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*A succinct treatise on the great status of the
Prophet's Family and why the Ummah ought
to love them with all their being.*

The grand status of the Prophet's Family

By virtue of their relationship with Him, Allah Most High has accorded great status to the family of the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam). The Lord Almighty has declared their superiority in the Holy Quran:

Allah only intends to remove all the impurity of sins from you, O People of the House (of the Prophet, [even a doubt or trace of shortcoming]) and make you absolutely pure and clean by blessing you with (perfect) purity and wholesomeness. Surah Ahzaab (33:33)

This verse of the Holy Quran proves that Allah Most High has kept the family of the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) free of all kinds of flaws and defects, be them moral, ethical, intellectual, outward or inward. Ummul Momineen Hadhrat Umme Salma (May Allah be well pleased with her) says about the background of the revelation of this verse:

Translation: When the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) was in my room, this verse was revealed: Allah only intends to remove all the impurity of sins from you, O People of the House (of the Prophet, [even a doubt or trace of

shortcoming]) and make you absolutely pure and clean by blessing you with (perfect) purity and wholesomeness. Then the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) summoned Hadhrat Fatima, Hadhrat Ali, Hadhrat Hasan and Hadhrat Hussain (May Allah be well pleased with them). The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said: These are my family members (Ahle Bait). Hadhrat Umme Salma (May Allah be well pleased with her) asked: O Prophet of Allah (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam)! Am I not from among the Ahle Bait? The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said: Allah-willing, you are also from the Ahle Bait. (Zujajatul Masabeeh, Vol. 5, Pg. No. 316)

Mention of Prophet's Family in Salaat

As it is necessary for every Muslim to love the Prophet's Family (Ahle Bait), that's why their mention has been ordained a part of Salaat. Fasting, Haj, Zakaat and charity are not things that each and every Muslim performs day in and day out.

Sick people don't fast, needy people don't give Zakaat, Hajj is obligatory on a person with means of doing so only once in a lifetime. The intent of Allah Most High is that the mention of

the Prophet's Family shouldn't cease at all, that Muslims should repeatedly express love for them. Thus, their mention was made a part of Salaat. In Salaat, Durood is recited. There is Hadith in Sunan Daraqutni about Durood:

Translation: It is narrated on the authority of Hadhrat Abu Mas'ud Ansari (May Allah be well pleased with him), he says: The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said: If person offers a Salaat in which Durood on me and my family is not recited, that Salaat is not accepted at all. (Sunan Daraqutni, Hadith No. 1359)

There is a Hadith in Sahih Bukhari:

Translation: Hadhrat Ka'ab Bin 'Ujrah (May Allah be well pleased with him) told Hadhrat Abdur Rahman Bin Abu Laila: Should I not give you a beautiful gift, which I heard from the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam)? He said: Why not! You give me that gift. Then Hadhrat Ka'ab said: We asked the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam): How should we send Durood on your family? Allah Most High has taught us how to greet them with Salaam. Then the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said: Say this: Allahumma Salli 'Ala (Sayyidina) Muhammadin Wa 'Ala Aali

(Sayyidina) Muhammadin Kama Sallayta `Ala
 (Sayyidina) Ibraheema Wa `Ala Aali Sayyidina
 Ibraheema Innaka Hameedum Majeed.
 Allahumma Barik `Ala (Sayyidina) Muhammadin
 Wa `Ala Aali (Sayyidina) Muhammadin Kama
 Barakta `Ala (Sayyidina) Ibraheema Wa `Ala Aali
 Sayyidina Ibraheema Innaka Hameedum
 Majeed. (Sahih Bukhari, Hadith No. 3370)

***The Prophet's Family – A means of safety
 for the Ummah***

There is a Hadith in Sunan Dailami:

Translation: Ayaas bin Salama (May Allah be well pleased with him) narrates on the authority of his father who narrates that the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said: Stars are the means of safety for the dwellers of the heavens and my family is the means of safety for my Ummah. (Mo'jam Kabeer Tabarani, Hadith No. 6137)

***The very mention of the Prophet's Family is
 a cure – Even lunatics are cured***

There is a Hadith in Sunan Ibn Majah, Mo'jam Kabeer Tabarani and in Baihaqui:

Translation: It is narrated on the authority of Hadhrat 'Ali bin Abu Talib (May Allah be well pleased with him) that the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said: Faith is to believe from the heart, to affirm with the tongue and to fulfill the obligations.

