

MOULA MUBARAK ! MOULA MUBARAK ! My personal ohbat on this glorious epoch 101 MILAD MUBARAKA

NOTE: As a personal 'ohbat' of 101st Milad Mubarka I have written the excerpts and at the same time tried to maintain a continuity, so that mumineen, who have no time or inclination to read a very engrossing and erudite study – a Book of 429 pages, (this document contains only 4,367 words) can in the least understand and appreciate the glorious annals of our rich Fatemi Heritage, its enriching literature and most important the Personality and Life and Times of the most illustrious and revered Dai Sayyedna Mu'ayyad Shirazi (AQ) Feedback will be appreciated.

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AL-MU'AYYAD AL-SHIRAZI AND FATIMID DAWA POETRY A CASE OF COMMITMENT IN CLASSICAL FATEMI LITERATURE By

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AL-MU'AYYAD'S full name was ABU NASR HIBAT ALLAH BIN ALI IMRAN MUSA

AL MU'AYYAD was one of the most illustrious of the Chief Dai and a veritable intellectual giant in the Fatemi Da'wa

He was elevated to the highest rank in the spiritual hierarchy, the one immediately following the IMAM – called – 'bab al abwab' (gate of the gates)

HISTORY TIME LINE

01. His early life in Fars (997 – 1038 AD)
02. He lived in the Court of the Buyid King Abu Kalijar (1038-1045 AD)
03. In the court of Imam Mustansir Billah (SA) -- (1046 – 1056 AD)
04. A year spent in Syria leading Fatimid coalition against the Saljuq – Abbasid front
05. One year in Jerusalem in exile, followed by two decades in Cairo, after the recall (1058 – 1078 AD)

The DIWAN contains 62 poems totaling 1096 verses Most of the poems are Odes (qasida) Several are short pieces (qita) and one is strophic – 4 lines per verse (murabba)

AL MU'AYYAD frequently uses 'badi' style word play in his poetry He commonly uses paronomasia (jinas) antithesis (tibaq) poetic repetition (takrar)and anticipation of rhyme word (radd al- 'ajuz ala al –sadr) One of the most effective uses of poetic repetition (takrar) comes in his most famous plea for succor verses (read in Bawisa) – 'ya banil Mustafa alykum alaykum'

Al – Mu'ayyad's verses are grounded in its own distinct heritage, the Fatemid esoteric tradition. The earliest manuscript that the author was able to locate is dated 1075H (1665 AD)
His DIWAN comes under the genre of 'COMMITTED LITERATURE' - a committed or engaged author being one who believes in a particular social, political, religious or any other ideology and uses his or her literary production to convince society of its validity.
Indeed the arguments in support of literary commitments are many, among them the social function it fulfills, the moral doctrine it expresses, and makes plausible, the wisdom it imparts, and the reflection and right action it engenders in its readers.

Commitment is an acceptance of an outlook. A committed man is primarily a man who feels a sense of responsibility to his fellow men, and takes practical steps to help them. They help literature to make us aware of our true condition and to increase our sense of responsibility. In addition to providing aesthetic enjoyment, it full fills a social function.

Indeed there are several, ever deepening layers of esotericism in Al-Mu'ayad's poems, and the audience perceives a particular layer based, on its own level of acquaintance, with Fatimid Cosmological symbolism.

Translation of the verses that we recite in the Bawisa are taken from his most moving Ilteza

O sons of Mustafa (it is) in you, in you that the sorrowful seeks asylum in calamities

O sons of Mustafa (it is) from you, from you that wishes of our hearts are sought You – you are the succor whenever sins ruin the sinner among us You – you are the succor whenever death approaches and the time comes to depart

O my masters, how do I praise you when the utmost limit of my praise is jumbled speech

You have been created from clay, and we have been created from it we are from it but earthy

Your bodies originate from the clay from which our souls sprout (Tayyebi meaning – 'Your bodies give rise to the matter, from which our souls are sprouted')

> May the God of creation (shower) blessings Upon them, As long as the rain shower Pours down from the cloud

Al-Mu'ayyad's munajat have eight features, that are common to all munajat, both prose and poetry. Direct address to God Spontaneous personal style Plea for forgiveness and sins Appeal for succor Invocation of the names of Muhammad and his progeny Vocabulary dominated by terms of pathos and complaint Poignant imagery

Quran and Hadith quotations. The munajats – 10 in number all begin with direct address in second person. O my God 'ilahi' in 3 munajat O my Lord 'ya rabbi' in 2 munajat

All the munajat are short and show spontaneity

(O) my God, I hope

for salvation

by the vast mercy of the

One who grants it.

