

YOU ARE THE ONE I NEED

Your love took me away from me, You are the One I need
Day and night I burn gripped by agony, You are the One
I need

I find no great joy in being alive; if I cease to exist, I would
not grieve,

The only solace I have is Your love; You are the One I need

Your love slays lovers; soaks them in the sea of love
Fills them with Your epiphanies; You are the One I need

Let me drink the wine of love and, like Majnun, go to the
mountains,

Day and night, You are my sole concern; You are the one
I need

The Sufis seek for friendly conversation; the hereafter is
what seekers of it need

Majnuns (lovers) seek for their Leylas (beloved); You are
the One I need

Even if, at the end, they make me die; and scatter my
ashes up to the sky,

My dust would break into this outcry; You are the one I
need.

Yunus Emre, the mystic, is my name; each passing day
rouses my flame,

What I desire in both worlds is the same; You are the one
I need.

Yunus Emre

Hearing the man's reasoning, Abu Hanifa responded:

"You assume that a boat cannot be built without an artisan.
How can you believe that the whole universe can exist on its
own without a craftsman building it?"

The people agreed with what Abu Hanifa said. Yet, the
fire-worshipper continued:

"Why is your God invisible then? The things that exist are
visible."

Abu Hanifa asked the man:

"Do you have intellect?"

"Of course," said the man.

"Show it to us then!" insisted Abu Hanifa.

When the man admitted,

"I cannot show it."

Abu Hanifa said:

"Maybe you do not have it! Yes, the entities such as soul
and mind cannot be seen, yet their existence is known, which
means not every entity is visible."

Showing their approval for Abu Hanifa's explanation, the
people bore witness out loud. And the man got angry. He asked:

"What is your God busy with right now?"

"Step down from the pulpit and I will answer your question
when I climb up there," said Abu Hanifa. And when he got up
there, he explained:

"At this moment, God is busy with having an ignorant
person like you stepping down from the pulpit and having a
child like me climb up to it to give a lesson."

Seeing the genius of Abu Hanifa, the man had to yield. He
thanked Abu Hanifa and embraced Islam right there as the
people bore witness.

THE SPECIAL PROTECTION BY GOD

Ibn Abbas stated: “A poor person approached me and asked for some things. I told him, ‘Do you bear witness that there is no god but God and Muhammad is His Messenger?’”

“Yes, I do,” responded the poor man.

“Do you fast during Ramadan?” I asked him.

“Yes, I do,” replied the man again.

“You asked for something from me and it is incumbent upon us to give when someone asks for something from us,” I said, and gave him a set of clothes. And I told him the following hadith that I had heard from the Messenger of God: ‘Whoever provides clothing for Muslims, the one who donates will be under the protection of God until the other person takes it off.’”

DEEDS ARE SHAPED BY INTENTIONS

Istanbul is a city that has served as the capital of many civilizations and is filled with so many monumental buildings like mosques, palaces, and other historical buildings. This city continued to develop thanks to the charitable contributions of generous benevolent individuals throughout the centuries. The Ottoman Sultans also contributed significantly to the development of the city.

Suleyman the Magnificent also wanted to build a mosque in Istanbul following the example of previous Sultans. He hired Mimar Sinan (the Great Architect) to build the mosque, known as Suleymaniye, for him. They laid the foundation of the mosque in a short period of time.

Suleyman the Magnificent warned the architects and construction workers not to accept funding from any other party other than the Sultan, himself, because he wanted to cover all the costs of such a great masterpiece.

Finally the walls of the mosque rose up, which made an elderly woman, who lived across from the mosque, very sad. The only property she had was a cow. She told herself, “Great Sultan, it is not a problem for a Sultan like you to build such a masterpiece for God’s sake. But how can a poor woman like me, whose only wealth is a single cow, have a mosque built to earn God’s pleasure? I wish I had a big fortune like that of yours so that I could build a large mosque.”

One day, she thought that while she did not have a fortune to build a mosque, she could make a cold yogurt drink for the construction workers, who were working under the sun. Preparing the cold drink for the workers, she went over to them to serve it. But the foreman told the old woman:

“Auntie, please do not take it personally, but we cannot accept your offer since the Sultan warned us not to accept any sort of donation from anyone.”

“A cup of yogurt drink would cause no harm. Please accept it,” insisted the old woman.

The foreman then reasoned:

“A cup of drink is nothing compared to the huge mosque. The Sultan will not get angry at us and we will make the old woman happy.”

