence,

وَثَمَرْتَهَا

its fruit,

وَأَصُولَهَا

its main roots

وَفَرْوُعُهَا،

and its branches

وَنَنزِلْنَا مِنَ الإِسْتِقْمَالِ أَعْلَى مَنْزِلَتِهَا،

and may You lodge us in the highest stations of rectitude,

وَمِنَ الْيَقِينِ أَقْرَعَ مَرَاتِيهِ،
and raise us to certainty at the highest levels of certainty,

وَتَسْلِكُ بِنَا سَبيلَ الإِثْبَاع

and that You may grant us entry to the path of following,

فِي الأَقْوَالِ
in words,

وَالأَفْعَالِ
deeds,

وَالنِّيَاتِ
intentions,

وَالأَعْمَالِ
and works,

لَحَبِيْبَكَ
Your beloved,

أَشْرَفْ خَالِقَ عَلَيْكَ
the most honoured of created beings in your presence,

سَيَدَنَا مُحَمَّدٌ صَلِّى الله عَلَيْهِ وَآلهَ وَسَلَّمَ

namely our master Muhammad, may Allah bless him and bestow peace upon him, as well as his household,

وَتَوْقُرُ حَظَنَا مِنْ حَبِّ

and that You may make ample our share of love

هَذَا الحَبِّيْبَ
for this beloved

وَالْبِنَاهْعَهُ
and of following him

فِي كُلِّ أَحْوَالِنَا
in all our states
وَتَجْعَلْنَا بِهِ أَسْعَدِ ﺑِهِ اﻟﻨﱠﺎسِ إِلَيْهِ،
and among the happiest of people by virtue of him,

وَأَﻗْرِبِ اﻟﻨﱠﺎس إِلَيْهِ
and those closest to him,

وَمِنْ أُعْزُمِ الخَلْقِ مَوْدُودَةً لَهُ،
and among those who cherish the greatest lasting love for him,

وَشَرَفُنا بِرُؤِيَةِ وَﺟَهِهِ ﺷَرَفًٍ صَلَحِيَ اللّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ
and may You honour us with the vision of his honoured face, Allah bless him

and bestow peace upon him and his household

وَهُوَ رَاضٍ ﻋَنَا
whilst he is well pleased with us,

في ﺳَلِمٍ
in sleep

وِلِيَقْطِة
da long vigil

and our wakeful moments,

وَفِي الدُّنْيَا
in this world,

وَالبَرْزَخ
the world in between

وَوِيْلَ، وَوِيْلَاءُ الأَخِرَةِ،
and the hereafter,

وَأَكْرِمْنَا بِا ﺑِرْتَنَا
and may You honour us, O our Lord,
with complete and copious blessing in our works,

our intentions,

and our sustenance

and in our movements

and stillness,

and may You make the coming years of our lives
dedicate to You the intentions upon us

rotate around firmness in our religion

and dedication to Your service,

and may You protect us in all this from the evil of Satan,

and his works,

and from the evil of the evil-commanding soul, and its work,

and from the evil of worldly temptation,

and may You protect us in all this from the evil of Satan,
and may You protect us from plunging into its gewgaws,

وَزِﻱْﻨَﺘَﻬَﺎ

and its decorations,

وَمَمَّا اخْتَبَﺮْتَﻨَا بِهِ فِیْهَا مِنْ مَالٍ وَعِیَالٍ

and from such tests as derive from it in the area of wealth and dependents

وَغَیْرِ ذَلِکَ;

and things other than these,

وَمِنْ مَطاَوَعةِ الْهَوَىِ الْمَرْدِیِّ;

and from yielding to ruinous passions,

وَاحْفَظْـْـْنَـا مَنْ تَعَلِّیْبُ جَانِبِ الحَظَرَةِ العَاجِلَةِ;

and may You protect us from being overwhelmed in the domain of ephemeral desires,

وَمِنْ فَرْنَاءِ السَّوَءِ وَمَخَالَطَتِهِمْ;

and from evil companions and their companionship,

وَاجْعَلْ أَوَاقَتِ أَعْمارَنَا الْمُتَجْبِدَةَ

and may You make our renewed spans of life

وَمَسْرُوْقَةٌ كُلِّها فِیْمَا يُرِضِیكَ عَنَا;

all employed in what is well pleasing to You,

وَمَا تَفَضَّلْتَ بِهِ عَلیْنَا مِنْ نَعْمَ;

and such bounties as You have generously bestowed upon us,

وَقَفَّـْـْـْـْـْـْنَا فِیْهِ للشُّكْرِ عَلَیْنَا ذَلِکَ;

may You enable us to offer gratitude for that,

وَاجْعَلْـْـْـْـْـْـْنَا بَا رَبِّنَا

and may You make us, O our Lord,

مِنْ الْمُسْتَنْسِكِیْنِ بِالْغَرْؤُوْرَةِ الْوَتْفِیٰ

among those who hold firm to the firm handhold
of sincerity towards You, in all our pursuits,
and may You embrace in all these supplications
our children
and our parents,
and our friends
and our brethren in religion,
and endow us with an immense strength
which will [further] strengthen us in obedience to You,
and in the discharge of Your obligation upon us, in the manner that You like, and with which You are well pleased,
and may You grant us a plentiful share with which to strive vigorously in Your service,
and in the constancy of such works as will earn Your good pleasure,
and may You open for us, a manifest opening,
in the reflection of the magnificent Quran,

and in the access to its secrets,

and in the excellent manners at the time of reciting its verses,

and when listening to them,

and may You grant us, O our Lord,

the memorisation of its words

and the fulfilling of its obligations,

and the response to its call,

and the hastening to abide by its commands

and the avoidance of its prohibitions,

and may You make us amongst a people who are loyally wedded to its rights,

and may You appoint it for us, in Your presence, a witness of sincerity through fulfilling what it calls us to, O Most Merciful of the Merciful, [since every merciful one receives the gift of mercy from You],
and may Allah bestow blessings on our master Muhammad and his household, and upon his companions in their entirety, and the praise is Allah’s, Lord of all universes.

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