

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

SALAWAAT
of: GAWTH U’L-A‘ZAM MUHYUDDEEN
SHAYKH ‘ABDUL QADIR AL-JILANI

(Rady Allahu ‘Anhu رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ)

An Appreciation by Siddiq Osman Noormuhammad

(Please recite Subhanahu wa Ta‘ala رَحْمَةً بَعْدَ اسْمِ اللَّهِ after the Name of Allah. Please recite Sallallahu ‘alayhi wa Sallam ﷺ after the name of Prophet Muhammad, and ‘Alayhissalam عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام after the name of any other Prophet. Please recite Rady Allahu ‘Anhu رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ, or Rahmatullahi ‘alayh رَحْمَةً عَلَيْهِ after the names of the other great and nobles personalities as appropriate).

1. THE MOST WELL-KNOWN SALAWAAT OF GAWTH U’L-A‘ZAM

Gawth u’l-A‘zam Muhyuddeen Shaykh ‘Abdul Qadir al-Jilani رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ (470-561 A.H / 1077-1166 C.E) traces his descent to the Holy Prophet ﷺ. He was born in Jilan, Persia and his shrine is in Baghdad, Iraq. His father, As-Sayyid Abu Salih was a descendant of Imam al-Hasan ibn ‘Ali رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ. His mother, Ummu’l-Khayr Fatima was the daughter of Shaykh ‘Abdullah Sawma‘i who was a descendant of Imam al-Husayn ibn ‘Ali رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ. Thus Shaykh ‘Abdul Qadir al-Jilani رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ is both Hasani and Husayni. He is a descendant of the **Ahl u’l-Bayt** (The Prophet’s Household) about whom Allah ﷻ says in the Holy Qur’an Kareem:

إِنَّمَا يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ لِيُذْهِبَ عَنْكُمُ الرِّجْسَ أَهْلَ الْبَيْتِ وَيُطَهِّرَكُمْ تَطْهِيرًا

**Allah only desires to keep away the uncleanness from you,
O people of the House,
and to purify you a thorough purification. (33:33)**

Shaykh ‘Abdul Qadir al-Jilani رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ is famous for converting thousands of people to Islam, among whom were Christians and Jews. He is also famous for his **salawaat** (invocation of blessings), his **awraad** and **azkaar** (regular voluntary invocations); his **qasaaid** (religious poems), his **khutubaat** (sermons) and his **nasihah** (advice) which have been compiled and handed down through centuries as classics of Muslim spirituality.

As we recite these masterpieces, we are struck by the fact that his style of expression is different from that of any other **Shaykh** (spiritual master), **‘alim** (learned scholar), or **wali** (saint). He is so saturated with the spiritual power of **Tawheed** (pure Islamic monotheism) and brimming with the realisation that the Holy Prophet ﷺ is his ancestor, that his exposition and its flow has a spiritually confident personality all its own. Anyone who reads his **khutubaat** and recites his **salawaat**, **awraad** and **azkaar**, spontaneously admits that he is the **muhyuddeen** (reviver of Faith), the **qutb u’l-aqtaab** (the spiritual authority of all spiritual authorities), the **Shaykh u’l-mashaayikh** (the spiritual master of all spiritual masters), the **Gawth u’l-A‘zam** (the greatest spiritual helper) and much more..... a Shaykh who epitomises both **mujaddidiyyah** (Faith revival) and **wilayah** (sainthood).

This chapter is about his **salawaat** (invocation of blessings).

Shaykh ‘Abdul Qadir al-Jilani رضى الله عنه was so profuse in “reciting” **salawaat** on our beloved Prophet Sayyidina wa Mawlana Muhammad al-Mustafa ﷺ that their compilation could easily fill a volume. The word “reciting” has been used here advisedly rather than the word “writing” because what he said or recited was recorded by the scribes. Most of these **salawaat** are contained in Fuyudaat u’r Rabbaniyyah (Overflowing Abundance from The Lord), compiled by al-Hajj Isma‘il ibn as-Sayyid Muhammad Sa‘eed al-Qadiri رحمه الله عليه .

Three **salawaat** of the **Shaykh** (spiritual master), who is lovingly referred to by millions across the world as the **Gawth u’l-A‘zam** (the greatest spiritual helper), are well-documented. These are:

1. **As-Salaat u’l-Gawthiyyah**, also known as **As-Salaatu’s-Sughraa** or the “small **salaat**”. This **salaat**, although short in length, is so famous that it has lovingly been named after him as **As-Salaat u’l-Gawthiyyah** (**Durood Gawthiyyah** in Urdu).
2. **Kibriti’l-Ahmar**, also known as **As-Salaat u’l-Wusta** or the "median **salaat**". This is a spiritual combination of five **salawaat**, one of which interestingly, is **As-Salaat u’l-Gawthiyyah** itself. **Kibriti’l-Ahmar** means red sulphur. It also means “the Philosopher’s Stone”, or something that is rare to come by.
3. **As-Salaat u’l-Kubra** or the “big **salaat**”. This is a spiritual combination of 33 **salawaat**, 25 verses of the Holy Qur’an Kareem, and **du‘a** (supplication to Allah ﷻ) covering about 20 pages.

We will now study each of these **salawaat** in a little more detail.