Invocation of the names of the Imams and appealing for their intercession is well known Shi'ite motif, that takes legitimacy from the Quranic verse: "O believers, fear God, and seek the means to come to HIM (al-wasila) Quran 17:57

Al- Qadi al Numan's **Kitab al Himma** expounds on this motif, quoting a saying of Imam Jafar al Sadiq (SA)

'We are the doors to God, and the means (to get near to) Him for His servants: whosever seeks intercession from us, his intercession is successful, whosoever begs mercy through us gains mercy, an whosever turns away from us has gone astray.'

Al Mu'ayyad uses the word *'tawassul'* (seeking, a means to come near to God, here through the Imams)

IMAM

Al-Mu'ayyad professes that IMAM is the true path (maslak) of the soul, and the praiseworthy station (al-maqam al Mahmud) He is the pure (tahir, tayyib, zaki) the best of all people (khyr al anam, khyr ul wara) At death he rises beyond this world, beyond the domain of Jupiter and Saturn, when believers die, their souls go to him.

He is the essence (safwa) of all good people (al-abrar)n of all those who walk the earth, the reason for (ghaya, nihaya) of all creation. He is the refuse ('isma) of good sense and Truth from prediction and error, the preparation ('udda) for the Return for that time of difficulty, when sons and property are of no avail. He is the provision ('atad) and pillar ('imad) for the Hereafter, the succor (ghiayat) for the sinner, at the time of death, the protection (malja) and safety (manja) for his servants, the shelter (ma'adh) from the evils of humans and jinns.

He is the one who gives victory(nasr) He is the treasure (dhuktir) in both the worlds, the sanctuary (mustajar) and the safe haven (aman) for the soul, the one who steadies believer, when he stumbles(muqil al 'athra) He is the hope (murtaja) and the shield (junna) from hell fire, the cool shade (zill zalil) and the one to whom a sorrowful person can pour out his trouble (mustaka al huzn)

On the metaphysical plane, the Imam's foundation (asas) is upon the First Intellect ('aql) and the Universal Soul (nafs) and therefore he is he is elevated in both body (kathif) and soul (latif) He is created from God's Light (nur) and is of special matter (tina) that gives rise to the souls of the believers, as in the following verse addressed to the Imam

ʻinna azsaamkum

Your bodies give rise to the matter from which are souls are sprouted

Al – Mu'ayyad asserts that the Imam also has all the attributes of a good human being. He is characterized by auspiciousness (yumn) felicity (sa'd, sa'ada) He possesses generosity (jid, karam, ihsan) and nobility (majd) glory (fakhr) high merit (fadl) and superiority ((tafadil)

He has justice ('adl) and mercy (rahma) He has honor (sharaf) and goodness (birr) forbearance (hilm) and all lofty traits (ma'ali makrumat, manaqi) He has piety (taqwa) probity (sidq) and Right (haqq) He addresses the Imam thus: Your knowledge is the sea and the knowledge possessed by all the world is like a drop from your

(they are) Mount Sinai From which we hear the Dialogue of God In ourselves and the divine secrets become apparent (halal tur minho nasmao najwallahe)

overflowing sea.

