

Foreword¹

More than thirty five years have passed since the first edition of this translation of the Sahifa-i-Kamila appeared in print. It then had the singular merit of being the first English translation of that centuries-old work, and even now, as the second edition goes to the press, it holds the unique position of being the only English rendering thereof.

Translation was undertaken by the late Mr. Ahmad Ali Mohani “at the suggestion of Maulana Syed Najmul Hasan and Maulana Syed Nasir Husain, two of the most celebrated Shiah Mujtahids of Lucknow.”

The learned translator stated in the modest foreword to the first edition:

“History tells us that great and good men of every age and nation, of any faith and persuasion have always been in the habit of praying, and it may be said without fear of contradiction, that prayer makes character great, good and noble. ‘Nothing in man’ says a well-known writer ‘is great, but so far as it is connected with God.’ Hence it follows, that the greater a man is the stronger is his connection with the Creator, and prayer being the strongest means of establishing this connection, is of the greatest moment to mankind.”

Then adding, a short bibliography of the authorities consulted and relied upon by him, he continued:

“It must be acknowledged that the traditions mentioned in the introduction have not been rendered literally, nor did I, in translating the prayers themselves, try to be literal at the expense of sense.”

The present edition has been made necessary by the constant demand from the public and has been made possible by the generous donations from some of our esteemed brethren, who, in the true spirit of Islamic charity forbid us to disclose their names. We cannot, however, prevent our feelings of sincere gratitude from praying for their success and prosperity in this world as well as hereafter.

The present edition embodies a fuller and more comprehensive introduction; a few amendments in the translation and footnotes; and a careful correction of the original Arabic text which is printed facing each page of English translation throughout. A table of contents has also been added.

These improvements have been made possible by reference to the Urdu translations by the late Maulana Mohammad Harun Saheb and Maulana Syed Ali Saheb, Mujtahid, both of which are accompanied by learned introductory discourses.

¹ Taken from *Sahifat-ul-Kamila* published by Madrastul Waizin in AH 1389/ 1969 CE

The Arabic text in this edition has been reproduced by photographic blocks from an edition of the original *Sahifa-e-Kamila* compared with the most correct copies of Allama Mohammad Taqi Majlisi. In this edition although the Arabic writing is somewhat smaller than that of the first edition, the correctness of the reproduction is more reliable.

The Madrasatul Waizin thanks all the donors who have contributed towards the publication of this second edition, which it is hoped, will meet with the acceptance and approval of all concerned.

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