The narrator of this Hadith, Hadhrat Abu Salat (May Allah be well pleased with him) says: If the chain of authority of this Hadith is recited and blown over a lunatic, the lunatic will be cured of lunacy. (Sunan Ibn Majah, Mo'jam Kabeer Tabarani, Baihaqui)

Now let us look at the chain of authority of this Hadith. All of them are from the Prophet's Family:

Translation: It is narrated on the authority of Hadhrat 'Ali bin Moosa Raza (May Allah be well pleased with him) who narrates on the authority of his father Hadhrat Moosa Raza (May Allah be well pleased with him) who narrates on the authority of Imam Ja'afar Sadiq (May Allah be well pleased with him) who narrates on the authority of his father Hadhrat Imam Muhammad Baquer (May Allah be well pleased with him) who narrates on the authority of Imam Zain Ul A'abideen (May Allah be well

pleased with him) who narrates on the authority of Imam Hussain (May Allah be well pleased with him) who narrates on the authority of Hadhrat Ali bin Abi Talib (May Allah be well pleased with him) who narrates that the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said:.....(As mentioned earlier)

Attachment with the Holy Quran and the Prophet's Family – A mark of guidance

The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) has declared relations with His family as a means of deliverance and as a means of safety from misguidance. Whoever attaches themselves with them, will never be misguided. Then please consider, will those pure souls fall prey to chasing this material world?

Thus, on the occasion of the Farewell Hajj (Hujjatul Wada'a), when the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) gave the whole world a message of peace, on the same occasion, He (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) also gave the order for attaching oneself with the Holy Quran and the Prophet's Family. Following them is a means of eternal blessings and is a strong guard against wrong beliefs and the

wrong path. There is a Hadith in Sunan Baihaqi and in Jame' Tirmidhi:

It has been reported on the authority of Hadhrat Jabir (May Allah be well pleased with him): I saw the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) on 'Arafat. He (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) was on His she-camel, Qaswa and was giving a sermon. I heard Him saying: O people, I leave with you 2 great bounties. As long as you hold on to them, you will never be misguided. They are: the Book of Allah and my family. (Jame' Tirmidhi, Hadith No. 3718)

When according to the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam), His family saves people from misguidance and whoever attaches oneself with them cannot be on the wrong path, then is it correct to blame them with the love of this material world? Is it correct to label their struggle as a political struggle? Even after Allah declares their purity in the Holy Quran:

Allah only intends to remove all the impurity of sins from you, O People of the House (of the Prophet, [even a doubt or trace of shortcoming]) and make you absolutely pure and clean by blessing you with (perfect) purity and wholesomeness. Surah Ahzaab (33:33)

Not only this, but the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) specially prayed for them thus, as mentioned in the Hadith:

Translation: O Allah! This is my family. You remove all uncleanness from them and grant them absolute purity. (Jame' Tirmidhi, Hadith No. 3129)

Order to instruct the children to love the Prophet's Family

It is mentioned in the Hadith:

Translation: You instruct your children in 3 things. (1) Love of the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) (2) Love of the Prophet's Family (3) Recitation of the Holy Quran. (Ithaaf Ul Khaira, Hadith No. 7753)

Reward of treating the Prophet's Family nicely

There is a Hadith in Imam Tabarani's Mo'jam:

Translation: It is narrated on the authority of Hadhrat Ibaan bin 'Uthman (May Allah be well pleased with him), he says: I heard Hadhrat

'Uthman (May Allah be well pleased with him) say: The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said: The person who does a favor to the progeny of 'Abdul Muttalib and they didn't return the favor in this world, then in the hereafter when that person comes to me, returning that favor is my responsibility. (Mo'jam Ausat Tabarani, Hadith No. 1502)

Disrespecting the Prophet's Family results in misguidance and destruction

A Hadith has been mentioned in Imam Baihaqi's Shua'bul Iman that the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said:

Translation: There are 6 people whom I curse and Allah curses and the supplication of every Prophet is accepted. Among them are: The one who considers things declared Haraam (impermissible) by Allah as Halal (permissible) and the one who considers those things permissible about my family, which Allah has declared as forbidden i.e. who disrespects the Prophet's Family.

