SIDE BY SIDE STUDY FORMAT

Tablet of the Holy Mariner

لوح ملّاح القدس

AUTHOR	TRANSLATOR	PARAGRAPHS	SOURCE
Bahá'u'lláh	Shoghi Effendi	57	Arabic

Chanted aloud in the outskirts of Baghdad just weeks before the Declaration in the Garden of Riḍván, its gloomy prognostications aroused the grave apprehensions of all who heard it. Only the Arabic portion has an authorized translation; the Persian portion remains untranslated.

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COMMITTEE TRANSLATION AI

1	﴿ هو العزيز المحبوب ﴾
	يا ملّاح القدس احضر سفينة البقآء فی الملأ الأعلی
	فسبحان ربّی الأبهی
2	ثمّ امسکها علی بحر القدم ببديع من الأسمآء فسبحان ربّی الأبهی
3	ثمّ رکّب عليها هياکل الرّوح باسم الله العلیّ الأعلی
	فسبحان ربّی الأبهی
4	و اطلق زمام الفلک لتجری علی قلزم الکبريآء
	فسبحان ربّی الأبهی
5	ليصل اهلها الی مواقع القرب فی مکمن البقآء
	فسبحان ربّی الأبهی
6	و اذ اَوْصَلتهم الی شاطئ القدس ساحل اللّجج الحمرآء فسبحان ربّی الأبهی
7	فأخرجهم من الفلک فی هذا المقام الألطف الأخفی

1	﴿ He is the Gracious, the Well-Beloved! ﴾
	O Holy Mariner! Bid thine ark of eternity appear before the Celestial Concourse,
	Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!
2	Launch it upon the ancient sea, in His Name, the Most Wondrous, Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!
3	And let the angelic spirits enter, in the Name of God, the Most High.
	Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!
4	Unmoor it, then, that it may sail upon the ocean of glory,
	Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!
5	Haply the dwellers therein may attain the retreats of nearness in the everlasting realm.
	Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!
6	Having reached the sacred strand, the shore of the crimson seas, Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!
7	Bid them issue forth and attain this ethereal invisible station

فسبحان ربّی الأبهی	Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!
8 و هذا مقام فیه تجلّی اللّٰه بنار الجمال فی سدرة البقآء	A station wherein the Lord hath in the Flame of His Beauty appeared within the deathless tree;
فسبحان ربّی الأبهی	Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!
9 و فیه خلعت هیاکل الأمر نعل النّفس و الهوی	Wherein the embodiments of His Cause cleansed themselves of self and passion;
فسبحان ربّی الأبهی	Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!
10 و فیه یطوف موسی العزّ بجنود البقآء	Around which the Glory of Moses doth circle with the everlasting hosts;
فسبحان ربّی الأبهی	Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!
11 و هذا مقام خرجت فیه ید اللّٰه من ردآء الکبریآء	Wherein the Hand of God was drawn forth from His bosom of Grandeur;
فسبحان ربّی الأبهی	Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!
12 و هذا مقام لن تتحرّک فیه سفینة الأمر ولو یقرأ علیها کلّ الأسمآء	Wherein the ark of the Cause remaineth motionless even though to its dwellers be declared all divine attributes.
فسبحان ربّی الأبهی	Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!

13

يا ملّاح

O Mariner!

علّم اهل السّفينة ما علّمناک خلف حجبات العمآء

Teach them that are within the ark that which we have taught thee behind the mystic veil,

فسبحان ربّی الأبهی

Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!

14

لئلّا يتعطّلوا فی البقعة المباركة البيضآء

Perchance they may not tarry in the sacred snow-white spot,

فسبحان ربّی الأبهی

Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!

15

و يطيروا بأجنحة الرّوح الی المقام الّذی قدّسه الله من الذّكر فی ممالک الانشآء

But may soar upon the wings of the spirit unto that station which the Lord hath exalted above all mention in the worlds below,

فسبحان ربّی الأبهی

Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!

16

و يتحرّكوا فی الهوآء كطيور القرب فی جبروت اللّقآء

May wing through space even as the favored birds in the realm of eternal reunion;

فسبحان ربّی الأبهی

Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!

17

و يطّلعوا بالأسرار فی لجج الأنوار

May know the mysteries hidden in the Seas of light.

فسبحان ربّی الأبهی

Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!

18

و قد قطعوا منازل التّحديد حتّی وصلوا الی مقام التّوحيد فی مركز الهدی

They passed the grades of worldly limitations and reached that of the divine unity, the center of heavenly guidance.

فسبحان ربّی الأبهی

Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!

