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Rasala Rohi Sheriff Translation

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With the Name of Allah the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful

The Book of Soul (Risaala-e-Roohi)

By the truth revealing tongue of Hazrat Sultan-ul-Arifeen (King of the Gnostics) The Proof of the Righteous The Leader of the Perfect Masters Annihilated in the oneness of God Ya Hu Hazrat Sultan Bahu (qs)

Listen (O Seeker !) May Allah guide you in both worlds

I was the 'Ha' in 'Howiyet' (I Existed in the domain of Divine Essence) As a treasure of 'Yahoot' (the First Manifestation) Hidden in 'Lahoot' (the World of Negation)

Then, in 'Malakoot', (the world of Pure Intelligence) I desired that I may become known where there is 'Jabroot' (the World of Power) Thus, I created the creation of 'Nasoot' (the world of physical bodies)

(I created) the individuality (or entity), which is the fountain-head of all springs of reality (which is) the 'Ha' of Howiyet, (which is) Love! I held the heavenly court and the divine throne beyond the limits of all existence, except (people having) Love (who could) reach that court of magnificence

An exemplary lesson here about the nature of that holy Entity that thousands of thousands, rather innumerable, caravans of (people of) intellect got crushed by stones (while trying to reach Almighty through the intellect)

Praise & Glory be to Allah

Even from these bodies of earthly elements there are thousands of ways in which evidences of His beauty & grandeur are being revealed

The Omnipotent entity has created a clear, pure mirror (creation) in order to see His own beautiful face

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He is playing the game of love by Himself

He Himself is the sight He Himself is the seer He Himself is the seen

He Himself is Love He Himself is the lover He Himself is the beloved

if you lift the veil (you will see) that in reality, there is only One Duality is only owing to your squint eyes

I say this, the author of this book who resides in the sanctuary of His beauty (Jamal) and grandeur (Jalal)

(I am) the 'Ha' of Howiyet completely absorbed in witnessing the absolute Being gifted by the Witnessed Omnipresence (gifted by) the Worshipped One (I am he) who swings in the cradle of 'praise me, how great is my splendour' who being at the station of highest respect wears the crown of Knowledge of God, and the crown of His Oneness, and on whose shoulders is the robe of reconciliation and purification (who is at the station of) 'You are me and I am you'

(who was given) the title of 'from the truth' (by) the Absolute Truth

the secret of the Entity of 'Hu' (Him) Faqeer Bahu (May his secret be sanctified) known as Awan resident of the vicinity of Shorekote2 may Allah safegaurd him from mischief and oppression

A few words about the secrets from (my) search into 'fuqr' about the station of the 'Howiyet' of the Absolute Being (about the phrase) 'rahmatee wasay-at kulla shay-in' (My Mercy surrounds everything)

Explanation of the deeper meaning of this, teaching the rarest of the rare

One who knows God, and is unified with Him looks around everywhere, with open eyes but sees nothing except His presence thus he erases himself from all signs of otherness (false notions of one's selfhood) so that absolute could unify with the Absolute

Notes:

- Famous quote by Bayazid Bistami
- A city in Pakistan, where Sultan Bahu lived. His mouselem is also there
- The word 'Faqr' is used by the Prophet(sm) in the hadith 'Al-Faqr-o-fakhr' (Faqr is my pride). However, it is typically translated as 'poverty' while the Prophet(sm) also said, 'I seek refuge in you from poverty and disbelief. Faqr is actually a different concept, something like forsaking everything other than God. Sufis consider it the highest spiritual attainment.

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Listen (O Seeker !)