This shows that disrespecting the Prophet's Family leads to misguidance and destruction of faith.

It is a fact that Allah Most High has revealed verses about them in the Holy Quran. There are innumerable Hadith which attest to their superiority and excellence so much so attachment with them has been declared to be a mark of the perfection of faith.

May Allah Most High guide us to love the Companions of the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) and the Prophet's Family and may he bless us in this world and the hereafter through it.

Love for the Prophet's Family

Alla Most High has ordered one and all to love the Prophet's Family through the Holy Quran:

Translation: Say: I do not ask for any recompense for this (preaching the faith in Prophethood), but (seek) love for (my) kindred (and Allah's nearness). Surah Shoorah (42:23)

Loving the Prophet's Family – A demand of faith

There is a Hadith in Jame' Tirmidhi:

Translation: It is narrated on the authority of Hadhrat 'Abdullah bin 'Abbas (May Allah be well pleased with them), he says: The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said: Love Allah because He blessed you with His bounties. For the love of Allah, love me and for my love, love my family. (Jame' Tirmidhi, Hadith No. 3722)

The grace and benevolence of Allah Most High demands that we should love Him. To be able to love Allah Most High, we should love the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) and to be able to love the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam), the Family of the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) should be loved.

It is as if the love of the Prophet's Family is a step towards the love of the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam). If anybody desires proximity and closeness of Allah Most High and wants to be enter His presence, the only way for this is to love the Prophet's Family. This love will grant closeness to the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) and through the

proximity of the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam), that person will attain proximity of Allah.

There is a Hadith in Sunan Ibn Majah and Jame Tirmidhi.

The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said: By Him who holds my life in His hands, faith cannot even enter the heart of the person, who does not love you (The Prophet's Family) for the sake of Allah Most High and their relationship with me. (Jame' Tirmidhi, 3691; Sunan Ibn Majah, Hadith No. 137)

There is a Hadith in Mo'jam Kabeer Tabarani and Baihaqui:

Translation: It is narrated on the authority of Hadhrat Abdur Rahman bin Abu Laila (May Allah be well pleased with him) who narrates on the authority of his father that the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said: No one can be a true believer unless I am more beloved to him (or her) than his own life, my Family is more beloved than his own family and my progeny become more beloved than his own progeny and I become more beloved to him than his own self.

(Mo'jam Kabeer Tabarani, Hadith No. 5952; Shua'bul Iman, Hadith No. 1505)

Faith (Iman) is the most basic condition for all rules and all forms of worship, without which all that one has done will be rendered waste and the aforementioned Hadith obviates that love for the Prophet's Family is a condition for faith and if their love is not present in one's heart, then one's very faith is flawed.

The Prophet's Family – Ark of deliverance

The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) has declared His family as the Ark of Deliverance and safety, as mentioned in this Hadith:

Translation: It is narrated on the authority of Hadhrat 'Abdullah bin 'Abbas (May Allah be well pleased with them) that the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said: My Family is the like the Ark of Nooh (May peace be upon him). The one who boards it is delivered and the one who stays back is destroyed. (Mo'jam Kabeer Tabarani, Hadith No. 2572)

In the same way, the Companions have been declared to be the stars of guidance. The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said:

Translation: My Companions are like the stars of guidance. Whomever you follow, you will be guided. (Mishkaatul Masabeeh, Pg. No. 554; Zujajatul Masabeeh, Vol. 5, Pg. No. 334)

Love of the Companions and the Prophet's Family – A mark of the Ahle Sunnah

Hadhrat Mulla Ali Qari writes in Mirqaat Ul Mafateeh on the authority of Imam Fakhruddin Radhi (May Allah shower His mercy on both of them):

Sermon on love of the Prophet's Family when returning from the Farewell Hajj

It has been narrated on the authority of Hadhrat Zaid bin Arqam (May Allah be well pleased with him) that one day, the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) gave a sermon at Ghadeer, which is between Makkah and Madina.

