A Pre-Islamic Poetic Couplet

This couplet is by the famous pre-Islamic poet

 Española  بن الاعْبَد

Speaking about his tribe's generosity, he says:

نَحْنُ فِي الْمَشْتَهَاءِ نَدْعُو الْجَفَلَى
لاَ تَرَى الْآدِبَ فِي نَا يَنْتَقَرُ

The desert Arabs have two types of inviting people to attend a banquet. They are:
1. الجَفَلِي

This is inviting *all* the members of the tribe or the community to participate in the public dinner.

2. التَّقَرَّى

This is inviting selected members of the tribe or the community.

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Lexical and Grammatical Notes

The verb is: اَنْتَقَقَرَ اَنْتَقَقَرَ اَرَا (viii), to invite selected members of the tribe or community to the banquet.

شَتَا يَشْتُوْ شَتْوَا, to spend the winter.

And مَشْتَتَة is winter camp.

أَدِبَ أَدْبَا (a-i), to arrange for a banquet.

And the one who makes such an arrangement is: آدِبَ.

The banquet is مَأْذَبَّة and مَأْذَبَّة (with the dāl having dammah or fathah).
The taqdir is:

لا ترى الآدب فينا يُنْتَقِرُ

You will not find any inviter amongst us Inviting selected members of the tribe.

He mentions winter camp because winter season is marked by scarcity of food stuffs.
The *Bahr* of the Couplet

The *bahr* of this couplet is *bahr al-ramal* (بحر الرمال).

It contains three feet which are:

1. فَاعِلَانُ
2. فَاعِلَانُ
3. فَاعِلَانُ

The second foot is phonetically:

1. فَاعِلَانُ
2. فَاعِلَانُ

is phonetically: dan da dan dan:

These syllables can be represented by the English sentence:

*Come to London.*

The second foot can be shortened to:

1. فَاعِلَانُ
2. فَاعِلَانُ

i.e.: da da dan dan:
These syllables can be represented by the English words: *any person*.

ُفَاعِلُنْ is phonetically: dan da dan:

These syllables can be represented by the English sentence: *Come to me*.

ُفَاعِلُنْ can be shortened to:

ُفَعِلْنُ which is phonetically: da da dan:
These syllables can be represented by the English words: 

*any one.*

Here is an anatomy of the couplet:

**Ṉhanī fī al-mashāṭa†a nādū u al-j̱afūlī**

- **dan da dan dan** = *Come to London.*
- **tâ nādū gâl** = *Come to London.*
- **j̱ f̱ lâ** = *any one.*

**Lâ ṯṟa al-adīb fi–ṉa y̱ṉṯq̱ṟ**

- **dan da dan dan** = *Come to London.*
- **dâ ḇ f̱i ṉa** = *any person.*
- **y̱ṉ ṯ q̱ṟ** = *come to me.*