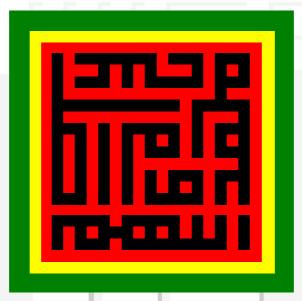
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الدَّلَائِلُ لِلشَّيْخِ عُثْمَانِ بْنِ فُودُيَ



The Dala'il

of

Shehu Uthman ibn Fuduye`

Translated by

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In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful. Peace and blessings be upon our master and chief Muhammad.

During the 16th century a very pious Fulani woman named Umm Hani foretold of the coming of a *wali* from the *awliya* of Allah ta'ala. She said: "There will appear in this area of the land of the Blacks a *wali* from the *awliya* of Allah, who will renew the *deen*, give life to the *sunna*, and establish the religion. He will be followed by the prominent people and his fame will be spread throughout the regions. His commands will be followed by the common as well as the elite. Those who will be connected to him will be known as the *Jama'at*. Among their signs is that they will not herd cattle, as is the custom of the Fulani. Whoever sees that time should follow him."

Shaykh Mukhtar al-Kunti once said: "The perfected *awliya* of this time are three. One is an Arab who resides beyond Syria. His light is the light of **Laa ilaha illa Allahu**. The second one is a Fulani in the land of the Blacks, Uthman Dan Fuduye`. His light is the light of the seal of Prophecy, which was on the left shoulder of the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace. The third one, his light is the light of the heart of the Prophet, may Allah bless him and grant him peace. He was silent as to the identity of the third one, but it was known that he was speaking of himself."

Sultan Muhammad Bello said in his <u>Infaq</u> '1-Maisuur, "Realize that this Shaykh was raised from a young age to call people to Allah. Allah ta'ala assisted him with the lights of overflowing and drew him into his presence. He ta'ala then unveiled for him the divine presence of Allah's Acts, Names and Attributes; and allowed him to witness the mysteries the Essence. Then with the praise of Allah, he became one of the *awliya* of Allah. He was allowed to sip from the cups of nearness to Allah and he was dressed in the attire of inward knowledge of Allah. The Lord of Truth then invested him with the crown of His loving care and His guidance. He was made deserving to be an inviter to Him and then guided the common people as well as the elite."

All of these tremendous spiritual states were the result of *Shehu* Uthman's intense love for Prophet Muhammad, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, until he was drowned in the outward manifestation of his noble *sunna* and intoxicated in his vast inward spiritual states. He described this love for the Prophet in his poem, which ends in *dal*.

"I swear by the Rahman, I possess no excellent trait,

I am only totally encompassed with the love of Muhammad I give a description of the affliction of my longing which is plain

There are no pleasures and joys in life without Muhammad I have become exhausted yearning to hasten to his grave,

There are no delights for me without that master

He is the sun of illumination, the crown of guidance, the sea of generosity,

There is no good except in following Muhammad."

Waziri Gidadu ibn Laima mentions in his <u>Rawdat l'-Janaan</u>, "When *Shehu* Uthman's yearning and love for the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, became intense, he took an oath with Allah ta'ala that he would continuously do the prayer upon the Prophet from the beginning of Rabi'u 'l-Awal and not speak with anyone until the beginning of Rabi'u 'l-Awal of the following year. He did that until he saw the new moon of the following year. At that moment the master of existence, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, was drawn to him and said to him, 'O Uthman! I am in front of you and you will never go astray...I place you in the spiritual retreat of al-Ash'ari which is fifteen days, not the retreat of al-Junayd,

