

Congratulations, You are now a Hajji!¹

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Hamlet Isaxanli is one of Azerbaijan's most celebrated poets. His poetry has been translated into many languages and set to music by some of the country's leading composers, and the lyrics sung by its most acclaimed singers. He has also translated from English, French and Russian the works of some of the world's greatest poets. He is considered a polymath and public intellectual – a mathematician and linguist who has also written books on the history of philosophy, science and culture. He is the Founder of Khazar University, considered one of the leading private universities in Emerging Europe and Central Asia, and a founding member of Eurasian Academy.

*Bismillah,² ahl al-irfan,³ wise friend, you are welcome!
Walkin' a lot, seein' a lot, tender hearted you've become
Congratulations, the pride of the nations! Amin! Amin! You are a Hajji!
However, sarraph of words should pass life's test...*

*You pilgrimaged to Bayt al-muazzam,⁵ with kitabullah⁶ on your breast
Although wahdati al-wujud⁷ runs your words and deeds
Jawharnisar⁸ you have been, now mutakallim⁹ with all your heart
Who are you? Alim¹⁰ or talib¹¹ in these ulum laduniyyah.¹²*

*And have you achieved your aim the day after Arafah?¹³
And have you tried the sa'y¹⁴ between Al-Safa and Al-Marwah?
And have you become a tawwaf¹⁵ around Beytullah?¹⁶
And have you felt the black shining ray kissing Hajaruluswad?¹⁷*

*How many times did you get to bow low in musalla?¹⁸
What is tarawih?¹⁹ Its holy month? And what is ahya?²⁰
Never be apart from your own soul – properly say all your takbirs²¹
Never forget your mihrab²² even if the time is a mess.*

*What was the prediction of Khayr al-Bashar²³ in Barat day?²⁴
What're Khayrunnisa's²⁵ actions, Waliyullah's²⁶ expectations, say?
The cave became a palace, faithfulness of sadig al-ghar²⁷
Khulafa Rashidun²⁸ enriched and brightened Kawneyn²⁹ so far...*

*Could you see Zulfiqar,³⁰ the double-bladed sword?
When asa-i-Kalimullah³¹ was crawlin', wasn't it odd?
Leylatul-Isra,³² darkness, and Prophet is in his meraj³³
Shaaq al-Qamar!³⁴ A miracle so far! No doubt at all!*

*Congratulations! You are now a Hajji! Razzaq³⁵ bless you!
Were you amazed by the dream of Rauza-i-Rizwan?³⁶
Whether you are sawwam³⁷ or not, lal-i- muzab³⁸ in your mind
Isn't the bridge of sirat³⁹ a torture, which side of your mizan⁴⁰ is hard?
Shukran lillah!⁴¹ No need for guide! Be on the right way!
Isaxanli Hamlet will pray for you every night and day.*

¹A person who has successfully fulfilled the Hajj duty ²In the name of God
³An educated man ⁴A master, skilled person ⁵The Kaaba, a black cubical building in Al-Masjid Al Haram in Makkah. ⁶The book of Allah, i.e. the Quran ⁷Idolisation of Nature, may coincide with the thoughts of Pantheism.
⁸Here: shine like a jewel, an orator whose words shine like jewels, a very skilled poet
⁹A theologian ¹⁰A scholar ¹¹A student ¹²Theology, divinity ¹³Eve, the day before Eid al-Adha (the Muslim Sacrifice Feast) ¹⁴A speedy walk between Al-Safa and Al-Marwah hills performed by Hajj pilgrims ¹⁵Tawaf-to move around something walking, here: tawwaf-a person who moves around the Kaaba during the Hajj ceremony ¹⁶Meaning "the house of God," here: the Kaaba ¹⁷Hajar-stone, aswad-black. Hajaruluswad is the name given to the Black Stone in the Kaaba. ¹⁸A prayer hall
¹⁹Prayers performed every night during the month of Ramadan ²⁰Meaning "to restore," "to revive," Ahya is a night celebration (vigil) in Ramadan, during which Muslims stay awake and perform Ramadan prayers. ²¹"Allahu Akbar," meaning "Allah is the Greatest" ²²A holy place where namaz can be performed; figuratively "direction of worship" ²³Meaning "the best of men," here: the Prophet Mohammad
²⁴The day when the Prophet Mohammad was informed of his prophethood for the first time ²⁵Meaning "the best of women," here: Fatimah, the Prophet Mohammad's daughter. There is a reference here made to Ali and Fatimah's nuptial ceremony held on the Barat day. ²⁶Literally "the friend of Allah," here: Ali ²⁷Ghar-cave, sadig al-ghar – "the friend of the cave," here: Abu-Bakr who remained Mohammad's trusted friend when he took refuge in a cave on the way to Makkah while escaping from Madinah
²⁸The Rashidun Caliphs (Rightly Guided Caliph) or simply The Rashidun (the four caliphs who followed the Prophet Mohammad: Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman and Ali)
²⁹Two worlds, our physical world and the afterlife, also material and spiritual worlds
³⁰The Caliph Ali's famous two-bladed sword given him by the Prophet ³¹Prophet Musa's walking stick, Musa Ibn Aram, Moses in the Bible. Musa turned his stick into a serpent by hitting it on the ground. ³²Leyl-night, here: the night of Isra - the night when the Prophet Mohammad journeyed to the sky ³³The Prophet Mohammad's night journey and ascension; also ladder ³⁴Shaaq- split and qamar-the moon. The splitting of the moon, a miracle performed by the Prophet Mohammad
³⁵One of the names of God in the Quran, meaning "food giver" ³⁶Rauza beautiful garden, rizwan-the guarding angel in Paradise. Here: Rauza-i-Rizwan - the garden of Paradise ³⁷A religious person ³⁸Meaning "melted red precious stone," here (poetically): red wine ³⁹The narrow bridge leading to Paradise through Hell. It is believed that every person will walk across the bridge on the day of Judgement. ⁴⁰Scales, a tool of measurement, criteria ⁴¹Shukran- gratefulness, Shukran lillah-thanks to God. **E**

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