Translation of the Burdah of Imam Al-Busiri

Chapter 1 - The Grievances of Love

أَمِنْ تَذَكُّرِ جِيْرَانٍ بِذِي سَلَّمٍ // مَزَجْتَ دَمْعًا جَرَى مِنْ مُقْلَةٍ بِدَمِ

1. Is it from thinking of neighbors past in Dhu Selemi
That you have mixed blood in tears that flow from eyes steadily?

أَمْ هَبَّتْ الرّيحُ مِنْ تِلْقَاءِ كاظِمَةٍ // وَ أَوْمَضَ البَرْقُ فِي الظَّلْمَاءِ مِنْ إِضَم

2. Or blowing of wind from the direction of Kazimah, And lightning flashing from Edum in the dark that you see?

فَمَا لِعَيْنِيْكَ إِنْ قُلْتَ اكْفُفَا هَمَتَا // وَمَا لِقَلْبِكَ إِنْ قُلْتَ اسْتَفِقْ يَهِم

3. So what is wrong with your eyes: when you say "Stop!" they just weep? And with your heart: when you say, "Be sane!" it acts crazily?

أيَحْسَبُ الصَّبُّ أنَّ الْحُبَّ مُنْكَتِمٌ // مَا بَيْنَ مُنْسَجِم مِّنْهُ وَمُضْطَرِم

4. Does one so lovestruck imagine love is concealable, Between a downpour from it and being so fiery?

لَوْ لاَ الْهَوٰى لَمْ تُرِقْ دَمْعاً عَلىٰ طَلِلِ // وَلاَ أَرِقْتَ لِذِكْرِ الْبَانِ وَالْعَلَم

5. If not for passion, you would have never burst into tears At the remains, nor lost sleep over the mount or the tree.

فَكَيْفَ تُنْكِرُ كُبًّا بَعْدَمَا شَهِدَتْ // بِهِ عَلَيْكَ عُدُوْلُ الدَّمْعِ وَالسَّقَمِ

6. So how do you still deny a love to which testified Against you true witnesses of tears and infirmity;

وَ أَنْبَتَ الْوَجْدُ خَطَّيْ عَبْرَةٍ وَضَنِّى // مِّثْلَ الْبَهَارِ عَلَىٰ خَدَّيْكَ وَالْعَنَم

7. when grief has fixed on your cheeks canals of tears and malaise Like branches of dogwood, red, and daffodils, yellowy?

نَعَمْ سَرَى طَيْفُ مَنْ أَهْوى فَأَرَّقَنِي // وَالْحُبُّ يَعْتَرضُ اللَّذَّاتِ بِالأَلْم

8. Yes, sights of my love have come at night and kept me awake; How love repels all delights and comforts with agony!

يَا لائِمِيْ فِي الْهَوٰى الْعُذْرِيِّ مَعْذِرَةً // مِّنِّي إِلَيْكَ وَلَوْ أَنْصَفْتَ لَمْ تَلُم

9. You critic of love so passionate, an apology From me to you—but if you were true, you'd not censure me.

عَدَتْكَ حَالِيْ لاَ سِرِّى بمُسْتَتِر // عَن الْوُشَاةِ وَلاَ دَائِي بمُنْحَسِم

10. May you be spared what I bear—my secret isn't concealed From haters, nor is there any end to my malady.

مَحَّضْتَنِي النُّصْحَ لِكِنْ لَسْتُ أَسْمَعُهُ // إِنَّ الْمُحِبَّ عَنِ الْعُذَّالِ فِيْ صَمَم

11. You've offered me true advice, but simply, I hear it not; The lover is deaf to all of those who speak critically.

12. I've even doubted gray hair's advice when it censures me; Although gray hair with advice is less in dubiety.

Chapter 2 - Admonishing the whims of the Self

13. My evil ego, in its stupidity, paid no heed To all the warning of graying hair and seniority.

14. And hasn't set out a spread of pleasing actions to host A guest who showed at my head, bereft of timidity.

15. And had I known that I'd fail to honor him, I'd have hidden using hair colorant his first appearance to me.

16. who's there for me to control the fight of its wandering—Just as a bit bridles horses in their obstinacy?