which is forty days.' The Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, then gave him an invocation to do in retreat. He then said: 'Do not eat anything except a little during this time.' When the time expired the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, came to him and took him into the presence of Allah, and the Angels of mercy with all the awliya were present. Among those present was the Pole the Sayyid Mukhtar al-Kunti and Shaykh Abd al-Qaadir al-Jailani, who then took him by the hand and sat him in front of him and said: "This person belongs to me." And Shehu Uthman was then given three things: [1] the ability to invite people to Allah; [2] governance (khilaafa) and [3] jihaad. Then the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, said to the Shaykh, 'I give you the best lands of the three regions of the Fulani, the Blacks and the Tuaregs.' Shehu Uthman said: 'As for inviting people to Allah, I am able to do that. But a for khilaafa and jihaad, I can only do it if Allah gives me someone who can bear it for me.' He then was shown his noble son Muhammad Bello in front of him, who was dressed in an attire of light, girded with a sword and given a flag. Shehu Uthman became joyful for that."

Sultan Muhammad Bello mentioned, "At the time there occurred to him divine attraction by means of the *baraka* of the prayer upon the Prophet, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, he used to be constant in doing it without boredom, laziness or slackness: Allah then assisted him with the overflowing of lights by means of Shaykh Abd al-Qaadir al-Jailani, may Allah be pleased with him, and his grandfather – the Messenger, may Allah bless him and grant him peace. He then witnessed the marvels of the unseen kingdoms and alighted upon the mysteries of the kingdom of power. He witnessed the actions of Allah's Names, Attributes and Essence. He reached the Guarded Tablet and untied its remarkable secrets. The Lord of Truth then gave him the attire of inviting creation to Him and he was crowned with the crown of guidance and instruction to Him."

It is clear from the above citations that the spiritual path of *Shehu* Uthman was built upon intense love and yearning for the Prophet, may Allah bless him and grant him peace. And the sign of love for a thing is to mention it often. His love for the Prophet was demonstrated by his constant and unending prayers upon the Prophet. *Shehu* Uthman believed that the prayer upon the Prophet was the swiftest way for the seeker to reach the highest spiritual stations of nearness to his Lord. He said about that in his <u>Usuul '1 Wilaayat</u>, "Among the Sufis are those who mention **Allah**. Among them are those who mention **Laa ilaha illa Allah, Muhammadun Rasuulullahi**. Among them are those who mention **Sub'hanna Allah wa '1-hamdulillahi wa Laa ilaha illa Allah wa Allahu Akbar**. And finally, among them are those who do much prayers upon the Prophet, may Allah bless him and grant him peace. The prayer upon the Prophet however, is the most beneficial of the *dhikrs* with regard to strengthening the *nafs*, because it is like cold water which gives life to it after its laziness. One of the scholars said: Verily the prayer upon the Prophet connects the servant with his Lord and it takes the place of the teaching Shaykh, when he fails to find him. By the *baraka* of the prayer upon the Prophet he comes to know the noble reality and he draws near to Allah and arrives at gnosis of Him."

Realize that there is no station higher than the station of the Perfect Man (Muhammad), may Allah bless him and grant him peace. He is to the universe what the spirit is to man. Muhammad is the goal and objective which was intended in creating the universe. Allah ta'ala says, "I was a hidden treasure, and I desired to be known – so I created creation." The first and best of creation was Muhammad, who was the first to give praise and worship of Allah with the variety of forms of worship and drawing near to Allah. The Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace said as related on the authority of al-'Irbaad ibn Saariya, "I was

the seal of the Prophets with Allah when Adam was being rolled in his clay." And in another narration related by Umar ibn al-Kataab, Allah revealed to Adam, "if it were not for him (Muhammad), I would not have created you." Ibn Abaas related that it was revealed to Isa ibn Maryum, "If it were not for Muhammad, I would not have created Adam."

Therefore, Muhammad is the perfect knower of Allah and the being who worships Him as He should be worshipped. He is the means to Allah and the beloved of Allah (*habeebullahi*). The station of love is the highest station with Allah ta'ala and the foundation of existence, the source of the universe and the point from where existence spreads out. The reality of Muhammad is that all the spiritual realities branches out from him – the high and the low. Allah ta'ala gave him the highest station, which is the station of love – and Allah ta'ala took him as His beloved just as He took other than him as a friend.

