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When invoking blessings {*salawat*} on Muhammad (S), why do you also associate his progeny {*a*} to him by saying, "Allahumma salli 'ala Muhammad wa Ali Muhammad" {"O Allah! Bless Muhammad and the progeny of Muhammad"}?

Reply: It has been established that the Prophet (S) himself had taught the Muslims how to invoke blessings on him. When the following noble verse,

﴿ إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا ﴾

"Indeed Allah and His angels bless the Prophet. O you who have faith! Invoke blessings on him and invoke Peace upon him in a worthy manner,"¹

was revealed, the Muslims asked the Prophet (S): "How should we invoke blessings (on you)?" The Prophet (S) said:

"لا تصلّوا عليّ الصلوة البتراء."

"Do not invoke 'incomplete' blessings on me."

They again asked: "How should we invoke blessings on you?" He (S) replied: "Say:

مُحَمَّدٍ آلِ عَلِيٍّ وَ مُحَمَّدٍ عَلِيٍّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ

Allahumma salli 'ala Muhammad wa Ali Muhammad.

“O Allah! Bless Muhammad and the family of Muhammad.”²

The exceptionally high station of the Prophet's family {*al*} ('*a*') led Imam ash-Shafi'i to compose the following famous poem:

يا أهل بيت رسول الله حبكم فرض من الله في القرآن أنزله كفاكم من عظيم
القد أنكم من لم يصل عليكم لا صلوة له.

O members of the Household {Ahl al-Bayt} of the Messenger of Allah! (Our) love for you is an obligation, which God has revealed in the Qur'an.

*Your lofty station such that if one does not invoke blessings on you (while offering prayers) one's prayer will be of no avail.*³

1. Surah al-Ahzab 33:56.

2. Ibn Hajar, *As-Sawa'iq al-Muhriqah*, 2nd edition (Cairo: Maktabat al-Qahirah), Book 11, Chapter 1, p. 146 and a similar one in Jalal ad-Din as-Suyuti, *Ad-Durr al-Manthur*, vol. 5, commentary of Surah al-Ahzab 33:56 has been narrated by hadith scholars {*muhaddithun*} and compilers of *Sahihs* and *Musnads* such as 'Abd ar-Razzaq, Ibn Abi Shaybah, Ahmad ibn Hanbal, al-Bukhari, Muslim, Abu Dawud, Tirmidhi, Nisa'i, Ibn Majah, Ibn Mardaway, from Ka'ab ibn 'Ujrah from the Holy Prophet (S).

3. *As-Sawa'iq al-Mahriqah*, Book 11, Chapter 1, p. 148; Shabrawi, *Al-Ithaf*, p. 29; Hamzawi Maliki, *Mashariq al-Anwar*, p. 88; Zarqani, *Al-Mawahib*; Sabban, *Al-As'af*, p. 119.

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