Famous Sermons of Imam Ali ra.

Khutbah Without ALIF
One day, a heated discussion went on among the Arabs and Muslims during which it was said that there is no alphabet that recurs in speech more often than the "aleef" ("A"). All attendants agreed. It was then that the magnificent lantern of language, its deep ocean and precise philosopher, namely Imam Ali ibn Abu Talib (?), stood up and delivered a lengthy sermon which included praise of Allah Almighty, prayers and salutations unto His Prophet, Muhammed ibn Abdullah ibn Abdul-Muttalib (peace and blessings of Allah be with him and his progeny).

This letter of the Arabic alphabet is undoubtedly the most commonly occurring character in the language. If composing a few meaningful sentences without dots is hard enough, how about delivering a sermon, one which is full of wisdom and which is many times the size of the one you have just seen, but without ever using a single alif!!

This sermon is usually called al-Khutbah al-Muniqah and is recorded by many Muslim scholars. Amongst the Sunni scholars who quote it can be mentioned:

Muhammad b. Muslim al-Shafi’i, Kifayat al-Talib, p. 248

How could Imam ‘Ali (a) accomplish such a feat?

Imam ‘Ali (a) derived his vast knowledge and striking eloquence by virtue of his long and close association with the Prophet Muhammad (s). The Prophet (s), with Divine inspiration, was the source of all such knowledge and wisdom and a teacher par excellence for Imam Ali (a).
Sermon In Arabic

The statements of the entire sermon, from beginning to end, did not contain a single word having the "aleef" (mamdooda, elongated alpha) is as follows:

(If you can't read the arabic please refer to: http://www.duas.org/miraclesermons.htm)
الخطبة الموثقة للإمام علي بن أبي طالب

بدون حرف الألف!

و تقل إن جماعه حضروا لدي و تذكروا فضل الخط و ما فيه، فقالوا ليس
في الكلام أكثر من الألف و يتذكر النطق بدونها. فقال لهم في الحال هذه
الخطبة من غير سابق فكره و لا تقدم رؤية و سردها و ليس فيها ألف:

