

The Noble Eulogy (to the Prophet Muhammad) [Na't-i Sharîf]*

[O our sublime master! Friend of God! (*ya hazrat-i Mevlana*)] O Beloved of God, you are the Messenger of the Sole Creator! You are the one chosen by the Holy Lord of Majesty (Who is) without equal. [My sultan!]

(You are) the delight of the Lord God (and) the highest Full-Moon of created beings, (and) you are the light of the eyes of (God's) Messengers (and) the Lamp of our eyes. [O our master! Friend of God! My sultan!]

On the night of the Ascension, (the angel) Gabriel was at (your) stirrup, (and) you are (the one who was) standing on top of the nine blue domes (of heaven). [O our master! Friend of God! My sultan! My beloved! (Spiritual) friend, friend!]

O Messenger of God, you know (that) your community are deprived and destitute, (and) you are the guide of those who are vulnerable and helpless. [Friend of God, friend, friend, my sultan!]

(You are) the cypress tree of the rose garden of prophethood (and) the spring-season of spiritual knowledge You are the rosebush of the garden of the Religious Law, and the nightingale of the lofty (heavens)! [O saint of God, (spiritual) friend!]

Shamsee Tabreez (is one) who has the praise of the Messenger in (his) heart. O Moostafa, you are the supreme master! [O physician of hearts, O saint of God, friend, friend! (*dôst, dôst*)]

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\*The Noble Eulogy is a devotional poem in Persian in praise of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). It consists of a ghazal of six stanzas that follow a particular poetic meter and ends with the rhyme, “you are” [-â tîy-î]. Preceding and following the stanzas are devotional phrases in praise of Mevlana Jelaluddin Rumi (placed in brackets) that were added by the Mevlevi composer, Mustafa `Itrî (died, 1712). These phrases do not have the meter and rhyme of the ghazal poem. Whereas the ghazal addresses the Prophet (*yâ habîbu 'llâh; yâ Rasoolu 'llâh*—O Prophet of God), the added phrases address Jelaluddin Rumi (*yâ hazrat-i Mevlana; yâ waleeyu 'llâh*—O saint of God).

—Translated by Dr. Ibrahim Gamard, International Mevlana Foundation (Uluslararası Mevlana Vakfı), Istanbul & Konya. Adapted from <http://dar-al-masnavi.org/nat.html>, which has explanatory footnotes and the (transliterated) Persian text.