The background of the image shows two hands shaking in a firm grip. The hand on the left is smaller and appears to be a child's hand, while the hand on the right is larger and appears to be an adult's hand. The background is a gradient of colors, transitioning from a light blue on the left to a warm orange and yellow on the right. There are several bright, starburst-like light effects scattered across the background, particularly around the hands and in the upper right corner.

*Ayah-yi Bay<sup>c</sup>ah*  
(48:10)

By Riyaz D Momin

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# Meaning of *bay'at*

The word *bay'at* is derived from *bay'c*, which literally means ‘buying and selling’.

Technically, it means mu'mins making a covenant with God, through the Prophet or his successor. In order to attain the pleasure of God and salvation, they are pleased and ready to offer any kind of sacrifice of life and wealth.

Believers should abandon unlawful desires in order to truly obey God, the Prophet, and the *ulu'l-amr*.

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# Importance of Intermediary

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَابْتَغُوا إِلَيْهِ الْوَسِيلَةَ وَجَاهِدُوا فِي  
سَبِيلِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ

“O you who believe! Fear God and seek the means to him, and struggle in His way so that you may succeed” (5:35).

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# Importance of Intermediary

## **Forgiveness (4:48)**

“And if when they had done injustice to themselves, they had but come to you and asked God’s forgiveness, and the Prophet had also asked forgiveness for them, surely, they would have found God forgiving, Merciful.”

## **Religious dues (9:103)**

“Take (*khudh*) *sadaqah* (*zakāt* or religious tax) from their wealth so that you may cleanse and purify them and give them salat. Verily, your salat is peace (of heart) for them.”

## **Friendship and devotion with Allāh (5:55)**

“Indeed your guardian is Allāh, and His messenger and those who believe, who establish prayers and pay *zakāt* (religious tax) while they are bowing down (in prayers).”

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## Ayah-yi Bay<sup>‘</sup>ah (48:10)

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يُبَايِعُونَكَ إِنَّمَا يُبَايِعُونَ اللَّهَ يَدُ اللَّهِ فَوْقَ أَيْدِيهِمْ فَمَنْ نَكَثَ فَإِنَّمَا يَنْكُثُ عَلَى  
نَفْسِهِ ۗ وَمَنْ أَوْفَىٰ بِمَا عَاهَدَ عَلَيْهِ اللَّهُ فَمِنْ أَجْرٍ عَظِيمٍ ۝



“Inna’lladhina yubayi<sup>‘</sup>unaka innama yubayi<sup>‘</sup>una’llaha yadu’llahi fawqa aydihim, fa-man nakatha fa-  
innama yankuthu <sup>‘</sup>ala nafsihi, wa-man awfa bi-ma <sup>‘</sup>ahada <sup>‘</sup>alayhu’llaha fasayu’tihi ajran <sup>‘</sup>azima”

“Verily those who give *bay<sup>‘</sup>at* (oath of allegiance) to you (O Prophet), they verily give *bay<sup>‘</sup>at* to Allāh. Allāh’s Hand is on their hands. So whoever breaks his *bay<sup>‘</sup>at*, does so to his own soul’s loss, and whoever fulfils his covenant with Allāh, He will soon grant him immense reward” (48:10).

## Qur'ānic Reference of *Bay'at*

لَقَدْ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِذْ يُبَايِعُونَكَ تَحْتَ الشَّجَرَةِ فَعَلِمَ مَا فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ  
فَأَنْزَلَ السَّكِينَةَ عَلَيْهِمْ وَأَثَبَهُمْ فَتْحًا قَرِيبًا ۝ ١٨

“Certainly, Allāh was well pleased with the believers when they swore allegiance to you under the tree, and He knew what was in their hearts, so He sent down tranquility on them and rewarded them with a near victory (48:18).”

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# Everlasting Hand of God

It is divine law that when God attributes a magnificent thing to His Holy essence, it becomes ever-lasting and imperishable such as: The Book of God (the Qur'ān), the Rope of God, the Light of God, the House of God (Kabah), the Religion of God (Islam), the Symbols of God, the Signs of God in the physical and the spiritual worlds, etc.

The true successor of the Prophet (i.e. the Imām of the time), who is the hand of God is everlasting because it is impossible that the Hand of God (*yadu 'llah*) may sometimes exist and sometimes not exist.

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# **Anthropomorphic Examples of Allāh in the Qur'ān**

Face of Allāh (28:88)

Side of Allāh (39:56)

Eyes of Allāh (11:37)

Hand of Allāh (48:10)

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# Anthropomorphic Examples of Allāh

“He (Alī), exalted be his name, said [referring to Qur’ān 28:88: 'All things perish save His Face']: 'I am that Face'; and [referring to Qur’ān 48:10: 'The Hand of God is above their hands'] he said: 'I am that Hand'; and [referring to Qur’ān 39:56: 'I am the Side of God' (janb'llāh)], he said: 'I am that Side.' On the whole, whatever he said that day in Arabic, he has said it here in the Persian language.”