حمدته من عظمت منته و سبقت نعمة و تمت كلمة و نفذت المشيتة و بلغت
حجته و عدلت قضيته و سبقت غضبة رحمته. حمدته حمد مصر بربوته متخضع
لعبوديته متنصل من خطيته متروك بتوجيهه مستبد من وعيد مؤلم من ربه مغفره تنجيه
يوم يشمل كل عن فصيته و بنينه و نستعيده و نسترشده و نؤمن به و نتوكل عليه. و
شهدهُ له شهود عبد مخلص مؤمن و فرده تقرير مؤمن مينين و وحدته توحيد عبد
مذعن ليس له شريك من ملكه و لم يكن له ولي في صنعه جلب عن مشير و وزير و
عون و معين و نظير علم فستر و بطن فخير و ملك فقه و عصي فغم و عيد فشكر و
حكم فعدل و تكرم و تفضل لن بزول و لليزل ليس كمثله شيء و هو قيل كل شيء
وابد كل شيء يعري نفسه مبتسشم بنغثه متمدن بدلله متكبر بسموع ليس يدركه
بصبر و لم يحظه نظر قوي مربع بصير سميح رؤف رحيم عجز عن رصمه من وصمه
و ضل عن نغمه من لغته قريب فبعد و بعد قرب بجيب دعوة من يدعوه و يرزقه و يحبوه
ذو لطف ختى و بطن قوي و رحمه موسي و عقوبة موجعة، رحمته جنة عريضة
موعقة و عقولته جهد ممددوه موثقة و شهدت بث بث محمد عابد و رسوله و نبيه و
صبيه و حبيبه و خليجه بعثه في خير عصر و حين فتاه و كفر رحيمه لعباده و منه
لمنيده ختم به نبوته و وضحته و جبت له و نضج و نضج و نضج و كل رؤف بكل
مؤمن رحيم مريح و رفيق عينه و رفيق على محبحة و تسليم و بركة و تعظيم و تكرم من
رب غنور رحيم قريب محلم. وصينكم معرش من حضر بوصية ربك و
ذكرتكم سنة نبكم فعلكم برهبة تشكر قلبيكم و خشيه ندري دومككم و نتية.
تقبيكم قيل يوم يذهلكم و بيتلكم، يوم بنوز فيه من تقل وزن حسنئه و خف وزن سيئه و عليك بمسلسلة ذل و خض و نحل و خشو و توبة و نزو و لينغم كل منكم صحته قيل ستمه و شبيهه قيل همه و سعته قيل قفره و فرغته قيل شغله و حضره قيل سفره و حadians قيل موه قيل به و يهم و يمرض و يستم و يسله طبيبة و يعرض عنه حبيبه و ينقطع عمره و يتعمر عقله ثم قيل هو موعود و جسمه منهوك ثم جد في نز شديد و حضره كل قريب و بعيد شخصى بصره و طمح بنظره و رشج جبينه و خلطته عرنه و جبدت (جذبت) نفسه و بكث (تكبت) عرسه و حضر (حفر) رسمه و يتم منه (عنه) ولده و تفرق عنه عده و قسم (قسم) جمعه و ذهب بصره و سممه (و كن و مدد و وجه) و جرد و غسل و غري و نشف و سجني و بسط له و هيئه و نشر عليه كلبه و شد منه ذقه (و قمع و عم و لف و ود وسلم) و حمل فوق سرير و صلى عليه بتكبير، بيضر سجود و تغير، و نقل من دور مدخرته و قصور مشيدة (و حجر منضدة) و فرش منجدته فجهل في ضريح ملحود ضيق مرصود (مرصوص) بلبن منضود مستف بحلمود و هيل عليه عنره (حفره) و حشي (حشي عليه) مدرع و تحقيق (تتحقيق) حذرته و نسي خبره و رجع عنه وليه و نديمه و نسيبه و حميه و تبدل به قرينه و حبيبه (و صنيبه و نديمه) فهو حشو قبر و رعين حشر (قفر) يدب (يسعى) في جسمه دود قبره و يسيل صديده من خنهره و تحقيق تزته (و يسحت ثوبه و) لحمه و ينشف دمه و يرم (و يفر) عظمه حتى يوم حشره فينشره (فينشر) من قبره و ينفخ في الصور (صور) و يدعى لحشر و نشور فهم نبشرت قبر و حشت (صدور) سريه في صدور و جي بكل نبى و صديق و شهيد و منطق و جد لللحة (و تولى لفضل حكمه رب) قدير ببده (سيمده) خيبر بصير، فكم حشره ترضيه (نكم من زفوه تضنيه و حشره تنفيه) في موقف مهيب (مهول عظم) و مشهد جميل (جسيم) بين يدي ملك عظيم (ملك كريم) بكل صغيره و كبرى علم، فحينذ يلبجه عرته و يخفزه (يحفزه) قله، فمبرحره غير مرحومة و صرخته غير مسموعة (وحجبته غير متبولة) و برزت (و
تنول صحينته و تبييت جريرته (و تبني جريرته) و نطق كل عضو منه بسوء عمله) فنظر
في سوء عمله و شهدت (فشهدت) عينه بنظره و يده ببطشه و رجلا بخطوته و جلده
بمسه (بمسه) و فرحه بمسه (بمسه) و يهدده منكر و تركه و كشف له حيث
يصير (و كشف عنه بصير) فسيلجده و غلته يده فضيق يسحب وحده فورد جهنم
بكروه (بكروه) شديد و ظل ينذب في جحيم و يسقط شريبه من حميهم تشوي ووجهه و
تسلخ جلده (يضرره) زينته بمقع من حديد، يعود جلده بعد نضجه بجلده جدید)
يستثنث فيعرض عنه خزنه جهنم و يستصرخ فلبث حقبه بندم. نعود برب قدر من شر
كل مصير و نسأله عنو من رضي
 عنه و منطرة من قبل منه و هو ولي مسائلي و منجع طلباتي فمن زحزح عن تذيب ربه
جعل (سكن) في جناته بقربه و خلد في قصور (مشيدة) و نعمه و ملك بحور (و مكن
من حور) عين و حنده (و طيف عليه بكروه وسكن حضيره فردوس) و تقلب في
اليوم و سطي من تنسيم مخوم بمساك و عنبر يشرب من خمر مذوب شربه ليس
ينزف له (يشرب من خمور في روض مشرق مغضب ليس يصد من شربه و ليس
ينزف). هذه منزله من خشي ربه و حذر نفسه، و تلك عقوبة من عصي مشننته و
سولت له نفسه مصيبة مبدته لهذ ذلك قول فضل و حكم عدل خير قصص قص و وعظ
به و نص تنزيزل من حكيم حميد (نزل به روح قدس سبيه علي النبي مهد مكين، صلت
عليه رسل سفره، مكرمون برره، عذت برب رحيم من شر كل رجيم. فليتضر منضرعكم
و ليبته مبتلكم فمستقر ريب كل مربوب لي ولكم.

