

«عرفت الهوى» للسيدة رابعة العدوية[ؓ]

‘Araftu l-Hawā

(I Only Knew Love)

Sayyida Rābi‘a al-‘Adawiyya

rendered into English verse by Shaykh Abdal Hakim Murad

– 1 –

عَرَفْتُ الْهَوَىٰ مُذْ عَرَفْتُ هَوَاكَ وَأَغْلَقْتُ قَلْبِي عَلَىٰ مَنْ عَادَاكَ

‘Araftul-hawaa mudh ‘araftu hawaak • wa aghlaqtu qalbee ‘alaa man ‘aadaak

*I only knew love when I knew love of Thee,
I sealed up my heart against Thy enemy.*

– 2 –

وَقُمْتُ أَنَا جِيكَ يَا مَنْ تَرَىٰ خَفَايَا الْقُلُوبِ وَلَسْنَا نَرَاكَ

Wa qumtu unaajeeka yaa man taraa • khafaayal-quloobi wa lasnaa naraak

*I stood long in converse with Thee, who doth see
My heart’s inner secrets, but Thou I don’t see.*

– 3 –

أُحِبُّكَ حُبَّيْنِ حُبِّ الْهَوَىٰ وَحُبًّا لِأَنَّكَ أَهْلٌ لِذَاكَ

Uḥibbuka ḥubbayni ḥubbal-hawaa • wa ḥubban li-annaka ahlun li-dhaaku

*My love is twin loves, yet the twain are for Thee,
The first’s for Thy love, and the other’s for Thee.*



– 4 –

فَأَمَّا الَّذِي هُوَ حُبُّ الْهَوَىٰ فَشُغْلِي بِذِكْرِكَ عَمَّنْ سِوَاكَ

Fa ammal-ladhee huwa ḥubbul-hawaa • fa-shuglee bi-dhikrika ‘amman siwaak

*And as for the first, which is love of Thy love:
Remembrance complete, not distracted from Thee.*

– 5 –

وَأَمَّا الَّذِي أَنْتَ أَهْلٌ لَهُ فَلَسْتُ أَرَى الْكَوْنَ حَتَّى أَرَكَ

Wa ammal-ladhee anta ahlun lahu • fa lastu aral-kawna ḥattaa araak

*And as for the second: my true love of Thee:
I see Thou as present in all that I see.*

– 6 –

فَلَا الْحَمْدُ فِي ذَا وَلَا ذَاكَ لِي وَلَكِنْ لَكَ الْحَمْدُ فِي ذَا وَذَاكَ

Fa lal-ḥamdu fee dhaa wa laa dhaaka lee • wa laakin lakal-ḥamdu fee dhaa wa dhaak

*All praise to Thy name, and no praises for me,
For Thine is the glory in all unity.*