

# Congratulations, You are now a Hajji!<sup>1</sup>

POETRY BY PROFESSOR HAMLET ISAXANLI

CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, KHAZAR UNIVERSITY, AZERBAIJAN

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,<sup>2</sup> ahl al-irfan,<sup>3</sup> 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,<sup>4</sup> with kitabullah<sup>5</sup> on your breast  
Although wahdati al-wujud<sup>6</sup> runs your words and deeds  
Jawharnisar<sup>7</sup> you have been, now mutakallim<sup>8</sup> with all your heart  
Who are you? Alim<sup>9</sup> or talib<sup>10</sup> in these ulum laduniyyah.<sup>12</sup>*

*And have you achieved your aim the day after Arafah?<sup>13</sup>  
And have you tried the sa'y<sup>14</sup> between Al-Safa and Al-Marwah?  
And have you become a tawwaf<sup>15</sup> around Beytullah?<sup>16</sup>  
And have you felt the black shining ray kissing Hajarulaswad?<sup>17</sup>*

*How many times did you get to bow low in musalla?<sup>18</sup>  
What is tarawih?<sup>19</sup> Its holy month? And what is ahya?<sup>20</sup>  
Never be apart from your own soul – properly say all your takbirs<sup>21</sup>  
Never forget your mihrab<sup>22</sup> even if the time is a mess.*

*What was the prediction of Khayr al-Bashar<sup>23</sup> in Barat day?<sup>24</sup>  
What're Khayrunnisa's<sup>25</sup> actions, Waliyullah's<sup>26</sup> expectations, say?  
The cave became a palace, faithfulness of sadig al-ghar<sup>27</sup>  
Khulafa Rashidun<sup>28</sup> enriched and brightened Kawneyn<sup>29</sup> so far...*

*Could you see Zulfiqar,<sup>30</sup> the double-bladed sword?  
When asa-i-Kalimullah<sup>31</sup> was crawlin', wasn't it odd?  
Leylatul-Isra,<sup>32</sup> darkness, and Prophet is in his meraj<sup>33</sup>  
Shaaq al-Qamar!<sup>34</sup> A miracle so far! No doubt at all!*

*Congratulations! You are now a Hajji! Razzaq<sup>35</sup> bless you!  
Were you amazed by the dream of Rauza-i-Rizwan?<sup>36</sup>  
Whether you are sawwam<sup>37</sup> or not, lal-i- muzab<sup>38</sup> in your mind  
Isn't the bridge of sirat<sup>39</sup> a torture, which side of your mizan<sup>40</sup> is hard?  
Shukran lillah!<sup>41</sup> No need for guide! Be on the right way!  
Isaxanli Hamlet will pray for you every night and day.*

Ms Firangiz Nasirova (Translator)

Dr Elmura Azizova (Arabic Advisor)

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