Another genre of poems, which were composed largely during his Dawa in Fars, for the propagation of Fatemi Dawat are disputation poems, which raised questions in the minds of those who believed merely in the zahir of Quran. With the help of these genre of poems AL - MU'AYYAD won over many to the fold of the Fatemi Dawat. Al-Mu'ayyads disputation poems are replete with tashkik (doubt raising question) eg: 'they said I said"

What do you think 'nun' is O companion and 'kaf'? -all creation is a pearl and they are shells ? ('kaf' and 'nun' put together form the word' kun' referring to their creative force in the Quranic notion 'kun fayakun' (36:87 and elsewhere) Verily, anyone who thinks they are (simply) letter of the alphabet deserves all kinds of ridicule from the person of intelligence

Are the protector(s) of the earth and the sky o blind men, two letters from the alphabet ? Understand, O my people what the two letters are verily, the salvation of man is by cognition

The generator of the world is not the generated, indeed not, and the carrier is not like the carried

And 'kaf' and 'nun' through them the workmanship of God became ordered and clove together

from them the existence becomes joined together for him who is the Observer the Existing

how could they be from that which is lifeless, when from them are the sources of life ?

they are majestic, so be assiduous, in looking and extract the pearls from the depths of the sea.

AL- MU'AYYAD frequently uses direct address, in his disputation poems. His addressee is invariably the muslim community (umma) or people (qaum)

AL MU'AYYAD attributes the absurdity of the literalist beliefs by seeking explanation from them with respect to the seemingly ignoble Quranic traits of some of the prophets.

many a meaning is enveloped in words, like the light enveloped in darkness

preserved like the preservation of grain in husks, in a fortress that is among the most protected of fortresses

it's key, is in the hands

of the keepers by whom God has guarded His knowledge

FARS - At the Buyid Court 429-436/37 H (1038-1045/46)

Al-Mu'ayyad's dawah in Fars was very successful in the beginning of his mission. The Buyids professed Shi'ism, and in that respect, he was not trying to convert people away from a particular branch, but rather, with his sharp intellect and powerful reasoning, he was giving shape to their undefined Shi'ism.

Al-Mu'ayyad was appointed dai of Fars for the Fatimids, some time during the reign of Imam al-Zahir (SA)

After Abu Kalijar's conversion to the Fatimid madhab – he met with al- Mu'ayyad every Thursday for a private religious class. The debates are recorded in full in Sira (pg: 16-42) summarized by Klemn in his book – ' Memories of a Mission' He composed many panegyrics for Abu Kalizar and tried to wean him away from wine drinking.

This angered many courtiers and one turncoat, who was in the drinking Party, who professed Fatemi Belief outwardly, started planting doubt in the King's mind, quoting out of context and twisting the meaning of what al-Mu'ayyad told Abu Kalizar.

He took offence to one of the verses in which al –Mu'ayyad writes : "I have done for you, what even your father did not" Abu Kalijar suspended the Thursday classes, and al- Mu'ayyad fell out of favor, in the Kings Court.

He wrote a long 153 verse urjuza addressed to Abu Kalizar in explanation of what really meant by the above remark.

why have (all) my acts become defective because one characteristic among them displeased you ? (and why have) the traces of My good deeds become effaced

Things came to such a pass that Abu Kalijar came out on the side of the Abbasids and place al-Mu'ayyad under house arrest. Ibn al – Muslima arrived at Shiraz. He demanded that al – Mu'ayyad forswear his allegiance to the Fatimids, and al- Mu'ayyad refused and for seven months, remained in Shiraz under house arrest.

When Abu Kalizar left for a military expedition, he managed to escape from his beloved home, never to return. He arrived at Ahwaz. When the Qadi of Ahwaz, informed Abu Kalijar, al-Mu'ayyad was forced to leave, and arrived in the Hilla area, and stayed for seven months. Al-Mu'ayyad's poems contain a large number of verses in which expounds upon his high station and sad temporal state. His reverant love for his Imam come through, as does the pain and pathos of his personal life.

As we know from his biography, al Mu'ayyad's life was a hard one. This sadness is reflected in his poetry. His poems are passionate, filled with life and strength. Bitterness surfaces in them very often, and perhaps comes through, in the words, the meanings, and the cadence itself.

The pain in al –Mu'ayyad's poetry is not poetic convention, but real pain. His grief stricken poetic persona is, in fact, a reflection of his actual historic persona.

About his fugitive state he states thus :

my companion is torture my fortune duistress my cloak is empty of the comforts of life

was it not said"with hardship comes ease ?' (Quran ayah) then why has ease deceived me with hardship ? I conceal anguish, but flowing tears divulge my secrets, so that no secrets remains.