2. AS-SALAAAT U'L-GAWTHIYYAH

This **salaat** of the **Gawth u'l-A'zam** is so famous that many **mashaayikh** (spiritual masters) choose to include it in their **kutub** (books) as part of the **awraad** and **azkaar** (regular voluntary invocations). Some of the **kutub** that contain this **salaat** are:

1. Dalaail u'l-Khairaat (Proofs of Good Deeds) of Imam Muhammad bin Sulayman al-Jazuli رحمة الله عليه,
2. Hizb u'l-A'zam (The Great Supplication) of Hadrat Mulla 'Ali al-Qaari رحمة الله عليه,
3. Majmu'ah Salawaat u'r-Rasul (Compendium of Blessings On The Prophetic Messenger ﷺ) of Hadrat Khwaja Shaykh Abdur-Rahman Chohravi رحمة الله عليه,
4. Afdal u's-Salawaat (The Best Blessings) of Imam Yusuf ibn Isma'il an-Nabahaani رحمة الله عليه,
5. Awraad u'l-Qaadiyyah (Regular Voluntary Invocations of the Qaadiyyah), compiled by Muhammad Salim Bawwaab رحمة الله عليه,
6. Durood Shareef (Noble Blessings) (in Urdu) by Khwaja Nisar (Nithaar) Ahmad رحمة الله عليه, and
7. Fazaail Durood Shareef (The Benefits of the Noble Blessings) (in Urdu) by al-Allamah Habibu'l Bashar Khayri Rangooni رحمة الله عليه.

Here then is **As-Salaatu'l-Gawthiyyah**, shining as distinctly as the north-star.

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ السَّابِقِ لِلْخَلْقِ نُورُهُ وَرَحْمَتُهُ لِلْعَالَمِينَ ظُهُورُهُ عَدَدَ مَنْ مَضَى مِنْ خَلْقِكَ
وَمَنْ بَقِيَ وَمَنْ سَعِدَ مِنْهُمْ وَمَنْ شَقِيَ صَلَاةٌ تَسْتَغْرِقُ الْعَدَّ وَتُحِيطُ بِالْحَدِّ صَلَاةٌ لَا غَايَةَ لَهَا وَلَا مُنْتَهَى وَلَا
انْقِضَاءَ صَلَاةٌ دَائِمَةٌ بَدَ وَإِمَامِكَ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلَّمَ تَسْلِيمًا مِثْلَ ذَلِكَ

O Allah! Bless our master Sayyidina Muhammad
whose light was created first,
and whose appearance is a mercy for all the worlds,
as many times as the number of Your creations past and yet to come
of those that are blessed and those that are unfortunate;
(which means: as many times as the number of all your creations),

such a blessing that submerges all counting (is uncountable), is unlimited and unbounded, a blessing that is endless, never finishing; a blessing that is permanent with Your Everlastingness, and (blessing as well) on his Family and Companions, and in the same manner complete salutations as well.

In this **salaat**, Shaykh ‘Abdul Qadir al-Jilani رحمته الله clearly declares his ‘**aqeeda** (belief) that before Allah سبحانه created anything else, He created **Nur Muhammadi**, the **Nur** (light) of Sayyidina Muhammad صلوات الله عليه.

SubhanAllah! (Glorified is Allah!)

3. KIBRITI’L-AHMAR

Kibriti’l-Ahmar which means red sulphur is also included in many **kutub** some of which are:

1. Fuyudaat u’r-Rabbaniyyah, compiled by al-Hajj Isma‘il ibn as-Sayyid Muhammad Sa‘eed al-Qadiri رحمته الله,
2. Awraad u’l-Qaadiriyyah Rahmaniyyah, compiled by Hadrat al-‘Allamah as-Sayyid Muhammad Tayyib Shah رحمته الله,
3. Awraad u’l-Qaadiriyyah, compiled by Muhammad Salim Bawwab رحمته الله,
4. Mishkaat u’s-Salawaat (A Niche of Lit-Up Blessings) of Mawlana Muhammad Ilyas Burney رحمته الله,
5. Majmu‘ah Wazaaif ma‘ Dalaail u’l-Khayraat (Compilation of Regular Voluntary Invocations together with Dalaail u’l-Khayraat), translated into Urdu and compiled by Pir Muhammad Karam Shah رحمته الله.

Kibriti’l-Ahmar is truly magnificent. It weaves verses of the Holy Qur’an Kareem together with Asma u’n-Nabi صلوات الله عليه (his attributive names of praise), **du‘a** (supplication to Allah سبحانه), and five **salawaat**, three of which are famous. These are:

(a) **As-Salaatu Kanzi’l-A‘zam**, the **salaat** with which **Kibriti’l-Ahmar** begins and which will be observed in more detail later,

(b) **As-Salaatu’l-Gawthiyyah**, which we have already looked at, and

(c) **As-Salaatu'l-In'aam**, which is now presented.

As-Salaatu'l-In'aam

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَى آلِهِ عَدَدَ نِعْمَاءِ اللَّهِ وَإِفْضَالِهِ

O Allah! Bless and bestow peace on him and on his Family,
as many times as Allah's bounties and His Grace.

Kibriti'l-Ahmar ends with the following verses of the Holy Qur'an Kareem.

سُبْحَانَ رَبِّكَ رَبِّ الْعِزَّةِ عَمَّا يَصِفُونَ ﴿١٨٠﴾ وَسَلَامٌ عَلَى الْمُرْسَلِينَ ﴿١٨١﴾ وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ
الْعَالَمِينَ ﴿١٨٢﴾

**Glory is to your Lord, the Lord of Honour and Power
(He is free) from what they ascribe to Him.**

And peace be on the Prophetic Messengers.

And all praise is for Allah, the Lord of the worlds. (37:180-182)

4. AS-SALAAT U'L-KUBRA

As-Salaat u'l-Kubra or the "big salaat", is a spiritual mosaic of 33 **salawaat**, 25 verses of the Holy Qur'an Kareem and **du'a** (supplication to Allah ﷻ) interspersed among the **salawaat**. It is included in books already mentioned such as Fuyudaat u'r-Rabbaniyyah, Awraad u'l-Qaadiriyyah Rahmaniyyah, Awraad u'l-Qaadiriyyah, and Afdal u's-Salawaat.

