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From: **N.W. Azal**

Date: Tue, Apr 21, 2020 at 3:02 PM

Subject: Re: Greetings Again

To: Mark Aelred

Cc: Mark Aelred

هو
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الْأَحْيِيِّ الْأَجَلِيِّ
HU

In the Name of God the Most Revivificatively Alive, the Supreme Discloser!

Dear Mark & Peter,

It is with much delight that I humbly accept your desire and Peter's to enter the **Bayān** (i.e. Azalī Bābism). In the Bayān the *shahāda* is made by the alone to the Alone, as it were, and not to any human congregation or witness but to the Supreme Witness directly. Per the First Gate (section) of the First Unity (chapter) of the Persian Bayān, the words of the Bayānī *shahāda* are as follows (reciting them in my English translation is fine but I also provide the original Arabic text before the translation):

لا إله إلا الله حقاً حقاً الله الله ربّي و لا أشرك برّبّي أحداً و أن ذات
حروف السّبع باب الله و لن ادعو معه باباً شهد الله أنّه لا إله إلا هو
العزیز المحبوب له الأسماء الحسنی يسبح له من في السماوات و الأرض و ما
بينهما لا إله إلا هو الحيّ المهيمن القيوم اللهم صلّ على أن ذات حروف
السّبع ثمّ حروف الحيّ بالعزّة و الجلال

There is no god but God Truly, Truly! God, God, my Lord, and I do not associate anything with my Lord, and the Essence of the Seven Letters is the Gate of God and I do not call upon another gate besides Him! God verily testifies that there is no other god but It the Tremendous, the Beloved! To It belong the Most Beautiful Names! Glorifying It are whatsoever is in the heavens and in the earth and what is between them! There is no other god but It the Living, the Protector, the

Peerless! O God, blessings be upon the Essence of the Seven Letters then the Letters of the Living with exaltedness and majesty!

After which, if you wish, you may offer blessings to the Mirror of Pre-Eternity and the mirrors after Him:

اللهم صلّ على ذات مرآت الأزل في كلّ حين و قبل حين و بعد حين و
صلّ اللهم مرايا من بعده في كلّ شأن و قبل شأن و بعد شأن يا حق آمين

O God, blessings be upon the Essence of the Mirror of Pre-Eternity in every moment, before every moment and after every moment; and blessings, O God, be upon the mirrors after Him in every state, before every state and after every state! O Real Truth, Amen!

Now, per the Bayān, no one can be turned down from entering the Divine Path by any other believer [*mumin* = gnostic initiate]. Nor, for that matter, is any believer allowed to question the faith or *praxis* of another believer in the Bayān. The Primal Point actually prescribes penalties (i.e. 19 mithqāl in weight of either pure gold or silver, depending on financial circumstance) against intra-bayānī *takfirism* of any sort (to be paid by the perpetrator to the aggrieved). This is why Ṣubḥ-i-Azal did not denounce some of the claimants in the Baghdad period (such as Asadullāh Dayyān) until they had clearly and unequivocally demonstrated hostility towards the Bayān itself and its Point when apostatizing (Dayyān not only vituperatively denounced the Bab in no uncertain terms but also burned all the copies of the works of the Bāb addressed to him as well as those sent to him for safe keeping in his possession, original works now lost forever). By burning the works of the Bāb, Dayyān had also callously contravened the commandment of the Bayān that no book or text ever be willfully destroyed (Bayān 9:13). The same situation suffices for the Edirne period whereby Ṣubḥ-i-Azal withheld from publicly denouncing his older step-brother until this older step-brother began willfully misrepresenting core issues (and

outright lying and undermining in countless circumstances) while aggressively unleashing physical violence against other believers loyal to Şubḥ-i-Azal, at which point (given that intra-bayānī violence especially is strictly prohibited by the Point in the Bayān) Şubḥ-i-Azal denounced this step-brother, took his distance permanently and encouraged other believers to do so as well.

Having said the above, where we are concerned - i.e. the whole Bayānī community - is the inter-generational intimacy and relationship stuff advocated publicly in the past by Peter. Michael Muhammad Knight used it against Peter to callously discredit him in his **William S. Burroughs vs the Quran**, a fact that did not sit well with me (even now, i.e. that he, MMK, would opportunistically turn on a friend to promote his own literary career). Nevertheless there is a problem here from where we are concerned. Granted, the age of maturity in the Bayān is 11 years of age; and where indigenous coupling is concerned, in that traditional native context, many of the conventions of the West do not apply, since the age of maturity is not demarcated in that native context in the same way as it is in modern Western or westernized societies. Be that as it may, I don't know whether Peter was LARPing his close association with NAMBLA, etc., as a means to ward people off turning him into an actual guru and wasting his time, or if it was genuinely real? Either way, that specific element is not kosher with us and cannot conceivably be made to jibe with the Bayān. Another way to put it, is that areas of the proverbial Left-Hand Path have broken down - and the whole path along with it - as a result of transgressions that should never have occurred, and now the time has arrived to breach the disintegration, as it were. Nonetheless this in itself is also not any bar in entering the Bayān.

Be that as it may, one of the issues we champion - and are unequivocal in insisting upon - is the cessation by spiritual groups of all forms of abuse (sexual, mental, psychological, financial, etc) which in modern times has tarnished the name of esotericism and spirituality as a whole

everywhere and opened the door to every manner of charlatan and snake oil salesman. This community and myself are adamant that this cycle must stop, and everywhere, because there is too much at stake for humanity if it doesn't. Consider also that perhaps the widespread nature of such abuses is also attributable to the economic system that undergirds it all, i.e. capitalism, and that if this system was to be overthrown or otherwise transformed into something else, as the Bayān advocates in collectivizing the 4 Elements (Air, Fire, Water and earth), over time the inverted values that make such abuses normal and widespread under this present system will also eventually dissipate in a new one that would be more sensitive to the complexities of such things as opposed to this one that simply wishes to profit out of everything for the sake of profit alone.

Regarding other matters, we are only just now recovering after the tragedy of Roya's passing last year and then later with the turmoil of us having to relocate back to Australia. It is a good thing we left when we did because I am glad we are not in Europe at the moment with this pandemic on the loose, although my personal view of covid-19 is that it is actually a Divine Bounty. Be that as it may, I am still interested in putting my translations under a single cover. However, I need to be able to talk to someone face to face on a regular basis, like over telephone or on skype, Messenger or similar.

On an unrelated note, Peter may find this last blog post of mine interesting,

<https://wahidazal.blogspot.com/2020/04/western-academic-hatred-of-henry-corbin.html>

I'll leave it here for now. All the best to Peter and yourself. Stay safe and healthy!

Ya NUR

Wahid