17. So do not count on offenses to get rid of its lust; Food only intensifies the craving of gluttony.

18. The ego is like a baby: leave it and it grows up In love with suckling; but wean it, and it's weaned finally.

19. So fight its whim, and beware of giving power to it; when whim's empowered, it kills or damages markedly.

20. And shepherd it carefully as it is grazing in deeds; And if the pasture you find it fancies, don't let it be.

21. How many times it's convinced a man of killer delights—while blind to the poison in the gravy so savory!

22. Beware the ambush of being hungry and being full; Starvation at times is even worse than satiety.

23. And void of tears eyes that have been stuffed with forbidden things. Keep in the shelter of pure repentance unceasingly.

24. And contradict both the Self and devil, and disobey! And if they give true advice to you, still look skeptically.

25. And do not settle with either as your lawyer or foe; You're well aware of a lawyer's and a foe's treachery.

26. I ask for pardon from God for empty word with no deed; I have ascribed by it to a sterile man progeny.

27. I've ordered you to do good, but have ignored it, myself; I'm not upstanding, so who am I to tell you to be?

28. I haven't packed extra deeds in preparation for death; I haven't prayed, haven't fasted, but the compulsory.

Chapter 3 - In Praise of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)

29. I've violated the way of him who livened the dark, Until his feet had complained of swelling up painfully;

30. And out of hunger, would bind his abdomen and would wrap Beneath a hard stone a waist whose skin is so velvety.

31. The lofty mountains made into gold for him tried to be A way to bait him, so the true loftiness let them see.

32. His "poverty" only strengthened his disinterest in them; For never are protectees assaulted by poverty.

33. How could it tempt to this world—the "poverty" of him who If not for him, the whole world would not have been made to be.

34. Muhammad, the master of both worlds and both beings and Both groups: the Arabs and the non-Arab community;

35. Our prophet, who is commander and forbidder—there is No one more true in his saying no or yes than is he.

36. He is the loved one whose intercession we're hopeful of, At every horror to hit—yes, every calamity.

37. He has invited to God, so all who grip onto him Are gripping rope that will never fray for eternity.

38. He tops the prophets in both appearance and character; They don't approach him in knowledge or in generosity.

39. And all of them are receiving from Allah's Messenger A sip from down-pouring rain or a handful scooped from the sea.

40. And all are standing before him at their own limits fixed: A dot of knowledge or mark from words of sagacity.

41. He is the one with perfected essence and outward form; Picked as the love of the Maker of all humanity.

42. Beyond a partner in his so beautiful qualities; Yes, undivided in him is beauty's whole entity.

43. Avoid what Christians have claimed about their own messenger; And give to him any praise you wish, and praise sensibly.

44. Ascribe to his person what you wish of nobility; Ascribe to his stature what you wish of immensity.

45. Indeed, Allah's Messenger's perfection has no frontier That any speaker could ever verbalize orally.

46. And were his marvels to match his worth in greatness, his name, when called, would give life to bones decayed to nihility.

47. He tried us not, from concern, with things that boggle the mind; And so we haven't faced any doubt or perplexity.

48. Conceiving his meaning has exhausted the universe; So near or far, one not dumbstruck by it you will not see.

49. Much like the sun: from afar it does appear small to eyes, And would impair any vision when in proximity.

50. And how could people asleep, distracted from him by dreams, Begin to grasp in the present world his reality!

51. The peak of knowledge about him is that he is a man And is the best of Allah's creation, entirely.

52. And all the marvels the noble messengers have conveyed Have come to them from his light exclusively.

53. He is the Sun of esteem, to which they are as if moons: reflecting its lights in darknesses to humanity.

54. How grand the form of a Prophet brightened by character, enveloped by handsomeness, distinguished by jollity!

55. Like flowers in fineness, the full moon in ascendancy, The ocean in giving, and all time in tenacity.

56. when he's alone and you meet him, he is like one amid An army and entourage, because of his majesty.

57. From treasure chests of his eloquence and his beaming grin do seem to be pearls preserved within their shells preciously.