The very first of its 20 pages gives us a flavour of this spiritual masterpiece.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
لَقَدْ جَاءَكُمْ رَسُولٌ مِّنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ عَزِيزٌ عَلَيْهِ مَا عَنِتُّمْ حَرِيصٌ عَلَيْكُمْ بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ رَءُوفٌ رَّحِيمٌ ﴿١﴾
أَعْبُدُ اللَّهَ رَبِّي وَلَا أُشْرِكُ بِهِ شَيْئًا ﴿٢﴾ اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَدْعُوكَ بِأَسْمَائِكَ الْحُسْنَى كُلِّهَا إِلَهًا إِلَّا أَنْتَ سُبْحَانَكَ أَنْ
تُصَلِّيَ عَلَيَّ مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ كَمَا صَلَّيْتَ عَلَيَّ إِبرَاهِيمَ وَعَلَى آلِ إِبرَاهِيمَ إِنَّكَ حَمِيدٌ مَّجِيدٌ ﴿٣﴾ اللَّهُمَّ
صَلِّ عَلَيَّ مُحَمَّدٍ النَّبِيِّ الْأُمِّيِّ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلِّمْ تَسْلِيمًا وَصَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيَّ مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ صَلَاةً

هُوَ أَهْلُهَا ۞ اللَّهُمَّ يَا رَبَّ مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِ مُحَمَّدٍ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ وَاجْزِ مُحَمَّدًا ۞ مَا هُوَ أَهْلُهُ ۞ اللَّهُمَّ
 رَبَّ السَّمَوَاتِ السَّبْعِ وَرَبَّ الْعَرْشِ الْعَظِيمِ رَبَّنَا وَرَبَّ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَمُنْزِلَ التَّوْرَةِ وَالْإِنْجِيلِ وَالزَّبُورِ
 وَالْفُرْقَانِ الْعَظِيمِ ۞ اللَّهُمَّ أَنْتَ الْأَوَّلُ فَلَيْسَ قَبْلَكَ شَيْءٌ وَأَنْتَ الْآخِرُ فَلَيْسَ بَعْدَكَ شَيْءٌ وَأَنْتَ
 الظَّاهِرُ فَلَيْسَ فَوْقَكَ شَيْءٌ وَأَنْتَ الْبَاطِنُ فَلَيْسَ دُونَكَ شَيْءٌ فَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ إِلَّا أَنْتَ سُبْحَانَكَ إِنِّي كُنْتُ
 مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ ۞ مَا شَاءَ اللَّهُ كَانَ وَمَا لَمْ يَشَأْ لَمْ يَكُنْ لِقُوَّةٍ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ ۞ اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ عَبْدِكَ
 وَنَبِيِّكَ وَرَسُولِكَ صَلَاةً مُبَارَكَةً طَيِّبَةً كَمَا أَمَرْتَ أَنْ نُصَلِّيَ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمَ تَسْلِيمًا

In the Name of Allah, The Beneficent, The Merciful.

**Certainly, there has come to you a Prophetic Messenger from among yourselves,
 grievous to him is your suffering, full of concern for you,
 to the believers, (he is) compassionate, merciful. (9:128)**

I worship Allah, Who is my Lord and I do not ascribe any partner to Him.
 O Allah! I ask of You for the sake of Your Most Beautiful Names.

None is to be worshipped except You, Glorified are You. (21:87)

(O Allah) Bless Sayyidina Muhammad
 and the Family of Sayyidina Muhammad
 as You blessed Sayyidina Ibrahim
 and the Family of Sayyidina Ibrahim.
 Surely, You are Praiseworthy, Glorious.

O Allah! Bless and bestow complete peace on Sayyidina Muhammad,
 the Prophet not taught by any human (but directly by You, O Allah)
 and on his Family and Companions.
 And may Allah's blessing be on Sayyidina Muhammad
 and on the Family of Sayyidina Muhammad,
 such a blessing which he deserves.

O Allah! O Lord of Sayyidina Muhammad and the Family of Sayyidina Muhammad,
 bless Sayyidina Muhammad and the Family of Sayyidina Muhammad
 and bestow a reward on Sayyidina Muhammad (Allah's blessings and peace be on him)
 which he deserves.

O Allah! Lord of the seven heavens and Lord of the Great Throne,
 our Lord and the Lord of everything,
 and the One Who sent the Tawraat, the Injeel, the Zabur and the Great Qur'an.
 O Allah! You are The First so there is nothing that came before You,

and You are The Last so there is nothing that comes after You,
and You are The Manifest with nothing above You,
and You are The Hidden with nothing below You.
All praise belongs to You.

None is to be worshipped but You.
Glorified are You; surely, I have been one of the unjust. (21:87)

Whatever Allah wished, happened.
Whatever He does not wish, does not happen.
There is no strength except with Allah.

O Allah! Bless Sayyidina Muhammad,
Your Ultimate Devotee, and the Prophet sent by You, and Your Prophetic Messenger,
a favourable, agreeable blessing,
as You have ordered us to invoke blessing on him
and grant him complete peace.

We notice that **As-Salaatu'l-Kubra** begins with verse number 128 from **Surah at-Tawba**, then invokes Allah ﷻ with his Most Beautiful Names, follows this up with **As-Salaatu Ibrahimiyah** and two other **salaat**, after which there is **du'a**, verse number 87 from **Surah al-Anbiyaa**, praise of Allah ﷻ, and more **salawaat**, and so it continues. **As-Salaatu'l-Kubra** ends with this verse of the Holy Qur'an Kareem.