And they all drank the yogurt drink that the old woman served them. The next day the Sultan came to the construction site. He was quite angry and yelled:

God hears the voices of even the most fragile and weakest beings, meets their needs and cares for them. Why does such a God ignore the most precious living being's desire for eternity? God always hears the supplications of those who have beseeched for centuries, "We do not want to cease to exist after we die. Make us eligible for eternity! Our Lord, you provide us with numerous blessings. Show us the origins and sources of the examples you have provided in this world! Do not destroy us in this desert! Accept us in your presence! Do not make us suffer from nonexistence!" God does not allow human beings to perish when they die like the leaves of trees that fall on the ground and decompose.

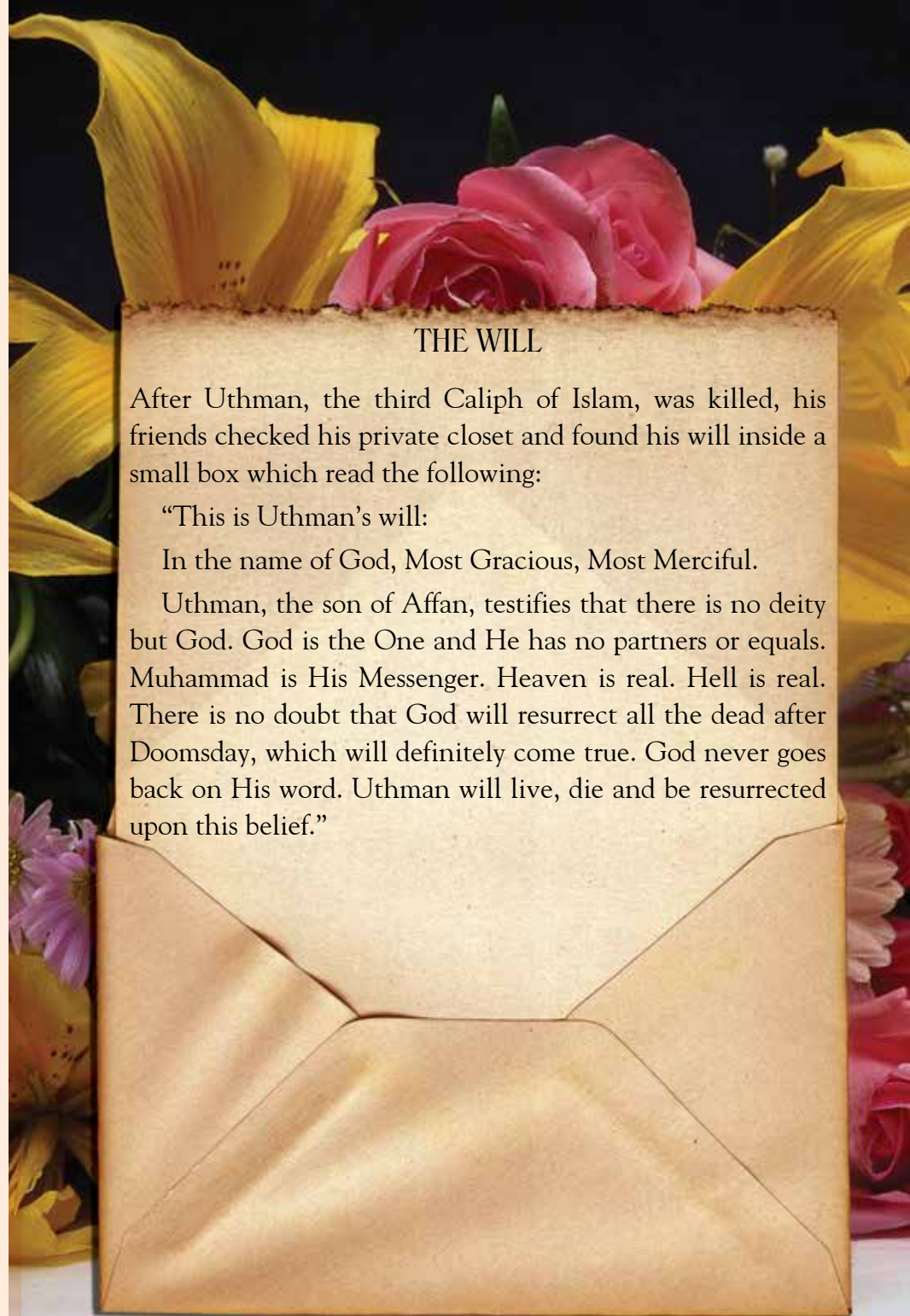
On the contrary, the One who does not waste the seeds of a fig will absolutely not throw man into the darkness of nonexistence. For instance, the seed of a fruit appears to be dead. Yet, it comes to life when it is planted. Likewise, a dead person is dead in this world but alive in terms of the Hereafter, for humans will go to the earth first like the seed of a fruit and pass to life after death through the corridor of the grave.