Our master Muhammad, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, alone possesses the station of totality for he, may Allah bless him and grant him peace said: "I was given the all encompassing word." This means that Allah ta'ala gathered for him in the Qur'an the totality of what was revealed to the earlier Prophets and Messengers. Muhammad, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, is the manifestation of Allah's universal mercy, which is stationed upon the Throne. It is for this reason Allah ta'ala says, "We have not sent you except as a mercy to all the worlds." This mercy has spread out over everything from the Throne to the spread carpet of the earth and nothing is excluded from the mercy of Muhammad. Allah ta'ala says, "We have recorded everything in a clear *Imam*."

Having said this, realize that Muhammad, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, never raised his head from the station of complete eradication in the station of slaveness to Allah which manifested the complete gnosis of Allah. For when Allah ta'ala is manifest, there is nothing that exists with Him. And there is no time when Allah was not manifest to the heart of Muhammad. This simply means that Muhammad's eradication and slaveness was complete and his courtesy with the Divine Presence was perfect. He always remained prostrate and abased before the presence of Allah ta'ala. He, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, was stationed in the station of slaveness, and the essence of slaveness emanated from his reality, may Allah bless him and grant him peace. His slaveness to his Lord was so complete and thorough until it was as he, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, was in pure non-existence. Then Allah ta'ala brought him out of non-existence and created from his spirit all the spirits and essences. The Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace said: "The first thing which Allah ta'ala created was my light." Allah made Muhammad a means by which existence was given to the entire universe and a messenger of mercy by which Allah revealed His commands to creation. Muhammad was made the tongue of the universe by which creation worshipped its Lord and drew near His gnosis. Thus Muhammad is stationed between Allah and His creation as an interval (barzakh) or a mirror – where the Divine and the Cosmic realities meet.

For this reason no one should desire to witness Allah ta'ala except in the mirror of Muhammad, may Allah bless him and grant him peace. If anyone desires to know Allah ta'ala in the most perfect manifestation, then he should believe in Muhammad, follow him, and make him like a mirror in front of him. He should not settle in a place except where he sees the footsteps and traces of Muhammad, may Allah bless him and grant him peace. He should place his foot upon his footprints if he desires to be among the people of exalted spiritual stations and to have perfect gnosis of his Lord while in the station of servitude. Allah ta'ala says: "Whoever obeys the Messenger, has obeyed Allah." He ta'ala says: "Say: If indeed you love Allah, then follow me. Allah will love you and forgive you your sins."

Shehu Uthman Dan Fuduye` lived his entire life following in the footsteps of the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace. It is impossible for anyone to have the complete light of Muhammad. However every believing man and woman has some share of the Muhammadan light. Allah ta'ala blessed Shehu Uthman with a generous share of the light of Muhammad until he, may Allah be pleased with him, was made to resemble him, may Allah bless him and grant him peace. Both the Messenger of Allah and Shehu Uthman's appearance were foretold. They both never faced a person with evil or with what he disliked. They both were patient with the evils of people. They both manifested their spiritual states when they reached the age of forty-one and some months. They both made their hijra with their communities fleeing from persecution at the age of 51 or 52. They both were given victory by Allah and governance over their enemies. They both were taken to their Lord having performed all that Allah commanded them at the age of 63. This was a favor of Allah, which He gives to whom He pleases from among His servants. The Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace said: "Whoever resembles a people, then he is from among them." Allah ta'ala blessed Shehu Uthman to give life to the Sunna of Muhammad during his time and to resemble him in outward appearance and inward character. This intense love which Shehu Uthman had for the Messenger of Allah was thoroughly manifested in his famous prayer upon the Prophet called ad-Dala'il.