دَعْوَتُهُمْ فِيهَا سُبْحَانَكَ اللَّهُمَّ وَتَحِيَّتُهُمْ فِيهَا سَلَامٌ ۗ وَءَاخِرُ دَعْوَتُهُمْ أَنْ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ
الْعَالَمِينَ

Their prayer therein will be: “Sanctity to You, O Allah”,
and their greeting therein will be: “Peace”,
and the end of their prayer will be:
“All praise be to Allah, the Lord of the worlds”. (10:10)

As Shaykh ‘Abdul Qadir al-Jilani رضى الله عنه was a **Hafiz u'l-Qur'an**, we should intend to become **Hafiz u'l-Qur'an**, and/or make our children/grand-children **huffaz u'l-Qur'an**. As he was so profuse in reciting the Qur'an, we should have the good habit of reciting at least one **juz** of the Qur'an every day. Since he has included the **Asma' al-Husna** (the Most Beautiful Names of Allah) in his **salawaat**, we should memorize the **Asma' al-Husna**. As he was so profuse in reciting **salawaat**, we should recite **salat ala'n-Nabi** ﷺ at least a hundred times a day. Since he has included the **Kalim at-Tawhid** (The Declaration of Muslim Faith) with the **salawaat**, we should recite the **Kalim at-Tawhid** at least a hundred times every day.

Laa ilaha Illallah Muhammad u'r-Rasulullah

None is to be worshipped but Allah.
Muhammad is the Prophetic Messenger of Allah.

In total, there are 25 verses of the Holy Qur'an Kareem in **As-Salaatu'l-Kubra**. Some of these verses in which Allah ﷻ Himself praises and honours the Holy Prophet ﷺ are:

يَسَّ ۝ وَالْقُرْآنِ الْحَكِيمِ ۝ إِنَّكَ لَمِنَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ ۝ عَلَىٰ صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ ۝

Yaa Seen.
By the Qur'an full of Wisdom.
Most surely, you are one of the Prophetic Messengers,
on a straight way. (36:1-4)

لَقَدْ مَنَّ اللَّهُ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِذْ بَعَثَ فِيهِمْ رَسُولًا مِّنْ أَنفُسِهِمْ يَتْلُوا عَلَيْهِمْ ءَايَاتِهِ ۖ وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ
وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَإِن كَانُوا مِن قَبْلُ لَفِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ

Certainly, Allah conferred a great favour on the Muslim believers
when He sent among them a Prophetic Messenger from among themselves,
who recites to them His revelations, and purifies them,
and teaches them the Book and the Wisdom,
although before that they were surely in manifest error. (3:164)

وَإِذْ أَخَذَ اللَّهُ مِيثَاقَ النَّبِيِّينَ لَمَا ءَاتَيْتُكُمْ مِنْ كِتَابٍ وَحِكْمَةٍ ثُمَّ جَاءَكُمْ رَسُولٌ مُّصَدِّقٌ
لِّمَا مَعَكُمْ لَتُؤْمِنُنَّ بِهِ ۖ وَلَتَنْصُرُنَّهُ ۚ قَالَ ءَأَقْرَرْتُمْ وَأَخَذْتُمْ عَلَىٰ ذَٰلِكُمْ إِصْرِي ۗ قَالُوا أَقْرَرْنَا ۚ قَالَ
فَاشْهَدُوا ۗ وَأَنَا مَعَكُمْ مِنَ الشَّاهِدِينَ

And when Allah took the Covenant of the Prophets,
(He said): (Behold) what I have given you of the Book and Wisdom.
Afterward, there will come to you a Prophetic Messenger confirming what is with you;
you shall believe in him and you shall help him.
He said: do you agree and take this My Covenant as binding on you?
They said: We agree.
He said: Then bear witness. And I am with you among the witnesses. (3:81)

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ

And We sent you not but as a mercy for all the worlds. (21:107)

وَكَانَ فَضْلُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكَ عَظِيمًا

And great is the Grace of Allah upon you (O Prophet). (4:113)

وَلَسَوْفَ يُعْطِيكَ رَبُّكَ فَتَرْضَىٰ

And your Lord will give you (all good) that you will be well-pleased.(93:5)

The Shaykh goes on to give a **tafsir** (explanation) of this verse. He quotes part of the **Hadith Qudsi** (Sacred Saying) from which we learn that on the Day of Judgement, the Beloved Prophet ﷺ shall go into **sajda** (prostration) before Allah ﷻ to seek intercession. He will be told: **“Speak and you shall be heard, and ask and you shall be given, and intercede and your intercession will be accepted.”** All that the Holy Prophet ﷺ wanted was the forgiveness of his **Ummah**. May Allah ﷻ forgive us, **Aameen**.

These verses and their **tafsir** in some instances are interspersed in an intricate pattern among the **salawaat** (invocation of blessings) and **du‘a** (supplication to Allah ﷻ), with **du‘a** following one or more **salawaat**, as in this instance.