He (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) thanked Allah, praised Him and gave a sermon. He (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) advised us and reminded us of the hereafter and then said: O People! Verily, I have come as a human being. Soon, a messenger from my Lord will come to me and I

will accept his invitation. I leave behind, with you, 2 great bounties of Allah Most High. One among them is the Book of Allah, in which there is Guidance (Hidayah) and Radiance (Noor). You accept the Book of Allah Most High and hold on to it firmly. He (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) exhorted us towards the Holy Quran. Then said: The second bounty is my Family; I remind you of Allah about my Family; I remind you of Allah about my Family" (Sahih Muslim, Hadith No. 2408; Mishkaatul Masabeeh, Pg. No. 68; Zujajatul Masabeeh, Vol. 5, Pg. No. 317/318/319)

"I remind you of Allah about my Family". The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said this because love of the Prophet's Family is for the love of the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) and love of the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) is for the love of Allah Most High. Hence love of the Prophet's Family Bait will take you to Allah, so fear Allah about them in that no inappropriate word about them slips out from your tongue.

Hadhrat Mulla Ali Qari (May Allah shower His Mercy on him) writes in the interpretation of this Hadith:

Translation: The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said: "I remind you of Allah about my Family" twice. The wisdom behind it is that the first time it meant His progeny and the second time, it meant the honorable wives of the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) (Ummahatul Momineen), may Allah be well pleased with them.

To hurt the Companions is to hurt the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam)

The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) has emphasized respect of His Family and along with them of the Companions that Allah Most High should be feared about them, as given in Jame' Tirmidhi:

Translation: It has been narrated on the authority of Hadhrat Abdullah bin Mughaffal (May Allah be well pleased with him) that the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said: Fear Allah about my Companions. Fear Allah. Do not make them the target of your condemnation after me. Whoever loves them, loves them out of love for me. Whoever hates them, hates them out of his hate for me. Whoever hurts them, hurts me and whoever hurts me, hurts Allah and whoever hurts Allah,

He will hold him to account very soon. (Jame' Tirmidhi, Vol. 2, Pg. No. 225).

Those who love the Prophet's Family will be following them into paradise

There is a Hadith in Mustadrak 'Alas Sahihain:

Translation: It is narrated on the authority of Hadhrat 'Ali (May Allah be well pleased with him), he says: The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) told me that (along with Him), the first to enter paradise will be me and Fatima and Hasan and Hussain (May Allah be well pleased with them). I asked: O Prophet of Allah (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam)! What about those who love us? The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said: They will be following you. Imam Hakim has said that the chain of authority of this Hadith is rigorously authenticated. (Mustadrak 'Alas Sahihain, Hadith No. 476)

Glad tidings of intercession for those who love the Prophet's Family

The Holy Prophet, the intercessor of the sinners (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said:

Translation: My intercession is for those privileged people of the Ummah, who love my Family. (Kanz Ul 'Ummal, Hadith No. 34179)

There is another Hadith in Kanz Ul 'Ummal:

Translation: There are 4 lucky people for whom I will intercede (i.e. perform Shafa'ah) on the Day of Judgment.

1. One who respects my Family.
2. One who offers them what they need.
3. One who manages their affairs when they need it.
4. One who loves them with his tongue and heart. (Kanz Ul 'Ummal, Hadith No. 34180)

There is a Hadith in Mo'jam Tabarani:

Translation: It is narrated on the authority of Hadhrat Hasan bin 'Ali (May Allah be well pleased with them) that the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said: Make the love of the Prophet's Family compulsory for yourself! The person who is presented in the court of Allah Most High in a state that our love is in his (or her) heart, that person will enter paradise through our intercession. By Him who holds my life in His power! No good deed will benefit a

bondsman but only after they accept our superiority and excellence. (Mo'jam Ausat Tabarani, Hadith No. 2320)

May Allah Most High guide us to follow in the footsteps of the Prophet's Family and fill our hearts with their love and clear our hearts of their disrespect. Aameen.
