

AL-BUSIRI'S HAMZIYYA IN PRAISE OF THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD
(upon him and his Family, Companions, and Successors blessings and peace)

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Beginning of the *hamza*-rhyming 457-line ode (*al-Qasidat al-Hamziyya*) of Imam Abu `Abd Allah Muhammad ibn Sa`id ibn Hammad al-Sanhaji al-Busiri (608-696) per the commentary of Shaykh al-Islam Ibn Hajar al-Haytami al-Makki (909-973) in his book *al-Minah al-Makkiyya* and according to our teachers' explanations, Allah have mercy on all of them.

1. How can the Prophets ascend such as your ascent
O heaven no heaven can surpass?
2. They cannot even match you in your heights when, in between,
too great a light bars them from you, and loftiness.
3. They but describe your attributes for rational beings
only as much as water can describe the stars.
4. YOU ARE THE LIGHT-SOURCE OF EVERY MERIT, HENCE LIGHTS
CAN NEVER ISSUE FROM OTHER THAN YOUR LIGHT.¹
5. To you belongs the essence of knowledges outpouring from the Knower
of the unseen and thence, to Adam, knowledge of the Names.

[6-10: Ancestry of the Prophet, upon him blessings and peace]

6. From the origins in the most secret places of creation
were chosen for you your mothers and forefathers.
7. No empty interval between Divine Messengers passed
except the Prophets rejoiced their people, reminding them of you.
8. The times (here and hereafter) boasted of you, rising aloft
with you, one towering summit then another.
9. And you dawned over the world, a most honorable one
from a most honorable one issued from most honorable fathers,
10. A lineage that, for its beauties and brilliance, you would take
for Gemini garlanding the firmaments with its stars!

[11-15: The Mawlid of the Prophet, upon him blessings and peace]

11. O lovely and beloved the jewelled necklace of lordship and pride
of which you are the most unique, flawless pearl,
12. And lovely and beloved the face of brightness like the sun
that you are, from which a radiant night lifts its veil!
13. The night of the Birth that is ever since, for the Religion,
a day of paramount joy and exultation.
14. The glad tidings spread the proclamation that
the Elect One was born and the universe is blessed.

¹Cf. al-Burda (lines 52-53): "And every single sign brought by the noble Prophets was theirs only as part of his light, / For verily he is a sun of perfection of which they are the moons bringing its light to people in the midst of darkness." Al-Qastallani (d. 923) in his *al-Mawahib al-Laduniyya* (ed. al-Shami, 2:583), quoted Ibn Marzuq who commented on Busiri's lines thus: "He [al-Busiri] means that every miracle that every messenger has brought, surely was only because it was an extension to each one of them of the light of Muhammad (. How beautiful is his saying "surely was only because it was extended of his light to them" for it suggests that his light (has ever been existing in him, and nothing of it was decreased. Had he said, "surely it was from his light", then it could have been imagined that he distributed it to them, and that perhaps nothing of it remained for him. All the signs given each one of them was only theirs through his light (, because he is a sun of excellence, and they are the planets of that sun which convey its lights to humankind in the darkness. The planets are not shining by themselves, but they receive light from the sun, so that when the sun is absent they show the light of the sun. Similarly, the Prophets before his existence used to show his excellence, so that whatever lights appeared at the hands of the messengers other than him, it was only from his outpouring light and vast power (madad), without decreasing anything of it."

FIRST OF RAJAB - LAYLATUL RAGHA'IB - NIGHT OF THE PROPHET'S CONCEPTION

فَهَنِيئاً بِهِ لِأَمْنَةِ الْفَضْلِ الَّذِي شُرِفَتْ بِهِ حَوَاءُ
مَنْ لِحَوَاءٍ أَنَّهَا حَمَلَتْ أَحْسَباً مَدَا أَوْ أَنَّهَا بِهِ تُفَسِّسَاءُ
يَوْمَ نَالَتْ بِوَضْعِهِ ابْنَهُ وَهَبٍ *** مِنْ فَخَارٍ مَالَمُ تَنْلُهُ النَّسَاءُ
وَأَنْتَ قَوْمَهَا بِأَفْضَلِ مَمَّا *** حَمَلَتْ قَبْلَ مَرْيَمَ الْعَذْرَاءُ

Felicitations to Āmina for the great bestowal
By which Ḥawwā' had been honored before!
And who did ever celebrate Ḥawwā' for bearing
Aḥmadā, or for ever parting with him?

The Day why Wahb's daughter attained, by giving
Birth to him, of stature, what no woman reached!
And she brought to her people a more glorious one
Than had begotten, before her, Mary the Virgin.

(Busiri, Hamziyya)

<https://sufilive.com/Laylat-al-Raghaib-Commemoration-7430.html>

Blessings and peace on the Prophet, his Family, his Companions, his Awliya and all his Umma.