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى عَبْدِكَ وَنَبِيِّكَ وَرَسُولِكَ سَيِّدِنَا وَنَبِيِّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ النَّبِيِّ الْأُمِّيِّ وَالرَّسُولِ الْعَرَبِيِّ
وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ وَأَزْوَاجِهِ وَذُرِّيَّاتِهِ وَأَهْلِ بَيْتِهِ صَلَاةً تَكُونُ لَكَ رِضَىٰ وَلَهُ جَزَاءٌ وَلِحَقِّهِ أَدَاءٌ وَأَعْطِهِ
الْوَسِيلَةَ وَالْفُضِيلَةَ وَالشَّرَفَ وَالذَّرَجَةَ الْعَالِيَةَ الرَّفِيعَةَ وَابْعَثْهُ الْمَقَامَ الْمَحْمُودَ الَّذِي وَعَدْتَهُ يَا أَرْحَمَ
الرَّاحِمِينَ اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّا نَتَوَسَّلُ بِكَ وَنَسْأَلُكَ وَنَتَوَجَّهُ إِلَيْكَ بِكِتَابِكَ الْعَزِيزِ وَنَبِيِّكَ الْكَرِيمِ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ
وَبَشْرَفِهِ الْمَجِيدِ وَبِأَبُوَيْهِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَإِسْمَاعِيلَ وَبِصَاحِبَيْهِ أَبِي بَكْرٍ وَعُمَرَ وَذِي النُّورَيْنِ عُمَانَ وَآلِهِ
فَاطِمَةَ وَعَلِيٍّ وَوَلَدَيْهِمَا الْحَسْنَ وَالْحُسَيْنَ وَعَمِّيَّهِ الْحَمَزَةَ وَالْعَبَّاسَ وَزَوْجَتَيْهِ خَدِيجَةَ وَعَائِشَةَ

O Allah! Bestow blessing and peace
on Your Ultimate Devotee, the Prophet sent by You, and Your Prophetic Messenger,
our master, our Prophet Muhammad,
who was not taught by any human

(but directly by You, O Allah),
the Arabian Prophetic Messenger,
and on his Family and Companions
and his blessed wives, and offspring and his blessed household;
such a blessing that may please You, and be a reward for him and fulfil his rights,
and (O Allah), give him the **Wasila** (means of intercession)
and distinction, and nobility, and the highest exalted position,
and raise him to the highest Praised Station
which You have promised him,
O The Most Merciful of those who show mercy.

O Allah! Indeed, You are our only Means
and we beg of You and we turn our faces towards You
with Your exalted Book
and through the means of the noble Prophet sent by You,
our master Sayyidina Muhammad (may Allah bless him and grant him peace),
and through the means of his glorious nobility,
and through the means of his forefathers
Sayyidina Ibrahim and Sayyidina Isma‘il,
and through the means of his Companions,
Sayyidina Abu Bakr and Sayyidina ‘Umar,
and the Possessor of the Two Lights, Sayyidina ‘Uthman,
and his family members Sayyidatina Fatima and Sayyidina ‘Ali,
and their sons Sayyidina al-Hasan and Sayyidina al-Husayn,
and his uncles Sayyidina Hamza and Sayyidina ‘Abbas,
and his blessed wives Sayyidatina Khadija and Sayyidatina ‘Aisha.

In this **salaat** and the **du‘a** following it, Gawth u’l-A‘zam Shaykh ‘Abdul Qadir al-Jilani رضي الله عنه
not only shows his deep love for Allah ﷻ, and for the blessed Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, but also
for the Prophets عليهم السلام (‘Alayhimussalam) who came before him, as well as for the **ahlu’l bayt**
ﷺ (the blessed Household of the Prophet) and his glorious **sahaba** (Companions) رضي الله عنهم. In the
salaat, he includes the **du‘a** that is recited after the **adhan**. We notice that this entire **du‘a** is in
honour and praise of the beloved Prophet ﷺ. In the **du‘a** that follows, he invokes Allah ﷻ
using the **wasila** (means), of Allah ﷻ Himself, of the Holy Qur’an Kareem, the noble Prophet
ﷺ, Nabi Ibrahim عليه السلام and Nabi Isma‘il عليه السلام, the **Khulafa ar-Rashidin** (the Rightly-Guided
Khulafa), and the **ahlu’l bayt** ﷺ and the **sahaba**, رضي الله عنهم.

May Allah ﷻ bestow on us the love of all of them. **Aameen**.

When we complete the recitation of **As-Salatu’l-Kubra**, we realize that interspersed in it are all
the **Arkan al-Iman** (Pillars of Muslim Faith). These are: Belief in Allah ﷻ as the One and Only
God to be worshipped, belief in His angels, in His Revealed Books (Scriptures), in His Prophetic

Messengers, in the Last Day (of Judgement), in the Pre-Ordainment by Allah ﷻ of good and bad, and the Resurrection after death (on the Day of Judgement). So, when we are reciting **As-Salatu'l-Kubra**, we are declaring our **'aqida** (tenets of Faith) as well.

Al-Hamdu Lillah. (All Praise if for Allah!)

We will do well to conclude this section by reciting these verses of **du'a** (supplication to Allah ﷻ) in **As-Salat u'l-Kubra**.

رَبَّنَا تَقَبَّلْ مِنَّا إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ

Our Lord! Accept this (service) from us. Indeed, You, only You are the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing. (2:127)

وَتُبَّ عَلَيْنَا إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ التَّوَّابُ الرَّحِيمُ

And relent towards us. Indeed, You, only You are the Most Relenting (One Who accepts repentance), The Merciful. (2:128)

وَمَا تَوْفِيقِي إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ تَوَكَّلْتُ وَإِلَيْهِ أُنِيبُ

And my guidance is only from Allah. In Him I trust, and to Him I turn in repentance. (11:88)

أَنْتَ وَلِيٌّ لِي فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ تَوَفَّنِي مُسْلِمًا وَأَلْحِقْنِي بِالصَّالِحِينَ

You are my Helper in this world and the Hereafter. Cause me to die as a Muslim and unite me with the righteous. (12:101)

وَأَنْ أَعْمَلَ صَالِحًا تَرْضَاهُ وَأَصْلِحْ لِي فِي ذُرِّيَّتِي إِنِّي تُبْتُ إِلَيْكَ وَإِنِّي مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ

And that I may do good deeds which may please You, and make my off-spring righteous for me. Truly, I turn to You in repentance and truly, I am one of the Muslims. (46:15)

The teaching that is repeated in these verses is to turn to Allah ﷻ in repentance. May Allah ﷻ forgive us, **Aameen**.