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English Translation

I praise the One Whose boon is great, whose blessing overwhelms, whose mercy is faster than His anger, the One whose word is perfect, whose will is affected, whose argument (issue) is wise, whose case is just. I praise Him like one recognizing His Godhead, submissive while adoring Him, dissociating himself from his sin, recognizing His Unity, seeking refuge with Him against His warning, hopeful for the mercy (forgiveness) of his Lord that saves him [from the Fire] on a Day when everyone will be distracted even from his offspring and tribe. We seek His help, guidance and directions. We believe in Him and depend on Him. I have testified to Him as a sincere and convinced servant/slave; I recognize His Uniqueness as a pious believer, and I have recognized His Unity like a submissive servant/slave. He has no partner in His domain; He relies on none in doing whatever He does. He is exalted above having an adviser or a vizier. He is above using a model or an assistant or a helper or a peer. He knows, so He covers; He is acquainted with the innermost, so He is most familiar [with our intentions]. He cast a look, so He assisted; He owns everything, so He subdues. He is disobeyed, yet He forgives; He is adored, so He thanks. He rules, so He affects justice, and He is generous and grants favors. He shall never come to an end, and He has always been as He is; there is nothing like Him. He, first and foremost, is a unique Lord in His exaltation, able through His might, holy through His sublimity, proud of His Majesty; no (mental) vision can realize Him, nor can anyone ever see Him. He is strong, invincible, seeing, hearing, clement, wise, affectionate and kind. One who attempts to describe Him can never do so; one who attempts to describe His attributes can never do so [either]. His blessing reaches those who get to know Him: He is near, so He is far [above mental or physical vision]; He is far yet He is near [closer to us than anything else]. He responds to the call of those who call on Him; He sustains His servant and surrounds him with His love; His niceties are hidden [from our comprehension]; His power is mighty; His mercy is wide; His penalty is painful; His mercy is a broad and a Garden of grandeur (Paradise); His punishment is Hell filled with horrors and chains.
I have testified that He sent Muhammed (?) as His servant and messenger, prophet, chosen one, loved one, friend, a link [with the Almighty] that grants him [Muhammed] fortune, bringing him closer to Him, elevating him, granting him nearness and closeness [to the Almighty]. He sent him during a good (opportune) period of time, when there was disbelief, as mercy for His servants and a boon for more. Through him He sealed His prophetic messages, strengthened (explained) His argument. So he admonished, advised, conveyed the message and worked hard [for people. He was, affectionate towards every believer, merciful, easy to please, the friend of anyone who is generous and pure: mercy, salutation, blessing and honor be with him from a forgiving, affectionate, kind, near, responsive and wise Lord.

