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CHAPTER 6 – EXCERPT

THE NURSING OF THE PROPHET AND SPLITTING OF HIS BLESSED CHEST

THE SOLILOQUY OF THE FULL MOON

An Original English Mawlid



This nurse, Halimah Sa'diyyah, the poorest of her tribe,
Found every Makkan infant fostered when she did arrive.
Nay, all but one. A noble orphan none would take to care;
Unwanted nurse and nurseling... if they had been but aware!

The mercy of the Prophet, from beginning, was unveiled:
The dead earth sprang to life and restful ease o'ertook travails.³⁴
Though Aminah did miss her son, this wondrous, precious child,
She saw Halimah's love for him and let stay awhile.

Iambic
Heptameter

Though poverty was undesired, she feared to return
With empty hands, so told her husband Harith, 'I will turn
To Aminah, the widow, though she has but naught to give.'
Said Harith, 'as you please; perhaps Allah will bless through him.'

HE GREW in perfect kindness, sweetest manners – all did love
This brave and hearty child who spoke the truth and did no
wrong.

Before Halimah slept a babe enwrapped in purest white
Upon a silken cloth of green and love surged in her heart.
She touched his chest, he woke and smiled, and from him shone a light
That reached the highest heavens; and she raised him to her breast
To drink, though dry, and suddenly her milk did flood within
Abundantly! He drank his fill, she turned him to her left,
But he refused! He knew she had a baby waiting still.
That night, Masruh, Halimah's child, who'd starved for many days
Did drink beside his brother, whom Halimah took to raise.

Then one day came Masruh, Halimah's son, a-flight and scared.
'My brother has been killed! He has been killed!' Masruh declared.
In fear Harith and Halimah ran to find the child,
And there he lay, quite silent, pale and shaking – but alive.

The bosom of her camel, parched, a-weary, did abound!
And leapt to life, outstripping every other in her charge
Toward the desert. 'Fie, Halimah!' Banu Sa'ad proclaimed,
'Some wonder has bechanced her! Is her mount indeed the same?'
'Twas recognised by Harith and Halimah that, indeed,
The Blessing of Allah had come to them – they would succeed!

The infant said, 'two men in white did come and down I lay,
They opened up my chest and searched - for what I cannot say.'
Of tender years was he, but never did they doubt his words
He was the Truthful, Trustworthy, afraid but safe, unhurt.
No sign beside the faintest scar, and 'twixt his shoulderblades:
They saw, upon his back, the Seal of Prophecy engraved.

الضاروق
اللامين

Two angels had in truth approached him, laid him on the earth
And opened up his breast, then for his blessed heart they searched.
They placed it in a bowl of ice then bathed it with the drops
Of Zamzam's spring, and cast away from it a single spot.

There was no earth more barren, nor a land more desolate
Than whence the Bedouins had left, and now did pitch their tents.
But with the advent of the Quenching Rain, the country bloomed;
The pasture-lands did flourish, and Halimah's flocks did graze
On greenest lands, contented, while no other did collect
The increase that the Succour brought, and on this do reflect!

Shaytan was ever banished from the Prophet's purest soul.
The devil never would affect the Messenger or sway,
Nor ever once be interceded for on Judgement Day.³⁵

³⁴ *travails*: hardship – difficulties were replaced by ease, and the Banu Sa'd had a blessed year of abundance after years of scarcity. Though not mentioned in the mawlid, it is also narrated that whenever the young Prophet ﷺ ate first, there would always be sufficient food for all. These events, like the cloud that shaded him on his travels, are formally known as *irhas* – annunciatory miracles.

³⁵ This is the first splitting of the Prophet's ﷺ chest. The angels – Gibril and Mika'il – removed a black spot from his heart, saying, 'this is Shaytan's portion of him.' Some scholars



QASIDA EXCERPT
SCORE AND LYRICS



THE SOLILOQUY OF THE FULL MOON



QASIDA
THE LORDLY LINEAGE

Sal - la Al - la - hu 'a - la - Ta Ha khay - ril
Sal - la Al - la hu 'a la Ta - Ha wa aa - li -

6 khal - qi kul - li - hi - mi
hi wa sah - bi - hi

12 God's ble - ssings be on Mu - ha mad, the Pro -
of A - mi na and Ab - du llah who ne -

18 phet who was born and he of Ab - dul Mut -
ver saw his son

24 ta lib whose true na-me was Shay - ba

29 and - he the son of Ha - shim, he the son

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