



Al-Iṣṇad

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The Ḥā'iyyah Poem

Ibn Abī Dāwūd (d. 316 AH)

1- تَمَسَّكْ بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ وَاتَّبِعِ الْهُدَى ... وَلَا تَكُ بِدْعِيًّا لَعَلَّكَ تُفْلِحُ

Hold onto to Allah's rope and follow guidance

Do not be an innovator and you will be successful

2- وَدِنْ بِكِتَابِ اللَّهِ وَالسُّنَنِ الَّتِي ... أَتَتْ عَنْ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ تَنْجُ وَتَرْجُ

Make you religion the Book of Allah and the narrations that

Come from Allah's Messenger and you will be saved and profit

3- وَقُلْ "غَيْرُ مَخْلُوقٍ كَلَامُ مَلِكِنَا" ... بِذَلِكَ دَانَ الْأَتَقِيَاءُ وَأَفْصَحُوا

Say, "It is uncreated the speech of our King"

This was the spoken belief of the pious

4- وَلَا تَكُ فِي الْقُرْآنِ بِالْوَقْفِ قَائِلًا ... كَمَا قَالَ أَتْبَاعُ لَجْهِمٍ وَأَسْجَحُوا

Do not take a neutral stance concerning the Qur'an

As the followers of Jahm said and demurred

5- وَلَا تَقُلِ "الْقُرْآنُ خُلِقَ قَرَأْتُهُ" ... فَإِنَّ كَلَامَ اللَّهِ بِاللَّفْظِ يُوضَحُ

Do not say, "My recitation of the Qur'an is created"

For the Speech of Allah is clarified by its words

6- وَقُلْ يَتَجَلَّى اللَّهُ لِلْخَلْقِ جَهْرَةً ... كَمَا الْبَدْرُ لَا يَخْفَى وَرَبُّكَ أَوْضَحُ

Say that Allah will appear openly to His creation

Just as the full moon is not hidden, and your Lord will be clearer

7- وَلَيْسَ بِمَوْلُودٍ وَلَيْسَ بِوَالِدٍ ... وَلَيْسَ لَهُ شِبْهُ تَعَالَى الْمُسَبِّحُ

He is not begotten nor did He beget

He has no likeness, high above is He, the Most Glorified

8- وَقَدْ يُنْكِرُ الْجَهْمِيُّ هَذَا وَعِنْدَنَا ... بِمِصْدَاقِ مَا قُلْنَا حَدِيثُ مُصَرِّحٍ

The Jahmī denies this but we have

Attesting to this an explicit narration

9- رَوَاهُ جَرِيرٌ عَنْ مَقَالٍ مُحَمَّدٍ ... فَقُلْ مِثْلَ مَا قَدْ قَالَ فِي ذَاكَ تَنْجَحُ

Jarīr narrated it from the words of Muhammad

So say as he said in this and you will be successful

10- وَقَدْ يُنْكِرُ الْجَهْمِيُّ أَيْضًا يَمِينَهُ ... وَكَلَّمَا يَدَيْهِ بِالْفَوَاضِلِ تَنْفَحُ

The Jahmī may also deny His right hand

And both His hands send down blessings and grace

11- وَقُلْ يَنْزِلُ الْجَبَّارُ فِي كُلِّ لَيْلَةٍ ... بِأَكَيْفَ جَلَّ الْوَاحِدُ الْمُتَمَدِّحُ

Say that the Most Powerful descends every night

Not asking how, glory be to the One, Worthy of all Praise

12- إِلَى طَبَقِ الدُّنْيَا يَمُنُّ بِفَضْلِهِ ... فَتُفْرَجُ أَبْوَابُ السَّمَاءِ وَتُفْتَحُ

To the cover of this world, He gives of His grace

The gates of the heavens are released and opened

13- يَقُولُ أَلَا مُسْتَغْفِرٌ يَلْقَى غَافِرًا ... وَمُسْتَمْنَحٌ خَيْرًا وَرِزْقًا فَيُمنَحُ

He asks, "Is there no seeker of forgiveness waiting for the All-Forgiving
Or seeker of bounty and provision so He may grant it"