Things were becoming difficult, but a good news arrived that, the prince of Mosul – Qirwash bin al- Muqqalad had declared allegiance to the Fatimids.

Al- Mu'ayyad than resolved to go to Mosul, visiting the shrines of Ali (SA) and Imam Husain (SA) At the shrine of Imam Ali (SA) he composed his famous ilteza – '*aba hasanin ya naziran nazira*'

O Abu al – Hasan, equal of the Warner – if you had not existed he would have had no equal.

O moon after that Sun bright, that appeared destroyed the darkness

O performer of miracles. who, shows us grace and a vast kingdom Protect your wronged servant who has come to you – O master of the people – for protection

who has been driven out of his

land for your sake and has traversed the wilderness towards you poverty stricken

so be a helper for me, O elects of God upon the oppressors and be one who aids.

and lay in ruins the abode of the tyrants, the unjust destroy the powerful among them and the insignificant

O my God, I have sought intercession through this legatee so accept the intercession of my intercessor, O All – Hearing One, the All Seeing One

In another longer ilteja he expresses his feelings thus:

And I have visited the grave Of the pure one in the land Of Karbala may my life be sacrifise for the One slain thirsty, parched !

For in what al-Husayn, son of Fatima, suffered in (those) Ten days In consolation for the likes of Me, if I am to be consoled.

In the next few verses, al-Mu'ayyad declares his resolution to go to his IMAM in Cairo. He expects all his problems to come to an end. But it was not to be, as history bears it out.

CAIRO – at the Fatimid court of Imam al-Mustansir billah (SA) 436/37 – 448 H (1045/46 – 1056)

When Al-Mu'ayyad arrived at Cairo, from his Diwan we come to know that he was approx: 50 years of age.

Upon Al-Mu'ayyad's arrival in Cairo, he had expected the wrost of his troubles to be over. But they had barely begun – the pain no longer came just from the enemy from outside as in Fars. It had become internal – the hurtful actions, now originated in the name of the Imam himself. He

paints a remarkably expressive picture of his broken spirit, at the mercy of the malicious viziers, with no overt function at the court.

The poems of this period are al- Mu'ayyads bitterest ones:

what a strange tale it is parable of a servant and master a Nile flowing copiously – and I thirsty at the banks of the Nile – slain

In Cairo although he revered the Imam, he became aware that the real power of administrating the political affairs at the Court and empire was wielded by Imam al- Mustansir (SA) mother al-Sayyida Rasad's favorite vizier and her former (Jewish) slave master al – Tusari. Also inimical to al –Mu'ayyad was al-Qasim b. Abd al Aziz who was qadi-al-qudat/ dai –al-duat. In one of the poems, he vents out his hurt and feelings at the humiliations endured at the hands of viziers and courtiers.

I use to prey upon lions in Fars and now sheep rise up to prey upon me.

The vizier al- Falahi was helpful and largely with his help after more than 2 years al-Mu'ayyad received the first audience with the Imam. Most of the viziers and courtiers were jealous of his fame, and considered him a political rival. They tried in various ways to curb al- Mu'ayyad's power, and to limit his access to the Imam.

The vizier Ibn al- Muddabir was responcible for al- Mu'ayyads exile to Jersulem. Al- Mu'ayyad used his poetry to challenge them time and again.

He used his poetry to convey his distress and the details of his sorry condition to the Imam, and one of the ways, in which he did this was by including, in it a large quantity of verses that begged the Imam (or all Imam's collectively) for succor.

Elsewhere, he laments the Imam's distancing himself from his worthy followers. A very thought provoking couplet is :

Would that I know when the (Imam's) emergence will take place with the master of the world removing every hardship (*mata layta seyri yakoonal zuhuri fayaksefo moulal vara kul mehanhu*)

It is apparent that Al-Mu'ayyad is referring to the courtiers who have surrounded the Imam. In his Sira he vividly and emotionally describes the awe and joy, he felt upon coming face to face with the Imam. Following this meeting, al -Mu'ayyad with the al- Falahi's aid, had continuous access to the Imam, for a couple of months. In praise of Imam he writes:

(they are) Mount Sinai

from which we hear the dialogue of God in ourselves, and the divine secrets become apparent

In the last months of 439H (1048) the qadi al- Yazuri, who had succeeded al- Tusari as the Queen Mothers' man, stopped al –Mu'ayyads' admittance to the Imam. Soon thereafter, in Muharram 440H (1048) al- Yazuri had al- Falahi imprisoned and killed.