I have admonished you, O folks who are present here with me, to be pious (as your Lord has admonished) towards your Lord, and I have reminded you of the Sunna of your Prophet; so, take to awe that calms your hearts, fear that draws your tears, piety that saves you on a Day which will puzzle your minds and put you to the test, a day in which one shall win if the weight of his good deeds is heavy while that of his sins is light. Let your plea be in humility and surrender, appreciation and submission, repentance and dissociation [from sin], regret and return [to righteousness]. Let everyone of you seize the opportunity when he is healthy before the time when he is sick, when he is young before he is aged, old and sick, [the opportunity] of his ease before he is poor, of having free time before he is busy, of being wealthy before being impoverished, of being present at home before he is away traveling, of being alive before his death. He shall grow old, become weak, aged, sick, ailing, so much so that even his doctor is fed-up with him, even those who love him turn away from him. His lifespan will have come to an end. His color of complexion is changed. His mental power is decreased, so it is said that he is ailing and his body is failing. He is having a hard time as he finds himself suffering from the throes of death: He is attended by those who are close and who are distant. He gazes his looks, yearns as he turns his eyes, his forehead sweating, his [physical] senses being snatched away from him [one by one]. His sighs are now silent, his soul has departed, so he is mourned by his wife. His grave is dug, his children are now orphans, those who were around him (his friends or foes) are now dispersed from around him. What he had accumulated (legacy) has now been divided [among heirs]. Gone now are his faculty of seeing and hearing; so he receives Talqeen; he is stretched [on the ground] and directed [towards the Qibla]. He is stripped of his clothes, bathed, in the nude, dried then directed [towards the Qibla]. Something has been spread on the floor for him as his shrouds are being prepared. His chin has been tied, his soul has already departed from his body and he has been bidden farewell by all. He is now shrouded, his head wrapped, so is his body, and he has been handed over [for burial]. He is
carried in a wooden box (coffin); his funeral prayers have been performed with Takbir but without prostration or the rubbing of the forehead. He is taken away from a decorated abode [this life], from well built mansions and chambers topping each other, so he is now in an enclosure of a grave which is very narrow and separated from others; it is built with baked clay on top of each other and is sealed with a rock. Dust has been healed on him, so he now is sure about that of which he was warned; his chest is now heavy; he is now a thing of the past. His friends, chosen ones, companions, in-laws and close friends have all left him behind. His company and loved ones are now changed, for he is now nothing but the filling of a grave and the pawn of a waste: Worms crawl all over his body, his pus drips from his nostrils on his neck and chest. Soil crushes his flesh as his blood dries and bone decays. He remains in his grave till the Day when he is herded with others and is given a new life; so, he is taken out of his grave. His trumpet is blown, he is called on to gather with others and stand trial. Graves are scattered around, the innermost in the hearts are recorded and calculated. Every prophet, Siddiq, martyr, anyone who speaks is brought and made to stand for the final judgment of an Able God Who is fully knowledgeable of His servants, seeing [all what they do]. Countless exhalations engulf him, sighs fade him (distance him), in a horrific position and an awesome scene before a Great King Who knows about everything small and big. He is reined by his sweat, his worry crushing him, yet his tear has none to feel sorry for, his scream (defense) is not accepted. His record of deeds is brought, his innermost becomes visible, and every part of his body now speaks of his wrongdoings: His eyes testify about what he had seen, his hands about whom he beat, his legs about where he had gone, his skin about what he had contacted, his private parts about with whom he had had intercourse. He is threatened by Munkir and Nakir; and it is unsealed for him where he is heading; so his neck now is tied with chains and his hands are cuffed. He is taken alone, dragged and brought to Hell as he is in a great distress and hardship. He remains in the torment of hell given to drink of very hot pus that grills his face and separates his skin from his body. He is beaten by the torture angels of hell with iron clubs. His skin returns again and again anew after having been baked. He cries for help, yet even the angels in Hell turn away from him. He pleads for mercy, so he stays for a while regretful, yet he finds none to care about his regret. His regret will then be in vain.

We seek refuge with an Able Lord from the evil of any final end such as this, and we plead for forgiveness similar to that of one with whom He is pleased and for an overlooking similar to that of one whose good deeds He has accepted; for He is my Master, ultimate pursuit and the one Who grants success to what I seek. Surely one who is pushed away from the torment of his Lord shall reside in Paradise near to Him and remain forever in well built mansions, having huris
with large lovely eyes and servants. He is given to drink of fresh cool water mixed with ginger and sealed with musk and fragrance that perpetuates happiness and provides the sense of pleasure. He drinks of wines in an orchard filled with all types of pleasures, wine that does not cause any headache to one who drinks it, and it never runs out; such is the ultimate end of one who fears his Lord, who is on guard about his sin, about the insinuations of his nafs (self), and that was the penalty of one who opposes the [sinless] way [in which] he was created, the one whose evil self decorates for him to do what is against his nature. Such is the final judgment and the ruling of One Who is just: He narrated parables, admonished through texts, revealed revelations from a Praise-worthy Wise One, revelations which He descended with a clear (able) Holy Spirit [arch-angel Gabriel] from a Glorious Lord unto a Prophet who is rightly guided and who guides others, one who shows others the right way, a mercy to the believers, clearly from a Great Lord, a master frequented by messengers (angels) who are honored and obedient [of their Lord].

I have sought refuge with a Lord Who is knowing, wise, able, merciful, from the evil of an enemy who is cursed and stoned; so, let everyone who pleads plead, and let everyone who seeks [favors of his Lord] seek and ask forgiveness of the Lord of lords for myself and for you all.

Having finished his miraculous sermon, the Imam (?) recited this following verse of the Holy Qur'an: "We shall grant that (eternal) abode of the hereafter to those who intend neither high-handedness nor mischief on earth, and such end is (the best reward) for the righteous" (Qur'an, 28:83).
Sermon Without DOTS (2012)
An example of Hazrat Ali (as) mastery over the Arabic language manifested itself in this extempore sermon which, in its written form, is devoid of any dots!
Those who know Arabic or can at-least read the Quranic script will appreciate that certain letters of the Arabic alphabet have dots associated with them. These letters are used all the time in Arabic speech and written texts.
To create any written script of any meaningful nature, without using any of these letters, is a difficult task.
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