14- رَوَى ذَاكَ قَوْمٌ لَا يُرَدُّ حَدِيثُهُمْ ... أَلَا خَابَ قَوْمٌ كَذَّبُوهُمْ وَقَبِحُوا

This was narrated by a people whose narrations are not rejected
Woe to a people who rejected them and may they be excluded

15- وَقُلْ إِنَّ خَيْرَ النَّاسِ بَعْدَ مُحَمَّدٍ ... (وَزِيْرَاهُ) * قِدْمًا ثُمَّ (عُثْمَانُ) الْأَرْجَحُ

Say that the best of people after Muhammad
Were his two first ministers and then 'Uthmān the renowned

16- وَرَابِعُهُمْ خَيْرُ الْبَرِيَّةِ بَعْدَهُمْ ... (عَلِيٌّ) حَلِيفُ الْخَيْرِ بِالْخَيْرِ مُنْجِحُ

The fourth best of all people after them
'Alī the companion of good, saved by his good

17- وَإِنَّهُمْ لِلرَّهْطِ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِمْ ... عَلَى نُجْبِ الْفِرْدَوْسِ بِالنُّورِ تَسْرَحُ

This is the company, no doubt about them
Upon the mounts of Firdaws, radiant with light

18- سَعِيدٌ وَسَعْدٌ وَابْنُ عَوْفٍ وَطَلْحَةُ ... وَعَامِرُ فَهْرٍ وَالزُّبَيْرُ الْمَمْدَحُ *

Sa'īd, Sa'd, Ibn 'Awf and Ṭalḥah
'Āmir Fahr and Zubayr the praised

19- وَقُلْ خَيْرَ قَوْلٍ فِي الصَّحَابَةِ كُلِّهِمْ ... وَلَا تَكُ طَعَانًا تَعِيبُ وَتَجْرَحُ

Say the best of words regarding all the Companions

Do not be a critic, criticising and censuring

20- فَقَدْ نَطَقَ الْوَحْيُ الْمُبِينُ بِفَضْلِهِمْ ... وَفِي "الْفَتْحِ" أَيُّ لِلصَّحَابَةِ تَمْدَحُ

The Clear Revelation has spoken of their virtue

And in Al-Fatḥ, verses praising the Companions

21- وَسِبْطِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ وَابْنِي خَدِيجَةٍ ... وَفَاطِمَةُ ذَاتُ النِّقَاءِ تَبَحَّحُوا

The grandsons of Allah's Messenger and the two sons of Khadījah

And Fāṭimah the pure and beloved

22- وَعَائِشُ أُمُّ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَخَالَئَا ... مُعَاوِيَةُ أَكْرَمُ بِهِ ثُمَّ أَمْنَحُ

‘Ā'ishah the mother of the believers and our uncle

Mu'āwiyah, how righteous and good

23- وَأَنْصَارُهُ وَالْهَاجِرُونَ دِيَارَهُمْ ... بِنُصْرَتِهِمْ عَنْ كَيْفَةِ النَّارِ زُحِرُوا

The houses of the Muhājirūn and Anṣār

Due to their struggles they were saved from the Fire

24- وَمِنْ بَعْدِهِمْ فَالتَّابِعُونَ لِحُسْنِ مَا خَذُوا ... وَأَفْعَالِهِمْ قَوْلًا وَفِعْلًا فَأَقْلَحُوا

After them, their followers who took from them

In speech and actions and too succeeded

25- وَمَالِكُ وَالثَّوْرِيُّ ثُمَّ أَخُوهُمْ ... أَبُو عَمْرٍو الْأَوْزَاعِيُّ ذَاكَ الْمُسَبِّحِ

Mālik, Thawrī and their brother

Abu 'Amr al-Awzā'ī who made *tasbīh*

26- وَمِنْ بَعْدِهِمْ فَالشَّافِعِيُّ وَأَحْمَدُ ... إِمَامًا هَدَى مَنْ يَتَّبِعِ الْحَقَّ يَنْصَحُ

After them, Shāfi'ī and Aḥmad

The two imams of guidance, who followed the truth and advised

27- أُولَئِكَ قَوْمٌ قَدْ عَفَا اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ ... فَأَحْبِبُّهُمْ فَإِنَّكَ تَفْرَحُ