Thus died the only vizier who had been, or would be good to al - Mu'ayyad during his thirty years in Cairo. Al-Muayyad's position grew gradually more intolerable, for he had no access to the Imam and no function at the Court. He resolved once more to go to Fars.

Abu al – Barakat persuaded al-Mu'ayyad to postpone his departure, and asked him to prepare and write out texts of the weekly da'wa sermons (majalis) that al-Yazuri, who was a Sunni and dai-al-duat, would read out to the dawa followers. Al-Mu'ayyad accepted and this state of affairs, continued for more than a year.

Finally, in 450H (1058) al- Yazuri was killed on charges of embezzlement and al-Mu'ayyad was appointed dai-ul –duat.

HIS PERSONALITY – HIS CHARACTER AND HIS SERVICES FOR THE FATIMID DA'WA

Al-Mu'ayyad was an upright, God fearing man according to the historical records. He himself enumerates his virtues in his poems. Contentment, lack of greed, and sufficiency with wealth of spirit and religion, continence, purity of word and deed, integrity and trustworthiness, honor and might, good sense, right guidance, and the healing of souls, knowledge and erudition, piety and sincerity in the worship of God, courage and heart the heart of lion, good intentions, felicity, nobility and graciousness, forbearance and patience in hardship.

All this virtues, he says, are by the grace of IMAM.

In several places in his Diwan, al-Mu'ayyad recounts his weighty services for the Fatimids in Fars and later.

ask Fars about my standing who used to battle there ? who promulagated the religion of right guidance when it's light was dying ? who protected the sanctuary when a violator would have ravaged it ? who herded when there was no herder ?

Among the most important services al-Mu'ayyad has rendered to the Fatimid cause are, according to him his words.

Al-Mu'ayyad was basically a teacher. His forte was the dissemination of Fatimid doctrine. His panegyrics for the Imam were an especially important tool for religious education. As a dai, his primary mission was proselytizing on behalf of the Fatimid da'wa.

Nasir Khusrau, who was dai of Khurasan and a contemporary, writes in praise of Al-Mu'ayyad's poetry.

he (al-Mu'ayyad) is a teacher and a physician (of the souls) one aided by God, in fact, he is an example and illustration of wisdom and knowledge may that City florish, whose gatekeeper he is ! may that ship flourish whose anchor he is !

Excerpts from THE DECREE OF AL- MU'AYYAD'S INVESTITURE AS DAI AL –DUAT (450/1058)

Imam Mustansir billah (SA) states thus : 'You come from a family of godly da'is who spent (their money for the cause) since before the conquest, and fought, before the first heralds of dawn You have followed in their traces and become the most beauteous of them in deeds, and the most elevated of glory in the occasion of obedience and nobility.'

'You raised the banners of the Commander of the Faithful in Fars, Kirman and Khuzistan, such that the world were made to stand up (and take notice) Each tongue and mouth discussed the report of your terrifyingly powerful stature.

'When you presented yourself at his door (of Imam) the fragrance of your beauteous deeds emanating, the tongue of your acts revealing your sincere counsels..... By giving his keys to you, he has given them to one who believes in the religion of the Right, who speaks with the tongue of Truth , he made you objective towards, which all the world turns, and its door (bab) for the believers, (those) in his Presence and those absent in the West and East' Organize the da'is in the province in a manner by which you make the ranks of worship flourish

Organize the da'is in the province in a manner by which you make the ranks of worship flourish and the flower beds of giving and receiving (knowledge) bloom....'

Al-Mu'ayyad and Tayyibi Da'wa

Al-Mu'ayyad was instrumental in the transmission of the learning of the Fatimid da'wa to the Tayyibi Da'wa. This transmission took place in two ways. Firstly, al-Mu'ayyad, who was doyen of Fatemid learning, had tutored the Fatimid Sulayhid Qadi of Yemen – Lamab b. Malik, who had taught his own son Qadi Yahya, who in turn had been the teacher of Syedna Zoeb b. Musa (AQ) the first Tayyibi Dai of Yemen.