19

و ارادوا ان يصعدوا الى المقام الّذى جعله الله فوق مراتبهم

They have desired to ascend unto that state which the Lord hath ordained to be above their stations.

Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!

20

اطردهم الشّهاب الدّرّىّ من سكّان ملكوت اللّقآء فسبحان ربّى الأبهى

Whereupon the burning meteor cast them out from them that abide in the Kingdom of His Presence,

Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!

21

و سمعوا لحن الكبريآء من ورآء سرادق الغيب فى مكمن السّنا فسبحان ربّى الأبهى

And they heard the Voice of Grandeur raised from behind the unseen pavilion upon the Height of Glory:

Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!

22

بأن يا ملئكة الحفظ ارجعوا هؤلآء الى مواقعهم فى ناسوت الانشآء فسبحان ربّى الأبهى

“O guardian angels!

Return them to their abode in the world below, Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!

23

لأنّهم ارادوا ان يطيروا فى الهوآء الّذى ما طارت فيه اجنحة الورقآء فسبحان ربّى الأبهى

“Inasmuch as they have purposed to rise to that sphere which the wings of the celestial dove have never attained;

Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!

24

و لن تتحرّک فيه سفائن الظّنون و لا افئدة اولى النّهى فسبحان ربّى الأبهى

“Whereupon the ship of fancy standeth still which the minds of them that comprehend cannot grasp.

Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!

25 حينئذ اخرجت حوريّة الرّوح رأسها من الغرفات العليا فسبحان ربّى الأبهى	Whereupon the maid of heaven looked out from her exalted chamber, Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!
26 و اشارت بطَرَف حاجبها الى الملأ الأعلى فسبحان ربّى الأبهى	And with her brow signed to the Celestial Concourse, Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!
27 و اشرقت انوار جبينها من الأرض الى السّمآء فسبحان ربّى الأبهى	Flooding with the light of her countenance the heaven and the earth, Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!
28 و وقع اشراق الجمال على اهل التّراب فسبحان ربّى الأبهى	And as the radiance of her beauty shone upon the people of dust, Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!
29 حينئذ اهتزّت هياكل الوجود فى قبور الفنآء فسبحان ربّى الأبهى	All beings were shaken in their mortal graves Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!
30 ثمّ نادت باللّحن الّذى ما سمعه اذن السّمع فى ازل الآزال فسبحان ربّى الأبهى	She then raised the call which no ear through all eternity hath ever heard, Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!
31 و قالت تالله من لم يكن فى قلبه روايح الحبّ من الفتى العلوىّ العراقىّ الأبهى فسبحان ربّى الأبهى	And thus proclaimed: “By the Lord! He whose heart hath not the fragrance of the love of the exalted and glorious Arabian Youth, Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!
32 لن يقدر ان يصعد الى رفرف الهآء	“Can in no wise ascend unto the glory of the highest heaven.

Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!	فی هذا الجبروت الأقصی فسبحان ربّی الأبهی
33 Thereupon she summoned unto herself one maiden from her handmaidens, Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!	حینئذ امرت جاریة من جواریها فسبحان ربّی الأبهی
34 And commanded her: “Descend into space from the mansions of eternity, Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!	فقالت انزلی من قصور البقآء علی هیکل الشّمس فی هذا الفضآء فسبحان ربّی الأبهی
35 “And turn thou unto that which they have concealed in the inmost of their hearts. Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!	ثمّ التفتی الیهم فیما اسرّوه فی سراير سرّهم الأخفی فسبحان ربّی الأبهی
36 ‘Shouldst thou inhale the perfume of the robe from the Youth that hath been hidden within the Tabernacle of Light by reason of that which the hands of the wicked have wrought, Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!	فان وجدت روایح القمیص من الغلام الّذی ستر فی سرادق النّور من ایادی الأشقیآء فسبحان ربّی الأبهی
37 “Raise a cry within thyself, that all the inmates of the chambers of Paradise, that are the embodiments of the eternal wealth, may understand and hearken; Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!	اذاً صیحی فی نفسک لیطّلع بذلک کلّ من سکن فی غرفات الفردوس من هیاکل الغنآء فسبحان ربّی الأبهی
38 “That they may all come down from their everlasting chambers and tremble, Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!	و ینزلن کلّهنّ من غرف البقآء فسبحان ربّی الأبهی

39

و يقبّلن ارجلهم و ايديهم لما طاروا فی هوآء الوفآء

فسبحان ربّی الأبهی

“And kiss their hands and feet for having soared to the heights of faithfulness;

Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!

40

و لعلّ يجدن روايح المحبوب من قميص هؤلآء

فسبحان ربّی الأبهی

“Perchance they may find from their robes the fragrance of the Beloved One.

Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!

41

حينئذ اشرقت حوريّة القرب عن افق الغرفات كاشراق وجه الغلام من افق الرّدآء

فسبحان ربّی الأبهی

Thereupon the countenance of the favored damsel beamed above the celestial chambers even as the light that shineth from the face of the Youth above His mortal temple;

Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!

42

و نزلت بطراز اشرقت السّموات و ما فيها

فسبحان ربّی الأبهی

She then descended with such an adorning as to illumine the heavens and all that is therein.

Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!

43

تحرّكت فی الهوآء و عطّرت كلّ الأشيآء فی اراضی القدس و السّنآء

فسبحان ربّی الأبهی

She bestirred herself and perfumed all things in the lands of holiness and grandeur.

Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!

44

فلمّا بلغت الی المقام قامت كخطّ الاستوآء فی قطب البدآء

فسبحان ربّی الأبهی

When she reached that place she rose to her full height in the midmost heart of creation,

Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!

45 ثمّ استنشقت منهم فی الزّمان الّذی ما یجری علیه حکم الابتدآء و لا ذکر الانتهآء	And sought to inhale their fragrance at a time that knoweth neither beginning nor end.
فسبحان ربّی الأبهی	Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!
46 و ما وجدت منهم ما ارادت و هذا من القصص العلیا	She found not in them that which she did desire, and this, verily, is but one of His wondrous tales.
فسبحان ربّی الأبهی	Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!
47 ثمّ صاحت و ضجّت و رجعت الی مقامها فی قصرها الأسمی	She then cried aloud, wailed and repaired to her own station within her most lofty mansion,
فسبحان ربّی الأبهی	Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!
48 ثمّ تکلّمت بکلمة سرّیّة خفیّة تحت لسانها الأحلی	And then gave utterance to one mystic word, whispered privily by her honeyed tongue,
فسبحان ربّی الأبهی	Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!
49 و نادت بین الملأ الأعلی و حوریّات البقآء	And raised the call amidst the Celestial Concourse and the immortal maids of heaven:
فسبحان ربّی الأبهی	Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!
50 تاللّٰه	"By the Lord!
ما وجدت من هؤلآء المدّعین من نسمات الوفآء	I found not from these idle claimants the breeze of Faithfulness!
فسبحان ربّی الأبهی	Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!

51 و تالله	“By the Lord!
بقى الغلام فى ارض الغربة وحيداً فريداً بين ايادى الفسقآء	The Youth hath remained lone and forlorn in the land of exile in the hands of the ungodly.
فسبحان ربّى الأبهى	Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!
52 و بعد ذلک صرخت فى نفسها بصريخ صرخ و تزلزل الملأ الأعلى	She then uttered within herself such a cry that the Celestial Concourse did shriek and tremble,
فسبحان ربّى الأبهى	Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!
53 و وقعت على التّراب و ماتت	And she fell upon the dust and gave up the spirit.
كأنّها دُعيت و اجابت من دعاها فى لاهوت	It seemeth she was called and hearkened unto Him that summoned her unto the Realm on High.
العمآء	Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!
54 فسبحان من خلقها من جوهر الحبّ فى قطب الجنّة	Glorified be He that created her out of the essence of love in the midmost heart of his exalted paradise!
العليا	Glorified be my Lord, the All-Glorious!
55 خرجت من الغرفات الحوريّات الّتى ما وقع على جمالهنّ عين احد من اهل الجنان العليا	Thereupon the maids of heaven hastened forth from their chambers, upon whose countenances the eye of no dweller in the highest paradise had ever gazed.
فسبحان ربّنا الأعلى	Glorified be our Lord, the Most High!
56 و اجتمعن عليها	They all gathered around her, and lo!

وجدن جسدها مطروحاً على الغبرآء	they found her body fallen upon the dust;
فسبحان ربّنا الأعلى	Glorified be our Lord, the Most High!
57 فلمّا شاهدن حالها و علمن حرفاً من قصص الغلام عرّين رؤسهنّ و شققن ثيابهنّ و لطمن على وجوههنّ و بدّلن عيشهنّ و بكين بعيونهنّ و ضربن بأيديهنّ على خدودهنّ و هذا من المصايب الخفيّة الكبرى	And as they beheld her state and comprehended a word of the tale told by the Youth, they bared their heads, rent their garments asunder, beat upon their faces, forgot their joy, shed tears and smote with their hands upon their cheeks, and this is verily one of the mysterious grievous afflictions –
فسبحان ربّنا العلىّ الأعلى	Glorified be our Lord, the Most High!

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