The Excellence of Reciting Naath-e-Rasool

SallAllahu Alaihi WaSallam

The word “Naath” is very commonly used term nowadays, especially at the occasion of Mawlid Al-Nabi – may Allah send peace and blessings upon him – all his lovers praise him throughout the globe. The word or the term “Naat” simply, means “Praise”.

The extent of love is so immense that once, when a true lover Maulana Kifaayatullah Ali Kaafi – may Allah be pleased with him – was brought for execution, he was singing the praises of his beloved at that moments as well:

کوئی گل باقی رہیگا نہ ہیں رہ جاگا
پہ رسول اللہ کا دو جس رہ جاگا

There will be no flower left nor will there be any gardens
But the beautiful religion of the beloved Messenger of Allah will prevail

سب فناء کا نہ گیا نہ ہوں حشرے کا

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Everything will be perished but till the time of Resurrection

The words of Naat will always remain on the lips

It is narrated from Hazrat Ali in Shamaail Al-Tirmidhi, he said:

وَيَقُولُ نَاعِتُهٗ لَمْ اَرَ قَبْلَہٗ وَلََ بَعْدَہٗ مِثْلَہٗ

One who says his Naat (One who praises him) speaks up, “I have not seen anyone like him neither before him nor after.”

The first group of people that disapproved the Naat were the jews and Christians.

In the commentary of the verse:

لَا يَكُونُ مَنَّ أَلْحَقَ وَهُمْ يَعْلَمُونَ

And no doubt, a group of them conceal the truth knowingly.

(Al-Baqarah 2, Verse 146)

Imam Jalaaluddeen Suyooti – may Allah be pleased with him – writes in the Tafseer of this verse:

بِكِتْمَانِ نَعْتِ رَسُوْلِ اللّٰہِ صَلَّی اللّٰهُ عَلَیْہِ وَسَلَّمَ

By hiding the praises (Naath) of Allah’s Messenger – may Allah send peace and blessings upon him.

Today, the people that are doing the exact same thing are the ones who actually claim to have all the knowledge of Quran and Hadeeth.

The son of a jew who used to frequent the Messenger of Allah, when he fell ill the Holy Prophet – may Allah send peace and blessings upon him – went to pay him a visit. His father was reciting Torah by his head. The Messenger of Allah – may Allah send peace and blessings upon him – asked his father:

یَا یَهُوْدِیْ! ھَلْ تَجِدُ فِیْ التَّوْرَاتِ نَعْتِیْ وَصِفَتِیْ وَمَخَْْجِیْ؟

O jew! Do you find my praises and attributes and mentioning of my migration in Torah?
He was the first jew in the world who disapproved the Naat, saying, “How can your praises be found in Torah?” His ill son spoke up when he heard this:

بَلِّيْ يَا رَسُوْلَ اللّٰهِ اِنَّا نَجِيدُ فِیْ التَّوْرَاۃِ نَعْتَکَ وَصِیَّصُیْ لَوْبَنِ حَدَّثَنَا ابْنُ أَبِی الزَّيَادَ عَنْ أَبِی عَنْ عُرْوَةَ وَهِشَامٍ عَنْ عُرْوَةَ

Of course, O the Messenger of Allah! We do find your praises and attributes and mentioning of your migration in Torah. I bear testimony that indeed there is none worthy of worship but Allah and definitely, you are the Messenger of Allah.

The status of a Naat-reciter is very high in Allah’s court if he is sincere in doing it.

خَدَّنَا مُحَمَّد بن سَلَیْمَانَ الْمِصْیُّ لحوَيْنٌ حَدَّثَنَا ابْنُ أَبِی الزَّيَادَ عَنْ أَبِی عَنْ عُرْوَةَ وَهِشَامٍ عَنْ عُرْوَةَ

عنَّ عَائِشَةَ رضي الله عنها قَالَتْ كَانَ رَسُوْلُ اللّٰهِ صَلَّی الله عَلَیْهِ وَسَلَمُ يَضَعُّ حَسَّانَ بِنِ هِشَامِ الْقُرَّاءِ فِي الْمَسْجِدِ فَيَقُومُ عَلَیْهِ يَهْجُو مِنْ قَالَ فِی رَسُوْلِ اللّٰهِ صَلِّی الله عَلیْهِ وَسَلَمُ، " إِنَّ اللّٰهَ اِنَّی اَشْھَدُ اَنْ لََّ اِلٰهَ اِلََّ اللّٰهُ وَاَنَّکَ رَسُوْلُ اللّٰهِ صَلَّی الله عَلیهِ وَسَلَمُ، " بَلِّيْ يَا رَسُوْلَ اللّٰهِ اِنَّا نَجِيدُ فِیْ التَّوْرَاۃِ نَعْتَکَ وَصِیَّصُیْ لَوْبَنِ حَدَّثَنَا ابْنُ أَبِی الزَّيَادَ عَنْ أَبِی عَنْ عُرْوَةَ وَهِشَامٍ عَنْ عُرْوَةَ

It is narrated from Sayyidah Ayesha – may Allah be pleased with her, she said, the Messenger of Allah – may Allah send peace and blessings upon him – used to appoint a pulpit in the Masjid for Hazrat Hassaan Ibn Thaabit and then he would stand and defend the dignity of the Holy Prophet against the ones who spoke ill about him. The Messenger of Allah – may Allah send peace and blessings upon him – would then say, “Allah Almighty assists Hassaan through Hazrat Jibreel for as long as he engages in defense of Allah’s Messenger – may Allah send peace and blessings upon him.”

(Bukhari, Abu Dawood)

Hazrat Abbaas – may Allah be pleased with him – recited a very beautiful Naat and the celebration of his Mawlid:

مِنْ قَبْلِهَا طِیْبَتِ فِی الظِّلَالِ وُفِی
O Allah’s Messenger, you were under the shade in paradise before your appearance in the world

While the bodies were still being covered by leaves (hinting at the clothings of Hazrat Adam and Hawwa – peace be upon them in paradise)

Then you were sent to the world and at that time neither were you a human
Nor a blood-clot nor a piece of flesh

But you were rather boarding the Ark of Hazrat Noah – peace be upon him – in the form of sperm

While that Ark was leaving the idol “Nasr” and its worshippers to drown

You had been transferred from a spine to a womb
And it happened over the course of centuries after centuries

Till your honoured house surrounded the trench in its premises
To which even the sky-kissing mountains bow down their heads

Ashraf Ali Thanwi did the translation of the last two couplets in his Nashr Al-Teeb as follows:
When you were born, the earth was enlightened and due to your light, the horizon was shining, and we are discovering the paths of guidance in that light and Noor.
(Nashr Al-Teeb p. 12)
(Al-Mu’jam Al-Kabeer of Tabrani Vol. 4, p. 213)