5.AS-SALAATU KANZI'L-A'ZAM

One of the **salawaat** present in both **Kibri'ti'l-Ahmar** as well as in **As-Salaatu'l-Kubra**, is such a gem it is referred to as **Kanzi'l-A'zam** (The Great Treasure). Khwaja Shaykh Abdur-Rahman Chohravi رحمة الله عليه naturally chose to include it in his Majmu'ah Salawaat u'r-Rasul and al-Hajj Isma'il ibn as-Sayyid Muhammad Sa'eed al-Qadiri رحمة الله عليه had it printed separately in Fuyudaat u'r-Rabbaniyyah, identifying it as **Kanzi'l A'zam**. In it, Shaykh 'Abdul Qadir al-Jilani رضي الله عنه pours his heart out in superlative praise of the Holy Prophet Sayyidina Muhammad al-Mustafa صلوات الله عليه.

اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْ أَفْضَلَ صَلَوَاتِكَ أَبَدًا وَأَمْمِي بَرَكَاتِكَ سَرْمَدًا وَأَزْكَى تَحِيَّاتِكَ فَضْلًا وَعَدَدًا عَلَى أَشْرَفِ الْحَقَائِقِ الْإِنْسَانِيَّةِ وَالْجَنَائِيَّةِ وَمَجْمَعِ الدَّقَائِقِ الْإِيمَانِيَّةِ وَطُورِ التَّجَلِّيَّاتِ الْإِحْسَانِيَّةِ وَمَهْبِطِ الْأَسْرَارِ الرَّحْمَانِيَّةِ وَعَرْوَسِ الْمَمْلَكَةِ الرَّبَّانِيَّةِ وَاسْطَةِ عَقْدِ النَّبِيِّينَ وَمُقَدِّمِ جَيْشِ الْمُرْسَلِينَ وَقَائِدِ رُكْبِ الْأَوْلِيَاءِ وَالصِّدِّيقِينَ وَأَفْضَلِ الْخَلَائِقِ أَجْمَعِينَ حَامِلِ لُؤَاءِ الْعِزِّ الْأَعْلَى وَمَالِكِ أَرْمَةِ الْمَجْدِ الْأَسْتَى شَاهِدِ أَسْرَارِ الْأَزَلِ وَمُشَاهِدِ أَنْوَارِ السَّوَابِقِ الْأَوَّلِ وَتَرْجَمَانِ لِسَانِ الْقِدَمِ وَمَنْبَعِ الْعِلْمِ وَالْحِلْمِ وَالْحِكْمِ وَمَظْهَرِ سِرِّ الْوُجُودِ الْجُزْئِيِّ وَالْكُلِّيِّ وَإِنْسَانِ عَيْنِ الْوُجُودِ الْعُلُوبِيِّ وَالسُّفْلِيِّ رُوحِ جَسَدِ الْكُونِيِّنِ وَعَيْنِ حَيَاةِ الدَّارِينَ الْمُتَحَقِّقِ بِأَعْلَى رُتَبِ الْعُبُودِيَّةِ وَالْمُتَخَلِّقِ بِأَخْلَاقِ الْمَقَامَاتِ الْإِصْطِفَائِيَّةِ الْخَلِيلِ الْأَعْظَمِ وَالْحَبِيبِ الْأَكْرَمِ سَيِّدِنَا وَمَوْلَانَا وَحَبِيبِنَا مُحَمَّدِ بْنِ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ عَبْدِ الْمُطَّلِبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ عَدَدَ مَعْلُومَاتِكَ وَمِدَادَ كَلِمَاتِكَ كُلَّمَا ذَكَرَكَ وَذَكَرَهُ الدَّاكِرُونَ وَغَفَلَ عَنْ ذِكْرِكَ وَذَكَرَهُ الْغَافِلُونَ وَسَلِّمْ تَسْلِيمًا دَائِمًا كَثِيرًا

O Allah! Confer for ever Your best blessings
and ever increasing and never ending favours;
and Your Purest, Gracious, and abundant salutations on him
who is the most noble in the realm of the realities of the nature of humans and jinn,
and is fully aware of all subtleties of Faith,
and is the mountain of excellent manifestations
and the place on which descend the mysteries of the All-Beneficent
and who is a bridegroom in the Kingdom of the Lord,
the centrally placed jewel in the chain of the Prophets,
the first and the foremost in the army of the Prophetic Messengers,
the leader of the caravan of the saints and the truthful,
the best in all creation,
the bearer of the flag of the highest honour,
the owner of the keys to the shining gallery,

the beholder of the secrets of eternity,
 the beholder of the first created lights,
 the interpreter of the Divine Language,
 the fountain-spring of knowledge, tolerance and wisdom,
 the manifestation of the secret of the existence of the whole and its parts,
 who is the cause of the existence of (everything) above and below,
 the soul in the body of both the worlds (that keeps them alive),
 the fountain of life of this world and the Hereafter,
 the one who has achieved the high rank of servitude to Allah
 and is created with the highest spiritual stations of morality,
 the foremost among the friends of Allah
 and His highly honoured beloved,
 our master, our patron, our beloved,
 Muhammad, son of ‘Abdullah ibn ‘Abdul Muttalib,
 may Allah bless him, his Family and Companions,
 as many times as the number which is in Your Knowledge (O Allah)
 and (as many times as) the amount of ink used to write Your Words,
 whenever You are remembered and he is remembered
 by those who remember
 and whenever You are not remembered and he is not remembered
 by the negligent,
 (that is, not leaving out any one in the count)
 and bestow on him abundant, never ending, complete salutations (as well).