Secondly Lamak probably took back with him to Yemen al- Mu'yyad's magnum opus, al-majalis al-Mu'ayydiya, his poetry and other works.

The majalis held a special position in the transmission of learning from one Dai to the other. Al-Mu'ayyad thus came to be considered the father of Taiyybi Dawa.

In the Taiyyebi Dawa Al- Mu'ayyad's poetry is considered to be sacred poetry. It's reading is believed to impart, not only religious knwoedge, but also divine grace or 'barakah'

As a result, it has been utilized for almost more than thousand years in Tayyibi ritual liturgy (Bihori namaz) ihya al - layl and religious education.

All five munajats of al-Mu'ayyad are included in Khazana barakat al -dua (bihori kitab)

Some of the dua's of al-Mu'ayyad recited in bihori namaz are as follows: Maghfirat al dhunub dua Qada al – hawaij dua Kashf al – hamm wa al – ghamm dua Nur al qabr dua Al – tahajjud dua

Al- Mu'ayyads poetry had a great influence on the poetry composed by Yemini Duats, specially Syedna Ali bin Mohammad Walid (AQ) It played a nuclear role in the formulation of Tayyibi poetry.

Al-Mu'ayyad's poetry is considered one of his many blessings for the Tayyibi Dawa. Father of the Tayyibi Dawa, progenitor of Tayyibi learning, author of Majalis Mu'ayyadiya, and hence originator of Tayyibi wa'z majalis.

The term '*munajat*' is the verbal noun of the verb '*naja*' meaning 'to hold a secret conversation, to wisher something to someone, or to confide in someone. All these meaning have a sense of intimate conversation. The Quran uses derivatives of 'naja' eighteen times in several different context. Munajat denotes a literary genre, namely that of communion with Allah, supplication, or extempore prayer.

English translations of A-Mu'ayyad's munajat sharifa *'ya zaka allayal khonako'* Page 72 Bihori Kitab

O my Allah, my throat is chocked and I have no strength left (to face) trials I shall lay my cheek on the ground before you in the day, and complain and weep when night becomes dark perhaps in pity you will deliver me from cares and remove my sorrows O my Allah, grant asylum to your wronged servant by your grace, you are one worthy of bestowing grace

'ya raabe ashku sua' hali' (salaat e tahajuud – Page 68 Bihori Kitab)

O (my) Allah, I complain of the wretchedness of my condition endlessly, and I sincerely supplicate you in order that you bestow (upon me) a glance which suffices me (in) the oppression of the nights so that the scorching of the midday heat.

along with its oppression, turn into the coolness of shade I see something like a barrier between the answer and the petition if you turn away the hand I have stretched out to You O Sublime One do I have any lord other than You, to (go towards) whom I can fasten – O my Hope ! my saddles indeed, I will continue to pray to You (O my) Lord, as long as my human shape remains and I will seek intercession through the Pure Ones the Fatimids, the masters – progeny of the Prophet Mustafa, sanctuaries of salvation from error a group, by the rope of whose allegiance my ropes have been connected, ever since they existed -so that You unfasten the knots of my cares, graciously (like) the unfastening of the (camel's) hobbling rope.

Salaam e Jameel,

As my personal 'ohbat' during the **101st Milad Mubaraka**, I am also sharing my reading of the excerpts and my 'taffakur' on **the Book : Stillness speaks - Echart Tolle** with a selected group of mumineen, who have downloaded my **MEAVI MILAD MUBARAKA KITAB**. As the video is 'unlisted' you may only forward the link to those mumineen, who you know personally and those, who like you are lovers of reading books on personal and spiritual development.

THE MEAVI MILAD MUBARAKA KITAB had been offered as Hadiyah in the hazarat of A'li Qdr Molayee Muffadal Saifuddin Moula (TUS) during ziyafat arz in Pune recently. http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube. com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DRy6FKj5sKe0%26feature%3Demail