When the light of singularity from its secluded chamber of unity decided to reveal itself in the phenomenal world of multiplicity

He created a commotion by unveiling His sacred eternal beauty

and towards the candle of His divine beauty the two worlds rushed like moths only to be burnt alive

and through the veil of the 'm' of Ahmad (sm)

(the light of singularity) transformed into the shape of Ahmed(sm)

And due to abundance of emotions and devotion to Ahmed(sm)

(the light of singularity) seven times shook upon itself

and from this (were created) the souls of seven Saints (faqeers)

(these seven souls are) so purified, annihilated in God having eternal life with God immersed in thoughts of the divine Unity, rindless, like the kernel (essence)

much earlier then the creation of Adam for seventy thousand years immersed in the ocean of divine beauty

(these seven souls) were borne on the tree of certainty

Except the Being of absolute truth (God) from beginning till the end they did not see anything else and did not listen to anybody else

in the sanctuary of magnificence (these seven souls) are permanently in the ocean of union with the divine without any decline

at times, they hide themselves under the sacred light (for sake of pursuing) their search for sanctity and purgation

at times they are droplets in the ocean at times they are the ocean in a droplet

and on them has been blessed the status 'When faqr reached its peak it became Allah'

thus with an eternal life with the respectable, everlasting crown of Faqr

they need nothing from their Lord nor do they need anything from any one other than Him

Notes:

- Ahmed is a name of the Prophet (sm). In Arabic, it is written exactly the same as Ahad (The One) which is a name of God, only with the addition of a 'meem' (the letter m) in the center. The sufis give special significance to this relationship. Interesting, the muslims hold that when Jesus (as)foretold of the Prophet(sm), he had said: 'Whose name in the heavens will be Ahmad and on earth, Muhammad (sm)'
- Hadith of the Prophet(sm)
- Sultan Bahu means to suggest that when you are united with God then you do not need anything even from the Lord Himself

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so honourable, so esteemed (their spiritual rank) that they are not even aware of the birth of Adam nor of the happenings of the doomsday to them such temporal happenings are insignificant

their feet are over the heads of all the friends of God (Awliya) all the 'Qutubs' and the 'Ghaus'

if you call them God, then too it is justified if you call them worshippers, then too it is justified

he who understood this point, understood this point

and their station is itself in the sanctuary of the Absolute Being

and they never asked anything from the Absolute Truth except the Absolute Truth itself

nothing of this lowly world, or the comforts of the hereafter nor the houris, nor palaces, nor paradise did ever catch the attention of their eye

and for them that one splash of revelation which perplexed Moses and caused Mount Sinai to shatter down (such revelations) occur to them every twinkling of an eye seventy thousand times stronger moments, emotions, of divine luminosity and splendour keep continuously befalling them but they do not even gasp at such abundance nor do they sigh instead, they keep saying 'is there more of it?'

These are the Sultans of Faqr and leaders of the two worlds

One of them is the soul of lady of the Heaven (Hazrat Fatima rz)

One of them is the soul of Khuwaja Hassan Basri

One of them is the soul of my Shaykh The reality of the Truth The absolute light (noor) The manifestation of the Truth Hazrat Mehboob-e-Subhani (the beloved of God) Shaykh Abdul Qadir Jilani (may God sanctify his secret)

One of them is the soul of the king of lights the secret of eternity Hazrat Peer Abdur Razzaq the son of Peer Dastgir (The helping guide)4 (May God sanctify his secret)

Notes:

- Qutub (Pivot of the world) and Ghaus are terms used to denote the highest positions in the cosmic hierarchy of the friends of God
- This is a subtle point to understand as they are seeminly conflicting statements, (one apparently bordering on shirk, or disbelief) so only he who is blessed with the understanding of this fine point can truly understand this point
- Lady of the heaven and Lady of the day of Judgement are the titles of Hazrat Fatima (rz) the youngest daughter of the Prophet(sm)
- 'Peer Dastgir', (the guide who holds our hands and supports us) is another title of Shaykh Abdul Qadir Jilani

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And one of these souls is that of a fountain of the fountains of divine unity Faqeer Bahu (the author) the secret of the secrets of Divine Entity of Ya Hu

and there are two more Friends (Awliya) and only due to the esteemed felicity and blessings of these two souls the two worlds have their stability and permanence as long as these two souls from the nest of unity do not bring themselves into the world of diversity the doomsday will not materialize

One glance of these souls is the pure light of unity and the epitome of dignity On whomsoever their rarest of the rare shadow befalls it transforms him into absolute light (noor)