# What is being purchased and sold?

إِنَّ اللَّهَ اشْتَرَى مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ أَنْفُسَهُمْ وَأَمْوَالَهُمْ بِأَنْ لَهُمُ الْجَنَّةَ  
(9:111)

Yusuf Ali: “Allāh hath purchased of the believers their persons and their goods; for theirs (in return) is the garden (of Paradise).” (Incorrect translation)

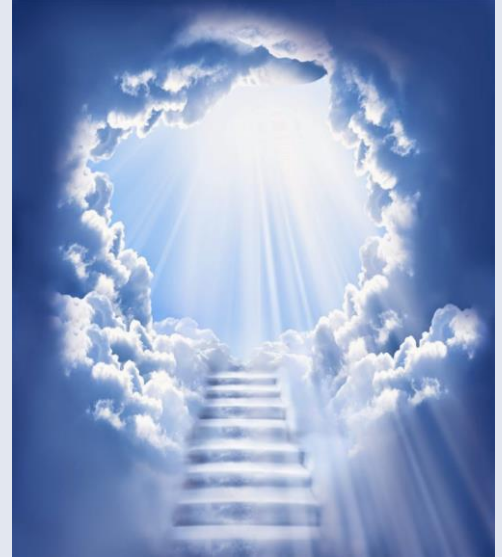
Sahih International: “Indeed, Allāh has purchased from the believers their lives and their properties [in exchange] for that they will have Paradise.” (Correct translation)

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# Imām = Embodied Paradise

“And He will admit them into paradise, which He has made recognized to them.” (47:6)

“And He will cause you to enter gardens underneath which rivers flow.” (61:12)



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# Holy Hadith

Did you not hear a hadith, related from Imām Ja'far Sädiq, that someone prayed to God in his presence, repeating: 'God, let me enter Paradise!' The Imām said: 'Do not pray in this way, but say: God, do not expel me from Paradise.'

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# Pir Nasir Khusraw's Personal Search

One night I was approached in a dream by someone who chided me, “How long will you drink this brew that destroys human intellect? ‘Tis better to be sober.” I responded, “The sages have failed to find better elixir to drive away the sorrows of the world.” He said, “Never has drunkenness brought peace of mind. Can one who leads people to stupor be called a sage? Seek that which increases intellect and wisdom.” I asked, “Where can I find such a thing?” he replied, “Those who seek shall find.” And then pointing in the direction of the qibla, he fell silent.

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# Verses from Travelogue by Pir Nasir Khusraw

One day I read in the Qur'ān the verse of *bay'at* (48:10)  
In which God says: "My hand is above (their hands)".

Those companions who had done *bay'at* under the tree,  
The likes of Jafar, Miqdad, Salman, and Abu Dharr.

I asked: 'Whereof that tree? That hand on which to pledge?  
Where should I seek that hand, that *bay'at* and that group?'

They replied: The tree no longer exists, nor that hand,  
For that group has now dispersed and that hand disappeared.

All of them are the companions of the Prophet in Paradise,  
Singled out by that *bay'at* and chosen from among the people'.

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# Continued...

All of them are the companions of the Prophet in Paradise,  
Singled out by that *bay'at* and chosen from among the people'.

I said: 'It is clear in the Qur'ān that Ahmad All of them are the companions of the Prophet in Paradise,  
Singled out by that *bay'at* and chosen from among the people'. is a Bearer of glad tidings, a warner and a  
luminous lamp' (Qur'ān 33:45-46).

Even if unbelievers intend to extinguish it with their mouths,  
God will keep it shining despite their intention (Qur'ān, 9:32).

How is it that today no one is left from that group?  
Is the speech of God, the Supreme Ruler of the world, other than the truth?

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# Continued...

Whose hand should we take and where is God's *bay'at*?  
That He may treat the later ones as justly as the earlier?

What sin did we commit that we were not born at that time?  
Why are we deprived of the Prophet and distressed?

Dr. Faquir Muhammad Hunzai. *The Position of Aql in the Prose and Poetry of Nasir Khusraw.*

[www.ismaililiterature.org](http://www.ismaililiterature.org)

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# The Constitution of the Shia Imāmi Ismaili Muslims

“The authority of the Imām in the Ismaili Tariqah is testified by *Bay<sup>c</sup>ah* by the murid to the Imām which is the act of acceptance by the murid of the permanent spiritual bond between the Imām and the murid. This allegiance unites all Ismaili Muslims worldwide in their loyalty, devotion, and obedience to the Imām within the Islamic concept of universal brotherhood. It is distinct form the allegiance of the individual murid to his land of abode.”

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“I say how much you are constantly in my heart, in my thoughts and in my prayers. And I place my hand on the shoulder of each, and every murid around the world, wherever you are in any corner of the world, to convey to each one of you individually, my warmest and my most affectionate paternal maternal loving blessings.”

—Aiglemont, 11 July 2017 – Homage Ceremony

