

*Fragrances perceived upon the
Prophet's Birthday*

صلى الله
عليه

by Fariduddin Attar

done into English by Abdal Hakim Murad

*The crown of all the kings is he,
with joyful heart declare!
The lord of all the Prophets he,
his acts beyond compare!*

*How would he be the Leader of the Poor,
if the slightest of desires had stained his heart?
Poor he remained, because that man's a Boor,
whose wedding gifts his bride from him do part.*

*Because he had nothing, he sat on the sand;
Because he was hungry he tied stones to his waist.
Absolute poverty's proof was in him,
Absolute wealth was his secret within.*

*The trusted of Prophets,
the proof of the Way;
The king with no seal,
no crown for his sway.*

*What more can I say?
For thy Qualities' Array
Past ken of mind and soul,
O'er a hundred worlds hold sway.*

*If the poet's reward is the dust on your road,
he receives in each mote a new sun.*

*He has praised with his soul the dust of your road,
Let him Join it, magnanimous one!*

*All Prophecy lacked the estate of one Brick,
A gap of greatest sanctity!
Our Prophet said: 'That precious Gap,
I close for all eternity.'*

*During his Ascent, heaven's veil was rent
Because he was God's intimate for ever.
The very Firmament wished to offer him a Gift,
So God adorned the night with Stars forever.*

*Paradise is but a single Draught
Sipped from his crystal glass.
From the two M-Letters of his Name
Two worlds have come to pass.*

*When his religion gave light to the world,
The other rites halted and stayed, as God knows;
For what may become of the myriad Stars
When over the world a new Sunrise glows?*

*His miracles Astounding cannot rightly be described.
His essence cannot rightly be explained.*

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