God does not create anything without a purpose and does not leave them to nonexistence.

We kill the grains while harvesting them. We separate the ear from the wheat. Then, we kill it again by grinding it to make flour. We make dough out of the flour. And then, we make bread after they cook it in the oven, which means that we kill it again.

The wheat that dies several times and turns into bread sustains the life of a human being when it is eaten. God recreates all those miracles everyday and He is the One who will resurrect human beings to reward/punish them based on what they have done in this world.

Say: "Go about on the earth and see how God originated creation. Then God will bring forth the other (second) creation (in the form of the Hereafter). Surely God has full power over everything. (al-Ankabut 29:20)



THE WILL

After Uthman, the third Caliph of Islam, was killed, his friends checked his private closet and found his will inside a small box which read the following:

"This is Uthman's will:

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful.

Uthman, the son of Affan, testifies that there is no deity but God. God is the One and He has no partners or equals. Muhammad is His Messenger. Heaven is real. Hell is real. There is no doubt that God will resurrect all the dead after Doomsday, which will definitely come true. God never goes back on His word. Uthman will live, die and be resurrected upon this belief."

‘Please heat some water. I will take a shower and prepare clean clothes. I will change my clothes.’

I did what she wanted me to do. Then, she took a shower and changed her clothes. Then, she asked me to prepare her bed. She adjusted her bed so that she could face the Ka’ba. She told me, as she was lying on the bed:

‘Dear Umm Salama! It is time to leave. I took a shower by myself and took ablution. For this reason, they do not need to clean my body after I die.’

And she closed her eyes to this world after a short while.”

THE CHILD’S PENITENCE

The Messenger of God stated:

“God elevates the status of His righteous servants in Heaven.”

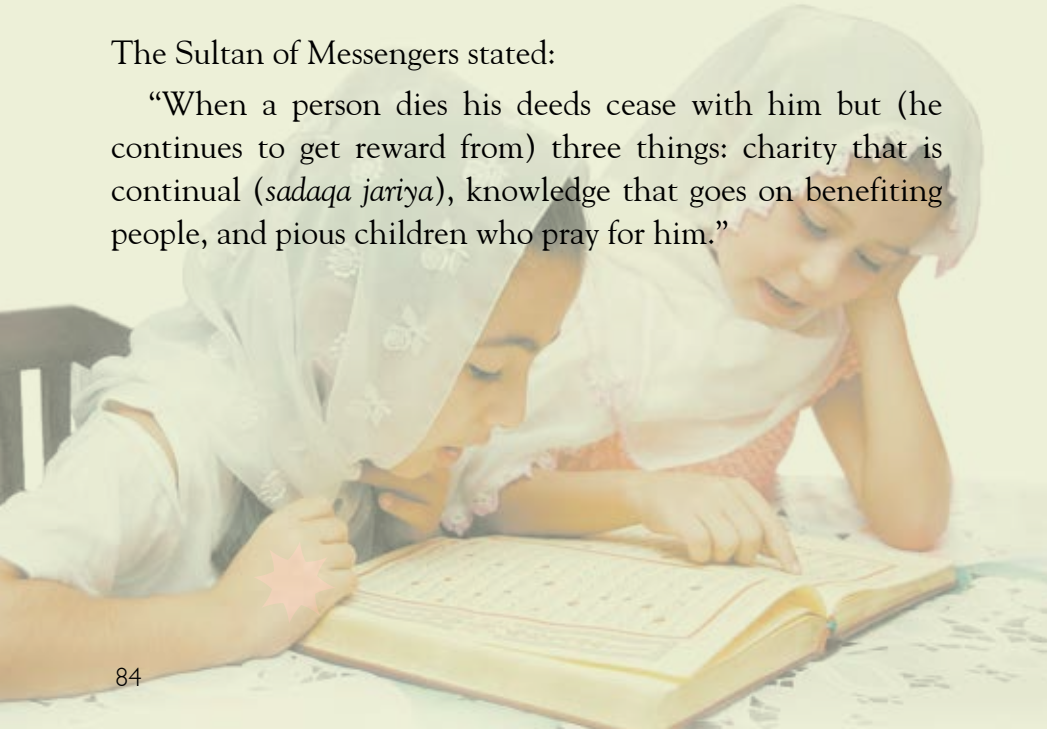
“What is the reason for this blessing?” inquired someone.