For sure, **Kanzi’l-A‘zam** is at such a high level in terms of **‘ulum** and **‘irfan** (direct spiritual knowledge) that it is breath-taking and awe-inspiring. One of its interesting features is that it is in rhyming prose. We notice that in this **salaat**, the following words rhyme:

- (i) **abadan, sarmadan, fadlan** and **‘adadan**;
- (ii) **insaaniyyah, jaanniyah, Imaniyyah, Ihsaniyyah, Rahmaaniyyah** and **Rabbaaniyyah**;
- (iii) **Nabiyyeena, Mursaleena, Siddiqeena**, and **ajma‘eena**;
- (iv) **a‘laa** and **asnaa**;
- (v) **azali, awwali, qidami**, and **hikami**;
- (vi) **‘ilmi** and **hilmi**;
- (vii) **juz’iyyi, kulliyi, ‘ulwiyyi** and **sufliyyi**;
- (viii) **kawnayni** and **daarayni**;
- (ix) **‘ubdiyyati** and **istifaaiyyati**;
- (x) **A‘zam** and **Akram**;
- (xi) **Ma‘lumaatika** and **Kalimaatika**; and
- (xii) **zaakirun** and **ghaafilun**.

There are twelve different rhymes in just one **salaat**.



Allahu Akbar! (Allah is Supremely Great)!

It must be remembered that this is not the only remarkable feature of this **salaat**. There are various other levels of ‘**ulum** (knowledge) here, both manifest and hidden that call for more intensive study.

6.HURUF U’L-MUQATTA‘AT

An ancient tradition among the ‘**ulama** (the learned) and the **mashaayikh** (spiritual masters) is to compose **salawaat** giving a meaning to each letter in the name of the beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. On earth, the Holy Prophet ﷺ is called Muhammad and in the heavens, he is called Ahmad. The name Muhammad is composed of four letters: “**Meem**”, “**Haa**”, “**Meem**”, and “**Daal**”, while the name Ahmad is composed of “**Alif**”, “**Haa**”, “**Meem**” and “**Daal**”. The **mashaayikh** have composed **salawaat** with these letters. Shaykh ‘Abdul Qadir al-Jilani رضي الله عنه went a step beyond this. He composed a **salaat** with these letters together with the **Huruf u’l-Muqatta‘at**.

The **Huruf u’l-Muqatta‘at** are the letters with which some of the **surahs** (chapters) of the Qur’an Kareem start. These are:

Alif Laam Meem, (2:1), (3:1), (29:1), (30:1), (31:1), (32:1)
Alif Laam Meem Saad, (7:1)
Alif Laam Raa, (10:1), (11:1), (12:1), (14:1), (15:1)
Alif Laam Meem Raa, (13:1)
Kaaf Haa Yaa ‘Ain Saad, (19:1)
Taa Haa, (20:1)
Taa Seen Meem, (26:1), (28:1)
Taa Seen, (27:1)
Yaa Seen, (36:1)
Saad, (38:1)
Haa Meem, (40:1), (41:1), (42:1), (43:1), (44:1), (45:1), (46:1)
Haa Meem ‘Ain Seen Qaaf, (42:1-2)
Qaaf, (50:1) and
Noon. (68:1)

Only Allah ﷻ knows the true meanings of these **huruf u’l muqatta‘at**, as well as those to whom He gives this knowledge, the foremost among them being our Holy Prophet Muhammad al-Mustafa ﷺ. The **mashaayikh** have explained that some of these **huruf u’l-muqatta‘at** refer to the **sifaat** (Noble Attributes) of Allah ﷻ and some refer to the **sifaat** (noble attributes) of the Prophet ﷺ. Many of them have also stated that **Taa Haa** and **Yaa Seen** are attributive names of praise of the blessed Prophet ﷺ. Some other **mashaayikh** have composed **salawaat** with the **huruf u’l-muqatta‘at**.

Shaykh ‘Abdul Qadir al-Jilani رحمته الله combined all this ‘ulum (knowledge) in a grand convocation in just one **salaat**. We find that in one of the **salawaat** given in Fuyudaat u’r-Rabbaniyyah, the **Gawth u’l-A’zam** has used the letters in the blessed names Muhammad and Ahmad as well as the **Huruf u’l-Muqatta‘at** without repeating any of the **Huruf u’l-Muqatta‘at**! Who can beat such scholarship? As we appreciate this learning that is open, manifest and clear, we begin to understand the depth of his spiritual knowledge that was a secret and even more hidden.

Let us then approach this **salaat** after reciting Surah al-Fatiha. **Al-Fatiha!**

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَلَا حَوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ الْعَلِيِّ الْعَظِيمِ ❁ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ الْمَلِكُ الْحَقُّ الْمُبِينُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ الصَّادِقُ
الْوَعْدِ الْأَمِينُ ❁ رَبَّنَا أَمَّا بِمَا أَنْزَلْتَ وَاتَّبَعْنَا الرَّسُولَ فَاكْتَبْنَا مَعَ الشَّاهِدِينَ ❁ اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ
وَبَرِّ وَأَكْرِمْ وَأَعِزِّ وَأَعْظَمْ وَارْحَمْ عَلَى الْعِزِّ الشَّامِخِ وَالْمَجْدِ الْبَادِخِ وَالتُّورِ الطَّامِحِ وَالْحَقِّ الْوَاضِحِ مِيمِ
الْمَبْلُوكَةِ وَحَاءِ الرَّحْمَةِ وَمِيمِ الْعِلْمِ وَدَالِ الدَّلَالَةِ وَأَلِفِ الْجَبْرُوتِ وَحَاءِ الرَّحْمَتِ وَمِيمِ الْمَلَكُوتِ
وَدَالِ الْهِدَايَةِ وَلامِ الْأَلْطَافِ الْخَفِيَّةِ وَرَاءِ الرَّأْفَةِ الْخَفِيَّةِ وَنُونِ الْبَيِّنِ الْوَفِيَّةِ وَعَيْنِ الْعِنَايَةِ وَكَافِ
الْكَفَايَةِ وَيَاءِ السِّيَادَةِ وَسَيْنِ السَّعَادَةِ وَقَافِ الْقُرْبِ وَطَاءِ السُّلْطَنَةِ وَهَاءِ لِعُرْوَةِ وَصَادِ الْعِصْبَةِ وَعَلَى
أَلِهِ هَوَا جِرِ عَلَيْهِ الْعَزِيزِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ مَنْ أَصْبَحَ الدِّينَ بِهِمْ فِي حَرْزِ حَرِيْزِ