58. No scent compares to the earth embracing his blessed form; For him who sniffs it or kisses it, what felicity!

Chapter 4 - His Blessed Birth

59. His noble birth did reveal the purity of his roots. How pure the outset of them as well as finality!

60. A day the Persians perceived that they indeed had been warned Of the occurrence of suffering and adversity.

61. The Arch of Khosrau had passed the night while falling apart; Just like the status of Khosrau's peers: without unity.

62. The fire was short of breath out of regret over it. The river lost all its current out of despondency.

63. It saddened Sawa to find the drying up of its lake, And thirsty seekers returning from the place angrily.

64. As if the fire had gotten water's wetness from grief; And water had burnt up as a fire burns seethingly.

65. The jinn were speaking aloud, and lights were shining so bright; The Truth is made manifest in signal and verbally.

66. But blind and deaf they were so the happy news went unheard; And flashes of lightning as a warning they didn't see.

67. All after their fortune teller notified all the folk Their old religion so crooked soon would no longer be.

68. And after they eyed in the horizons the shooting stars All crashing like statues in the earth for idolatry.

69. Until from the source of revelation, up in the sky, One after the other, each retreating demon did flee.

70. They were when fleeing just like the heroes of Abrahah, Or like a pelted-with-pebbles-from-his-hands infantry.

71. Hurled after having extolled while in the palms of his hands; Hurled like the swallowed extoller from the gut cavity.

Chapter 5 - His Miracles

72. The trees had come for his call, prostrate in humility; They came to him on their trunks, like footless legs, walking free.

73. As if they had drawn along the way a straight line for what Their branches had written in the finest calligraphy.

74. Just like the cloud moving with him as he moved anywhere; From noon's intense oven heat protecting him constantly.

75. I swear an oath by the moon, which split in two, that it has

A likeness to his pure heart—an oath of veracity.

فَالْصَنْدُقُ فِي الْغَارِ وَالْصَنِّدِيْقُ لَمْ يَرِمَا // وَهُمْ يَقُوْلُوْنَ مَا بِالْغَارِ مِنْ أَرِمِ 77. The Truth and Truthful in Faith inside the cave hadn't moved; All while they were saying that inside the cave none could be.

ظَنُّوا الْحَمَامَ وَظَنُّوا الْعَنْكَبُوْتَ عَلَىٰ // خَـيْرِ الْبَرِيَّةِ لَمْ تَنْسُجْ وَلَمْ تَحُمِ 78. They thought no dove hovered and no spider spun any web, For him, the Best of Creation—thinking its vacancy.

وِقَالِيَةُ اللهِ أَغْنَتْ عَنْ مُّضَاعَفَةٍ // مِنَ الدُّرُوْعِ وَعَنْ عَـالٍ مِّنَ الأَطُمِ 79. Protection from God made needless reinforced armature, Or towering citadels providing security.

مَا سَامَنِي الدَّهْرُ ضَيْماً وَّاسْتَجَرْتُ بِهِ // إِلا وَنِلْتُ جِوَاراً مِّنْهُ لَمْ يُضَمِ 80. No day has time gone to harm me and I have sought his care, But that I have gotten care from him, without mockery.

وَلَا الْتَمَسْتُ غِنَى الدَّارَيْنِ مِنْ يَّدِهِ // إِلَا اسْتَأَمْتُ النَّدٰى مِنْ خَيْرِ مُسْتَلَمِ 81. Nor have I asked of the riches of both worlds from his hand, without largesse from the best of givers coming to me.

لَا تُتْكِـرِ الْوَحْيَ مِنْ رُوْيَـاهُ إِنَّ لَهُ // قَلْباً إِذَا نَــامَتِ الْعَيْنَـانِ لَمْ يَنَمِ 82. do not deny revelation from his dreaming, because

His heart, though his eyes may shut, is open wide and does see.

83. And that was so at the very start of his prophethood: So with that state of the dreaming no one can disagree.

84. How blest is God: revelation isn't something attained; Nor is a prophet suspected in what we do not see.

85. How many times has his palm by touch relieved the unwell, And freed the helpless from in the noose of insanity.

86. His call gave life to a gray and barren year full of drought; Till it became like a star in ages of ebony;

87. with teeming clouds—you'd have thought the valleys had rivers flow In from the sea, or a flooded dam that gushed viciously.