“It is due to the penitence your child asks on your behalf.”

WHEN A PERSON DIES

The Sultan of Messengers stated:

“When a person dies his deeds cease with him but (he continues to get reward from) three things: charity that is continual (*sadaqa jariya*), knowledge that goes on benefiting people, and pious children who pray for him.”



RED POPPIES

Red poppies blossom when spring comes
Thousands of red-winged butterflies
Spread on the fields and meadows
For red poppies are so pretty

Red poppies are the most beautiful flowers
They are peerless among wildflowers

The Omnipotent creates such beauties
Lilacs and violets are adorable too, but
Decorating the fields and meadows
Small leaves reminiscent of red taffetas

Red poppies are the most beautiful flowers
They are peerless among wildflowers

Pink roses and rosebuds smile at you
Spreading their beautiful fragrance
Even though daisies and shamrocks are elegant
Red poppies are humming like brides

Red poppies are the most beautiful flowers
They are peerless among wildflowers

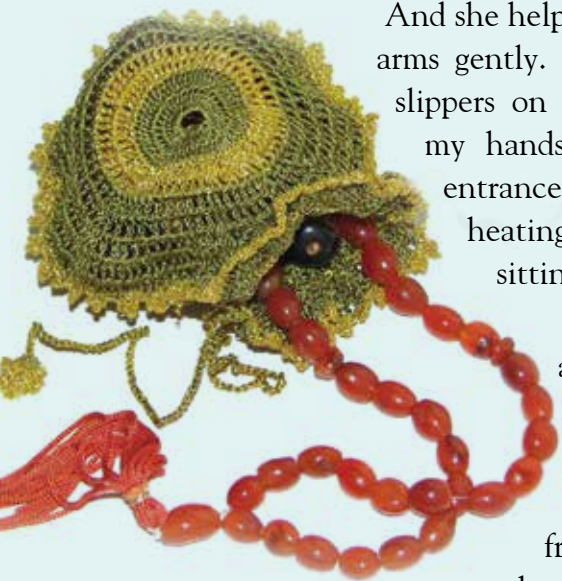
As if blood of thousands of martyrs
Painted the fields in red
I saw it wasn't the martyrs' blood
Red poppies woke up in spring

Red poppies are the most beautiful flowers
They are peerless among wildflowers

Wherever I see a red poppy
I can't stop contemplating over it for hours
I can't take the little baby in red
Away from its lovely friends

Red poppies are the most beautiful flowers
They are peerless among wildflowers

Yaşar Nezihe Bükülmez



And she helped me get up by holding my arms gently. I followed her, putting my slippers on and rubbing my eyes with my hands. We passed through the entrance and entered her room. The heating stove looked like a man sitting cross-legged.

“Goodness! Pervin is awake too,” I uttered.

Pervin was our housekeeper. She was taking the yellow pitcher from the stove. I never thought that she would be awake at this hour. Mother said:

“Pervin wakes up every day at this time.”

I was surprised to hear that she woke up so early everyday while I was asleep. They took my sweater off. I kneeled down beside the ablution tub. Mother told me that I would get tired kneeling down. So, she gave me a small stool to sit on.

“Say ‘bismillah’ (In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate)”

Pervin was pouring the warm water into my palms and my mother was watching me. “Now your face, your arms, three times...” she whispered. “What about wiping your head...” she tried to correct my mistakes. After the ablution was over, my mother and I chanted some supplications as I wiped my face and arms with a towel. Pervin helped me wipe my feet and put on my socks. I moved closer to the stove to warm up. I saw my mother spreading the prayer mat on the floor when I turned around. Then, she called me as she wore her green headscarf:

“Come!”

I stood beside my mother feeling her sincerity and sublime happiness. She repeated what we were going to do:

“Two rakahs (cycles) of Sunnah. I hope you did not forget what I taught you last night.”

“No.”

“Let’s start, then!”

I emulated her as she started the movements, which are different for men and women. She gently corrected me with a smile on her face when the Sunnah was over.

“My dear son! You are not a woman. Men are supposed to raise their hands up to the back of their ears at the beginning of the prayer.”

Raising my hands up to my ears with her gentle hands, she told me:

“This is how men are supposed to start the prayer.”

Ömer Seyfettin

MY MOM’S PRAYER MAT

In our home
Even greater than our home
A huge garden is
My mom’s prayer mat

Five times a day
Watered
With clean and pure supplications
This garden never fades out.

Vahap Akbaş