In the Name of Allah, The Beneficent, The Merciful (1:1)

And there is no power nor strength except with Allah, The Most High, The Magnificent.
None is worthy of worship except Allah, The Sovereign Lord, The Clear Truth.
Muhammad is the Prophetic Messenger of Allah, Truthful to his promise, the Trustworthy.

Our Lord! We have believed in what You have Revealed, and we have followed the Prophetic Messenger, so record us among those who bear witness. (3:53)

O Allah! Bless and bestow peace and honour,
and give nobility, glory and greatness; and have mercy
on the one who is lofty in strength and high in grandeur,
and is the high-aspiring light and the clear truth;
the letter **Meem** (in the name Muhammad) is for the kingdom,
Haa is for mercy, (the second) **Meem** is for knowledge, and **Daal** is for evidence (proof);
the letter **Alif** (in the name Ahmad) is for might and power, **Haa** is for the realm of mercy,

Meem is for sovereignty, and **Daal** is for guidance;
the letter **Laam** (in the **Huruf u'l-Muqatta'at**) is for hidden kindness,
Raa is for hidden compassion, **Noon** is for perfect benevolence,
'**Ain** is for providential care and concern, **Kaaf** is for sufficiency,
Yaa is for headship and becoming master, **Seen** is for bliss, **Qaaf** is for nearness,
Taa is for the sultanate, **Haa** is for the tie or bond (of friendship),
and **Saad** is for preservation (from wrong-doing);
and (bless and bestow peace as well) on his Family,
who are the bright noon-time of his esteemed knowledge,
and on his Companions,
through whom the religion was well protected in an impenetrable fortress.

This is just the opening portion of this momentous **salaat** which is only about a quarter of it. The remaining three quarters consists mostly of **du'a** (supplication to Allah ﷻ).

This calls for a **Fatiha. Al-Fatiha!**

7.SALAAMS ON THE BELOVED PROPHET ﷺ

It is apt to conclude by presenting the **salaams** (salutations) of the **Gawth u'l-A'zam** on the Holy Prophet ﷺ as given in Mishkaat u's-Salawaat (A Niche of Lit-Up Blessings) of Mawlana Muhammad Elyas Burney رحمه الله عليه .

الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ
 الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا نَبِيَّ اللَّهِ
 الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا صَفِيَّ اللَّهِ
 الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا خَلِيلَ اللَّهِ
 الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا حَبِيبَ اللَّهِ
 الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا مَنْ شَرَّفَهُ اللَّهُ
 الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا مَنْ كَرَّمَهُ اللَّهُ
 الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا مَنْ عَلَّمَهُ اللَّهُ
 الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا مَنْ عَظَّمَهُ اللَّهُ
 الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا مَنْ زَيَّنَّهُ اللَّهُ

الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا سَيِّدَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ
 الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا خَاتَمَ النَّبِيِّينَ
 الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا إِمَامَ الْمُتَّقِينَ
 الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا شَفِيعَ الْمُذْنِبِينَ
 الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا رَحْمَةً لِلْعَالَمِينَ
 الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا خَيْرَ خَلْقِ اللَّهِ
 الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا نُورَ عَرْشِ اللَّهِ
 صَلَوَاتُ اللَّهِ وَمَلَائِكَتِهِ وَأَنْبِيَآئِهِ وَرُسُلِهِ وَحَمَلَةَ عَرْشِهِ وَجَمِيعَ خَلْقِهِ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ
 أَجْمَعِينَ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ

Blessing and salutation to you, O Prophetic Messenger of Allah.
 Blessing and salutation to you, O Prophet of Allah.
 Blessing and salutation to you, O Sincere Friend of Allah.
 Blessing and salutation to you, O Intimate Friend of Allah.
 Blessing and salutation to you, O Beloved of Allah.
 Blessing and salutation to you, O the one whom Allah has honoured.
 Blessing and salutation to you, O the one whom Allah has made noble.
 Blessing and salutation to you, O the one taught by Allah.
 Blessing and salutation to you, O the one whom Allah has exalted.
 Blessing and salutation to you, O the one whom Allah has beautified.
 Blessing and salutation to you, O the master of Prophetic Messengers.
 Blessing and salutation to you, O the final in the line of the Prophets.
 Blessing and salutation to you, O the leader of the pious.
 Blessing and salutation to you, O the intercessor for sinners.
 Blessing and salutation to you, O mercy for all the worlds.
 Blessing and salutation to you, O the best of Allah's creation.
 Blessing and salutation to you, O the light of the Throne of Allah.

May blessings of Allah, and His angels, His Prophets and His Prophetic Messengers,
 and the bearers of His Throne, and all His creation,
 be on our master Sayyidina Muhammad, on his Family and all his Companions,
 till the Day of Judgement.

May Allah ﷻ fill our hearts with the **nur** (spiritual light) of these **salawaat** and **salaams**.
Ameen.

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