Chapter 6 - The Noble Quran

88. Allow me to describe his miracles, which are plain As nightly fire on mountains, lit as a courtesy.

89. For pearls increase in their beauty when arranged on a string, But aren't less precious kept alone and separately.

90. What eulogizing has any hope of stretching to reach what he possesses in noble nature and quality?

91. True signs from the Merciful, originated in time, Beginningless, trait of Him who is beginninglessly.

92. They aren't bound by constraints of time, as they tell us of The day to come, also Aad and Irum—past history.

93. They stayed among us, and so transcended all miracles From all the prophets, as they had come and then ceased to be.

94. So wise and clear, that they leave no room for a single doubt To an opponent and have no need for a referee.

95. And never were they attacked except that from battle did return to them with surrendered arms the worst enemy.

96. Their eloquence fought off their dissenters' claim, as a man That is protective fights off attack from his family.

97. Possessing meanings like waves upon the sea in support;

Surpassing its treasures in allure and sublimity.

98. Such that their wonders are countless and beyond any bound, And never found to be tiresome in great quantity.

99. By them is soothed their reciter's eye, so I said to him, "You have indeed found the rope of God, so hold steadily."

100. If you recite them in worry of the fire of Hell, From their cool fountain you douse the burn of Hell utterly.

101. Just like the Basin, as it is whitening every face, Of sinners coming to it like coals as black as can be.

102. And like the straight Bridge and like the Balance in equity: without them no justice is maintained in society.

103. Be not amazed by a hater in denial of them, who acts unknowing despite full knowledge and mastery.

104. An eye may even reject the light of sun when inflamed; A mouth rejecting the taste of water from malady.

Chapter 7 - His Night Journey and Ascension

105. O best of those whose front yard is sought by those seeking good, On foot and on backs of camels treading vigorously!

106. And you who are sign supreme for one who does seek to know! And greatest blessing for one in search of prosperity!

107. From sanctum to sanctum you had made the trip overnight; Just as the moon makes the trip through darkness nocturnally.

108. You spent the night rising up until you had reached a place A length of two bows, not gained or sought in all history.

109. And all the prophets and messengers had put you ahead, Just as the served over servants has the priority.

110. As you proceeded through all the seven levels with them, In a procession, you were the banner bearer to see;

111. Until you had left no goal for the ambitious in hope Of closeness, nor height for someone seeking ascendency.

112. You humbled all ranks by annexation: you were addressed, Like an unannexed proper noun, with singular dignity.

113. So that you triumph with a connection oh so concealed From eyes, and a secret oh so shrouded in mystery!

114. So you obtained every glory, no one else joining you; And you surpassed all alone, unchallenged, every degree.

115. The measure of stations you were granted, what majesty! Attaining the blessings you were given, what rarity!

116. Great news for us, people of Islam! Indeed, we possess A pillar of special care erected unbreakably.

117. And since Allah called the one who called us to serving Him The Greatest Prophet, we are the greatest community.

Chapter 8 - His Jihad

118. The news of his being sent alarmed the hearts of the foes, Just like a roar causing heedless sheep to startle and flee.

مَا زَالَ يَلْقَاهُمُ فِيْ كُلِّ مُعْتَرَكٍ // حَتيُّ حَكُوا بِالْقَنَا لَحْمَا عَلَىٰ وَضَم

119. He kept courageously facing them at each battlefield, Till they were butchered by spears like meat in a butchery.

وَدُّوا الْفِرَارَ فَكَادُوا يَغْبِطُونَ بِهِ // أَشْلاءَ شَالَتْ مَعَ الْعُقْبَانِ وَالرَّخَم

120. They longed to flee so much that they watched the parts carried off By buzzards and vultures in a state of near jealousy.