They do not require their disciples to perform lengthy prayers and supplications, or any external devotions

Listen (O Seeker) that this faqeer the author of this pleasant compilation has done away with all the veils he has himself become the essence of divine Unity

All glory be to Allah the physical body of this faqeer is like a thin veil (And from behind this veil) Allah is revealing thousands of strange secrets and exquisite subtleties are being stated He himself is the speaker He himself is the speech He himself is the scribe He himself is the script He himself is the proof He himself is the conclusion He himself is the lover He himself is the beloved

If you take this (book) as a sign of divine capabilities then it is correct (but) if you take this as a divine revelation then too it is correct and if you read this document as utterances of this humble worshipper that too it is perfectly correct

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If an accomplished Friend (Wali) faces a decline in his spiritual matters or in matters of the witnessing of His Holiness if he looses his high rank then, if he seeks help of this delectable book as a means of approaching me, the perfect (master) for him, I will be a perfect guide if he does not seek the help of this book then let him be doomed and if he holds fast to this book (and I fail to help him), then let me be doomed

and if a seeker of the path, a seeker of connection and civlity, holds fast and retains this book as a medium then, due to retention and perseverance I will give him knowledge of Allah and I will make his **heart** alive and make his conscience clear and bright

Whoever there is of a seeker of the truth I present myself to his service so that I can take the seeker from the beginning to the very end in one moment

Come, O Seeker (of this material world) Come, O Seeker (of the hereafter) Come, O Seeker (of Allah)

so that the very first day, I take you to your destination

Listen (O Seeker!)

only those who have perfect knowledge of Allah (are the true) Qaderis Thus they are capable of amazing feats and are capable of being present at every place

Completely absorbed in the 'Ha' of 'Howiyet' the author of this book states that when truly divine grace and favour was bestowed upon me which I received as a blessing in the truest sense then He, who is stationed at the highest, holiest stations of divine light (noor) The Prophet Muhammad (sm) (peace and blessing be upon him) instructed me to guide the people may they be muslims may they be non-believers may they be the fortunate may they be the unfortunate ones may they be destined to find the truth may they be destined to be doomed may they be living may they be deceased

Because from his holy tongue, which emanates the secrets (The Prophet(sm) has called me) 'Mustafa the second' and 'Mujtaba of the last days'

Notes:

- Those who deny this book out of arrogance and not for ignorance or unrelateddness
- Sultan Bahu (qs) belonged to the Qaderi order of Shaykh Abdul Qadir Jilani (qs)
- Mustafa and Mujtaba are two names of the Prophet Muhammad (sm)

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Mustafa (sm), (the Prophet) himself initiated me (into discipleship) on his own hands Mujtaba (sm), (the Prophet) himself called me his own son

Bahu (has thus received) permission from Propheet(sm) himself to guide people in the way of Allah, and only for sake of Allah

I am the lowly dust particle under the feet of Hassan (rz) and Hussein (rz) that is why I have reached the highest peak of Gnosis of God (maarifat) and Fuqr

And when I reached the station of Fuqr from the court of the Magnificent One came the decree 'You are my lover' in reply, this faqeer petitioned that 'this powerless person is unworthy of being a lover of the Mangificent One Came the reply 'You are my beloved' at that, this incapable powerless person remained quite

At that time, a ray of light from the Magnificent One drowned his humble being, and immersed every atom of my body in the oceans of perpetual divine attention and came the decree 'You are essence of my own Being and We are the essence of your being In reality, you are my reality and in maarifat (gnosis) you are my intimate friend and in the shape of 'Hu' you are the secret of the being of ya Hu'

Notes:

- Hassan and Hussein (may God be pleased with them) were the grandsons of the Prophet(sm)
- Sultan Bahu states that my mother was inspired to give me the name Bahu, which means 'with Hu', where Hu is the arabic word used to refer to the reality of God, literally meaning 'Him'

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Webmaster 03:05, 6 June 2008 (CDT)

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Rasala Rohi Sheriff