Those are the people whom Allah has forgiven

So love them and you too will rejoice

28- وَبِالْقَدَرِ الْمَقْدُورِ أَيْقِنْ فَإِنَّهُ ... دِعَامَةُ عِقْدِ الدِّينِ وَالِدِّينِ أَفِيحُ

Have certainty in pre-decree for it is

The pillar of the chain of religion and the religion is expansive

29- وَلَا تُنْكِرَنَّ جَهْلًا نَكِيرًا وَمُنْكَرًا ... وَلَا الْحَوْضَ وَالْمِيزَانَ إِنَّكَ تُنْصَحُ

Do not deny out of ignorance Nakīr and Munkar

Nor deny the Pond, the Scales, I advise you

30- وَقُلْ يُخْرِجُ اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمُ بِفَضْلِهِ ... مِنَ النَّارِ أَجْسَادًا مِنَ الْفَحْمِ تُطْفَحُ

Say that Allah, the Great will remove by His grace

From the Fire, bodies like coals that will be thrown

31- عَلَى التَّهْرِيفِ الْفِرْدَوْسِ تَحْيَا بِمَائِهِ ... كَحَبِّ حَمِيلِ السَّيْلِ إِذْ جَاءَ يَطْفَحُ

Into a river by Paradise, its will water will give them life

Like the seed left by the current of the flood

32- وَإِنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ لِلْخَلْقِ شَافِعٌ ... وَقُلْ فِي عَذَابِ الْقَبْرِ حَقٌّ مُوَضَّحٌ

The Messenger of Allah will intercede for creation

And say about the punishment of the grave that it is clearly true

33- وَلَا تُكْفِرْنَ أَهْلَ الصَّلَاةِ وَإِنْ عَصَوْا ... فَكُلُّهُمْ يَعْصِي وَذُو الْعَرْشِ يَصْفَحُ

Do not cast as disbelievers the people of prayer, even if they sin

For all people sin and the Owner of the Throne pardons

34- وَلَا تَعْتَقِدْ رَأْيَ الْخَوَارِجِ إِنَّهُ ... مَقَالٌ لِمَنْ يَهْوَاهُ يُرْدِي وَيَفْضَحُ

Do not hold the view of the Khawārij for it is

The statement of one whose desires expose and disgrace

35- وَلَا تَكُ مُرْجِيًّا لِعُوبًا بِدِينِهِ ... فَإِنَّمَا الْمُرْجِيُّ بِالْدِّينِ يَمْنَحُ

Do not be a Murjiyy who plays with his religion

For the Murjiyy makes a mockery of his religion

36- وَقُلْ: إِنَّمَا الْإِيمَانُ قَوْلٌ وَنِيَّةٌ ... وَفِعْلٌ عَلَى قَوْلِ النَّبِيِّ مُصَرَّحٌ

Say that faith consists of speech and intention

And action as per the clear statements of the Prophet

37- وَيَنْقُصُ طَوْرًا بِالْمَعَاصِي وَتَارَةً ... بِطَاعَتِهِ يَنْمِي وَفِي الْوِزْنِ يَرْجَحُ

It decreases at times through sin and at other times

Through obedience it grows and heavies the scales

38- وَدَعْ عَنْكَ آرَاءَ الرِّجَالِ وَقَوْلَهُمْ ... فَقَوْلُ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أَزْكَى وَأَشْرَحُ

Ignore the opinions of men and their sayings

The sayings of Allah's Messenger are purer and clearer

39- وَلَا تَكُ مِنْ قَوْمٍ تَلَهَّوْا بِدِينِهِمْ ... فَتَطْعَنَ فِي أَهْلِ الْحَدِيثِ وَتَقْدَحُ

Do not be from a people who treat their religion like a game
Thus criticising the people of narrations and disparaging them

40- إِذَا مَا اعْتَقَدْتَ الدَّهْرِيَا صَاحَ هَذِهِ ... فَأَنْتَ عَلَى خَيْرِ تَبِيئٍ وَتُصْبِحُ!

If you hold as your belief in life what you find herein

You are upon good by day and night

تَمَّتْ بِحَمْدِ اللَّهِ.