تَمْضِي اللَّيالِيْ وَلا يَدْرُوْنَ عِدَّتَهَا // مَا لَمْ تَكُنْ مِّنْ لَيَالِي الأُشْهُرِ الْحُرُم

121. The nights would pass with them unaware the number of them, except the nights of the Sacred Months of tranquility.

كَأَنَّمَا الدِّيْنُ ضَيْفٌ حَلَّ سَاحَتَهُمْ // بِكُلِّ قَرْمِ اللَّي لَحْمِ الْعِدَا قَرِم

122. As if religion had been a guest arrived at their yard, with every warrior craving meat of the enemy.

يَجُرُّ بَحْرَ خَمِيْسِ فَوْقَ سَابِحَةٍ // يَرْمِيْ بِمَوْج مِّنَ الأَبْطَالِ مُلْتَطِم

123. It brought an ocean of troops on gracefully-floating steeds, Advancing waves made of heroes, surging successively.

مِنْ كُلِّ مُنْ تَدِبٍ شِهِ مُحْتَسِبٍ // يَسْطُوْ بِمُسْتَأْصِلِ لِّلْكُفْر مُصْطَلِم

124. Each in response to the call of God, in hope of reward, Attacking armed to uproot and shatter idolatry.

حَتى غَدَتْ مِلَّةُ الإسلام وَهْيَ بِهِمْ // مِنْ بَعْدِ غُرْبَتِهَا مَوْصُوْلَةَ الرَّحِم

125. Until the Faith of Islam, with them among it, became—Once having been foreign—now a unified family.

مَكْفُوْلَةً أَبَداً مِّنْهُمْ بِخَيْرِ أَبِ // وَخَيْرِ بَعْلٍ فَلَمْ تَيْتَمْ وَلَمْ تَئِمِ

126. Protected forever from them by the best father and Best husband, so not an orphan or a widow is she.

هُمُ الْجِبَالُ فَسَلْ عَنْهُمْ مُّصَادِمَهُمْ // مَاذَا لَقِيْ مِنْهُمْ فِيْ كُلِّ مُصْطَدَم

127. They are the mountains, so ask about them their battle-foe, At every battle, the things from them that they used to see.

وَسَلْ خُنَيْناً وَسَلْ بَدْراً وَسَلْ أُحُدًا // فُصنول حَثْف لَّهُمْ أَدْهي مِنَ الْوَخَم

128. And ask Hunayn, question Badr, and even ask Uhud, too—events of death for them, worse than plague in catastrophe.

ٱلْمُصْدِرِي الْبِيْضِ حُمْر اَمبَعْدَ مَا وَرَدَتْ // مِنَ الْعِدَا كُلَّ مُسْوَدٍّ مِّنَ اللَّمَم

129. returning white blades now turned to crimson after they reached The fighters with flowing hair of black from the enemy.

130. Inscribing with spears of Lettering, their pens didn't leave A body line with undotted i, and crossed every t.

131. with sharpened weapons they had a mark to set them apart; A rose is set by its mark apart from a thorny tree.

132. The victory winds convey to you the sweet news of them; So flowers in bloom you'd reckon every soldier to be.

133. They were in horseback like firmly-rooted plants up on hills—From grit so solid, not girth of saddle held solidly.

134. The enemies' hearts were fluttering in fear of their force, Unable to tell a lamb apart from brave cavalry.

135. whoever is aided by the Messenger of Allah, If lions meet him inside their woods, they bow silently.

136. You will not see any friend that isn't victorious Through him, nor any opponent not destroyed utterly.

137. He put his nation to dwell inside the fort of his faith; Like lion dwelling inside the forest with progeny.

138. How often the words of God refuted the quarrelsome About him! How often proof defeated the enemy!

139. enlightenment in the one unread is wonder enough, In Age of darkness; and good upbringing in orphancy.

Chapter 9 - Redemption through the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)

140. I've served him with eulogy by which I seek to erase The sins of life spent in poem and in servility.

141. For they have led me to things of horrible aftermath; Akin to livestock decreed by them for the butchery.

142. I have obeyed the deceit of youth in both cases and Got nothing but sins and then regret, oh, what misery!

143. Oh, what a loss for my soul, the awful deal that it made! Not buying faith with this world, not even browsing to see.

144. whoever sells off his future for his present will come To see the loss in his sale and future delivery.