In this litany *Shehu* Uthman gathered together twenty different prayers upon the Prophet. Each prayer contains profound insights into the reality of Muhammad and his sublime station with Allah ta'ala. In them are revealed the hidden mysteries of the relation between Allah ta'ala and his perfect slave and messenger Muhammad, may Allah bless him and grant him peace. The **SANKORE' INSTITUTE** makes this litany available to the *jama'at* of *Shehu* Uthman Dan Fuduye', so that they too can develop the love and yearning for Muhammad which will carry them from the darkness of their lower selves to the light of eye witnessing Allah's majestic reality.

The one who takes the <u>ad-Dalaa'il</u> as a daily litany will no doubt attain what *Shehu* Uthman attained. He will be forgiven his sins; his character will be transformed; he will be loved by the People of Allah; his daily provision will be made easy; he will be given victory over his enemies; he will be given honor; he will die in the best state; he will be gathered under the banner of the Prophet; his book will be given in his right hand; his scale will be made heavy from good deeds; his reckoning will be easy; he will cross the *Siraat* with ease and speed; he will receive the intercession of the Prophet; he will drink from the fountain of the Prophet; he will be saved from the Fires of Hell; he will enter the Garden; he will be gathered with the Messenger of Allah and achieve the Supreme Delight of the vision of his Lord, the Mighty, the Majestic.

O Allah! Send blessings and peace, with the variety of Your perfections in all Your manifestations upon our master and chief Muhammad; The first of the lights to emanate from the seas of the Immense Essence. He is the realizer in the worlds of the inward and the outward of the meanings of the Names and Attributes. He is the first to give praise and worship with the variety of slaveness and drawing near. He is the helper in the worlds of spirits and forms to every existing thing. And blessings and peace be upon his Family and companions with a prayer that will remove for us the veil from his noble face in dreams and the waking state and that will acquaint us with You and him in every spiritual rank and station. Be kind to us, O Master, by his rank, in movement and stillness, in glances and thoughts.

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الدَّلَائِلُ لِلشَّيْخِ عُتْمَانِ بِنِ فُودُيَ بِسِ مُودِيَ بِسِمِ اللهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ بِسِمْ اللهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ صلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى سَيِّدنا مُحَمَّد وَأَله وصَحْبه وسَلَّمَ تَسْليمًا مرّة واحدة

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful. Peace be upon our master Muhammad, his family and companions.¹

اللَّهُمَّ لَكَ الْحَمْدُ كَمَا أَنْتَ أَهْلُهُ، فَصلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدُ كَمَا هُو َ أَهْلُهُ، و اَفْعَلْ بِي مَا أَنْتَ أَهْلُهُ، فَإِنَّكَ اللَّهُمَّ لَكَ الْحَمْدُ كَمَا هُو أَهْلُ الْمَغْفِرَةِ تُلاثًا

O Allah! To You belong the praise as you deserve, therefore send blessings upon Muhammad as he deserves. And be with me with what is deserving of You. For verily You are deserving of fearful awareness and extended forgiveness.²

O Allah! Send blessings upon Muhammad and the family of Muhammad with the best of Your blessings and to the number of things known to You.³

O Allah! Send blessings upon our master Muhammad, the *ummi* prophet, to the extent that he deserves and to the extent of his rights.⁴

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدِ النَّبِيِّ الأُمِيِّ وَعَلَى كُلِّ نَبِيٍّ وَمَلَكِ وَوَلِيٍّ عَدَدَ الشَّفْعِ وَالْوِتْرِ وَعَدَدَ مَعْلُومَاتِكَ رَبَّنَا التَّامَّاتِ الْمُبَارِكَاتِ ثَلاثًا

O Allah! Send blessings upon our master Muhammad, the ummi Prophet and upon every Prophet, angel, and wali to the number of every even thing and odd thing; to the number of things known to You - O our Lord with blessings which are complete.⁵

¹ Say this one time.

² Say this three times.

³ Say this three times.

⁴ Say this three times.

⁵ Say this three times.