145. If I engage in a sin, my covenant isn't void with him, the Prophet; nor is the rope dissevered from me.

146. By naming my son Muhammad I am in pledge to him; And none is more faithful in fulfilling pledges than he.

147. At my appointment, if he's not holding onto my hand—In graciousness—say, "Oh, what a fall into tragedy!"

148. Far be it from him to bar the aspirant of his gifts, Or send away in dishonor from him a refugee.

149. And since committing my thoughts to singing praises of him, I've found him to be the most committed to saving me.

150. The riches from him will not neglect a poor, dusty hand; Indeed, the rain causes even hills to be flowery.

151. I sought no bloom of the lower world the hands of Zuhayr Had picked for having presented Herim with flattery.

Chapter 10 - Seeking Allah's Forgiveness

يَا أَكْرَمَ الْخَلْق مَا لِي مَنْ أَلُوْذُ بِه // سِوَاكَ عِنْدَ خُلُوْلِ الْحَادِثِ الْعَمَم

152. Most Noble of All Creation, what refuge do I have But you at the coming of the global emergency?

وَلَنْ يَضِيْقَ رَسُوْلَ اللهِ جَاهُكَ بِيْ // إِذَا الْكَرِيْمُ تَجَلَّى بِاسْم مُنْتَقِم

153. O Messenger of Allah, your rank won't shrink from me when The Generous manifests His punishing quality.

فَإِنَّ مِنْ جُوْدِكَ الدُّنْيَا وَضَرَّتَهَا // وَمِنْ عُلُوْمِكَ عِلْمُ اللَّوْح وَالْقَلَم

154. Yes, from your grace is indeed the world as well as its mate; And of your knowledge the Tablet and the Pen of decree.

يَا نَفْسُ لا تَقْنَطِي مِنْ زَلَّةٍ عَظُمَتْ // إِنَّ الْكَبَائِرَ فِي الْغُفْرَانِ كَاللَّمَم

155. O soul, despair not because of a mistake that is grave; enormities are like slips compared to His clemency.

لَعَلَّ رَحْمَةَ رَبِّيْ حِيْنَ يَقْسِمُهَا // تَأْتِيْ عَلَى حَسَبِ الْعِصْيانِ فِي الْقِسَم

156. And hopefully, mercy from my Lord when He gives it out will come according to sinfulness in its quantity.

يَا رَبِّ وَاجْعَلْ رَجَائِيْ غَيْرَ مُنْعَكِس // لَدَيْكَ وَاجْعَلْ حِسَابِيْ غَيْرَ مُنْخَرِم

157. My Lord, and make not my hope a hope that is overturned with you; and make my expectance with no deficiency.

وَالْطُفْ بِعَبْدِكَ فِي الدَّارَيْنِ إِنَّ لَـهُ // صَبْراً مَّتٰى تَدْعُهُ الأَهْوَالُ يَنْهَزِم

158. Be kind to Your slave in both abodes; for his fortitude whenever terrors call out to it will turn tail and flee.

وَانْذَنْ لِّسُحْبِ صَلاةٍ مِّنْكَ دَائِمَةٍ // عَلَى النَّبِيِّ بِمُنْهَلِّ وَمُنْسَجِم

159. Let clouds of blessing from You, unending, rain down upon The Prophet, with pouring rain so heavily, steadily.

مَا رَنَّحَتْ عَذَبَاتِ الْبَانِ رِيْحُ صَبَا // وَأَطْرَبَ الْعِيْسَ حَادِي الْعِيْسِ بِالنَّغَمِ

160. For longer than willow branches by the east wind are swayed; And camel drivers excite the camels with melody.

Epilogue

ثُمَّ الرِّضَا عَنْ أَبِيْ بَكْرِ وَّعَنْ عُمَرَ // وَعَنْ عَلِيٍّ وَّعَنْ عُثْمَانَ ذِي الْكَرَم

160 A. [Then pleasure with Abu Bakr, the greatest of company, And Umar, bearer of Truth, and then Uthman, and Ali,

160 B. The Family and Companions and all the Followers, The people of purity and patience and piety.

160 C. My Lord, by the Chosen One, make our hopes come to be, And pardon us what has gone, O Vast in Gen'rosity.

160 D. And please, my God, do forgive all of the Muslims by what They all recite at the Holy Mosque and the Sanctity.

160 E. By the prestige of him who the Goodly Land is his home; whose very name is an oath of greatest immensity.

160 G. This is the Burdah of the Selected One, now complete; And praise Allah at the start and finish, eternally!

160 H. The number of verses in it is one sixty or more; relieve by them our woes, O Vast in Gen'rosity!