5. اللَّهُمَّ صللِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ عَبْدِكَ وَنَبِيِّكَ وَرَسُولِكَ النَّبِيِّ الْأُمِيِّ وَعَلَى أَلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلَّمَ تَسْلِيمًا عَدَدَ خَلْقك ورضى نَفْسك وزننة عَرْشك ومَدَاد كَلمَاتك ثلاثًا

O Allah! Send blessings and abundant peace upon Muhammad, Your slave, prophet, and messenger, the ummi prophet, and upon his family and companions - to the extent of Your creation, to the extent of Your pleasure with Yourself, to the extent of the beauty of Your throne, and to the scope of Your words.⁶

اللَّهُمَّ صلِّ علَى مُحَمَّد وَآل مُحَمَّد كُلَّمَا ذَكَرَهُ الذَّاكرُونَ وَكُلَّمَا سَهَى عَنْهُ الْغَافلُونَ ثلاثًا

O Allah! Send blessings upon Muhammad and upon the family of Muhammad to the number of all the remembers who mention him and to the extent of all the heedless who forget him.

اللَّهُمَّ صلِّ علَى مُحَمَّد أَبدًا أَفْضلَ صلَوَاتكَ علَى سَيِّدنَا مُحَمَّد وَأَله وَصَحْبه وَسَلَّمَ تَسْلِيمًا، وزرده شَرَفًا وَتَكْرِيمً، وَانْزِلْهُ الْمَنْزِلَ الْمُقَرَّبَ عنْدَكَ يَوْمَ الْقيَامَة ثلاثًا

O Allah! Send blessings upon Muhammad forever, with the best of Your blessings and abundant peace upon our master Muhammad, his family and Companions. Increase him in nobility and generosity and cause him to alight upon the station of nearness to You on the Day of Standing.⁸

اللَّهُمَّ صللِّ علَى مُحَمَّد عَدَدَ خَلْقك وَرَضَى نَفْسك وَزنَة عَرْشك وَمدَاد كَلمَاتك تُلاثًا

O Allah! Send blessings upon Muhammad to the number of Your creation, to the extent of Your pleasure with Yourself, to extent of the beauty of Your throne, and to the scope of Your knowledge.9

اللَّهُمَّ صلِّ علَى مُحَمَّد وَعلَى آل مُحَمَّد صلاَّةً دَآئمةً بدَوالمكَ ثلاثًا

O Allah! Send blessings upon Muhammad and the family of Muhammad with blessings that are eternal with Your eternity. 10

⁶ Say this three times.

⁷ Say this three times.

⁸ Say this three times.

⁹ Say this three times.

¹⁰ Say this three times.

O Allah! O Lord of Muhammad and the family of Muhammad! Send blessings upon Muhammad and the family of Muhammad and reward Muhammad, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, with what is deserving of him. 11

O Allah! Send blessings upon our master Muhammad and upon the family of Muhammad with a blessing which is deserving and with which he deserves.¹²

O Allah! Send blessings upon our master Muhammad, the opener of what was locked, the seal of what came before, the helper of the Lord of Truth by means of the Lord of Truth, and the guide to Your straight path - and upon his family with a prayer which affirms his worth and immense capacity.¹³

O Allah! Send blessings, abundant peace and baraka upon our master Muhammad and upon his family, Companions, wives and descendants to the extend of what is in Your knowledge, with a blessing which is eternal and continues with the eternity of Your kingdom.¹⁴

¹¹ Say this three times.

Say this three times.Say this three times.

¹⁴ Say this three times.

O Allah! Send blessings and abundant peace upon our master Muhammad and upon his family, Companions, wives, descendants and the people of his house, to the extent of what is in Your knowledge, with a blessing which is eternal and continues with the eternity of Your Kingdom. 15

O Allah! Send blessings, peace and baraka upon our master Muhammad, the perfect prophet and upon his family with a blessing which has no end just as there is no end to Your Perfection. May Allah reward Muhammad with what he deserves. 16

O Allah! Send blessings and abundant peace upon our master Muhammad, Your servant, prophet and messenger – the *ummi* prophet, and upon his family and Companions by the power of the immensity of Your essence in every moment and time. 17

O Allah! Send blessings, peace and baraka upon our master Muhammad, the Unlettered Prophet, the Elevated Beloved One, the extent of whose rank is immense, and upon his family and Companions with much peace.

¹⁵ Say this three times.

¹⁶ Say this three times.
17 Say this three times.

اللَّهُمَّ صلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّد السَّابِقِ الْخَلْقِ نُورُهُ وَرَحْمَةٌ الْعَالَمِينَ ظُهُورُهُ عَدَدَ مَنْ مَضَى مِنْ خَلْقِكَ وَمَنْ بَقِيَ وَمَنْ سَعِدَ مَنْهُمْ وَمَنْ شَقِيَ صَلَاَةً تَسْتَغْرِقُ الْعَدَّ وَتُحيطُ بِالْحَدِّ صَلَاَةً لاَ نِهَايَةً لَهَايَةً لَهَايَةً لَهَا فَقَكَ وَمَنْ بَقِيَةً بِيَقَائِكَ إِلَى يَوْمِ لَهَا مِنْكَ الرِّضَى صَلاَةً دَآئِمَةً بِدَوَامِكَ بَاقِيَةً بِبَقَآئِكَ إِلَى يَوْمِ لَهَا مِنْكَ الرِّضَى صَلاَةً دَآئِمَةً بِدَوَامِكَ بَاقِيَةً بِبَقَآئِكَ إِلَى يَوْمِ اللّهَ وَصَحَبْه وَسَلَّمَ تَسْلِيمًا مِثْلَ ذَلِكَ وَالْحَمْدُ للّه عَلَى ذَلِكَ تُلاثًا

O Allah! Send blessings and abundant peace upon our master Muhammad, whose light proceeded creation, whose appearance was a mercy to the worlds, to the extent of all those who have passed away and to the extent of all those who are continuing, to the extent of those among them who attained bliss and those who have attained wretchedness; with a blessing that engulfs enumeration and encompasses all limits; a blessing which has no end, no termination, and no cessation; a blessing which will procure for us contentment from You; a blessing which is eternal with Your eternity and continuous with Your continuity until the Day of Judgment; and upon his family and Companions the same way. All praises are due to Allah for that.¹⁸

اللَّهُمَّ صلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّد الَّذِي مَلَأْتَ قَلْبَهُ مِنْ جَلَالِكَ وَعَيْنَهُ مِنْ جَمَالِكَ فَأَصْبَحَ فَرِحًا مَسْرُورًا مُؤيَّدًا مَنْصُورًا وَعَلَى ذَلِكَ ثلاثاً مَسْرُورًا مُؤيَّدًا مَنْصُورًا وَعَلَى ذَلِكَ ثلاثاً

O Allah! Send blessings and abundant peace upon Muhammad, which will fill up his heart with Your Majesty and fill his eyes with Your Beauty until he becomes joyous, supported and victorious; and upon his family and Companions. All praises are due to Allah for that.¹⁹

20. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّد وَأَزْوَجِهِ وَذُرِيَاتِهِ كَمَا صَلَّيْتَ عَلَى إِبْرَهِيمَ وَبَارِكُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَأَزْوَاجِهِ وَذُرِيَاتِهِ كَمَا بَارَكْتَ عَلَى إِبْرَهِيمَ إِنَّكَ حَمِيدٌ مَّجِيدٌ ثَلاثًا

O Allah! Send blessings upon Muhammad, his wives, and his descendants as You sent blessings upon Ibrahim. Send *baraka* upon Muhammad, his wives and descendants as You sent *baraka* upon Ibrahim. Verily You are Praiseworthy and Majestic.²⁰

It has been completed with the praise of Allah and the best of His help. And peace and blessings be upon the noblest of the Messengers Ameen.

¹⁸ Say this three times.

Say this three times.

Say this three times.

²⁰ Say this three times.

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