

The National Amīr/ President
Jamā‘at Aḥmadīyya,

Dear Brother,

السلام علیکم ورحمة اللہ وبرکاتہ

Summary of the Friday Sermon delivered by *Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V* (May Allāh be his Helper) on 26th April 2024 at *Mubārak Mosque Islāmabād, Tilford, UK*

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The causes of the Battle of Ḥamrā’ul Asad and its background were discussed in the previous sermon. Upon learning of the Quraish's plan to retaliate and attack Madinah, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) summoned Ḥaḍrat Abu Bakr and Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with them) for consultation, and both of them said, "O Messenger of Allāh! Let us confront the enemy outside the city to prevent harm to our children."

After the Fajr prayer, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) summoned the people and had Ḥaḍrat Bilāl (May Allāh be pleased with him) announce that everyone should prepare to meet the enemy, and that only those who had participated in the battle of Uhud should go out for the battle. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) then called for his flag and handed it to Ḥaḍrat ‘Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him) according to one account, or Ḥaḍrat Abu Bakr according to another. On this occasion, Ḥaḍrat Ibn Umme Maktūm (May Allāh be pleased with him) was appointed as the deputy in Madinah.

Biographers write that the Holy Prophet's decision to pursue the enemy was extremely wise. The hypocrites believed that going after the enemy with depleted numbers was extremely dangerous, but subsequent events proved the sagacity of the Holy Prophet’s decision which resulted in great benefits for the Muslims. This decision elevated the morale of the Mujāhidīn, while the hearts of the hypocrites were overawed by the strength and determination of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him). On the other hand, when the enemy received the news that the Islāmic army was coming after them, they lost their nerve. The chief hypocrite, ‘Abdullah bin Ubai, requested that he be allowed to join the Muslim army, but the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) forbade him from doing so.

Following the Holy Prophet’s announcement, the love and loyalty of the Ṣaḥāba were evident as they immediately took up their arms while still being wounded. Ḥaḍrat Usaid bin Ḥuḍair (May Allāh be pleased with him), who had nine wounds and was about to apply ointment to them, heard the call and immediately set out without hesitation. Forty wounded Ṣaḥāba from the Banu Salama tribe joined the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him). Witnessing their response despite their injuries, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) prayed for their forgiveness. Ḥaḍrat Ṭufail bin Naumān had suffered thirteen wounds; Ḥaḍrat Khirash bin Ṣimmah had ten; Ḥaḍrat Ka‘b bin Mālīk had more than ten; and Ḥaḍrat Quṭbah bin ‘Āmir had nine wounds. Yet, the Muslims hurried for their weapons without tending to their wounds. Allāh immortalised this unparalleled zeal of the Ṣaḥāba in the verse:

الَّذِينَ اسْتَجَابُوا لِلَّهِ وَالرَّسُولِ مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا أَصَابَهُمُ الْقَرْحُ ۚ لِلَّذِينَ أَحْسَنُوا مِنْهُمْ وَاتَّقُوا أَجْرٌ عَظِيمٌ ﴿١٧٣﴾

‘As to those who answered the call of Allah and the Messenger after they had received an injury — such of them as do good and act righteously shall have a great reward.’ (3:173)

Ḥaḍrat ‘Aisha (May Allāh be pleased with her) used to say that this verse also applied to Ḥaḍrat Abu Bakr and Ḥaḍrat Zubair bin Awwām (May Allāh be pleased with them). A fortunate and deeply loyal Ṣaḥābī, Ḥaḍrat Jābir bin ‘Abdullah, was unable to join the battle as he had to care for his nine sisters, fulfilling his father's command. Upon explaining his situation to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him), he was granted permission to remain in Madinah.

The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) departed for this campaign in such a state that his blessed face and forehead were wounded, his blessed tooth was broken, both lips were torn from the inside, and his right shoulder and both knees were injured. Ḥaḍrat ‘Ali remarked that he was more concerned about the wounds of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) than his own.

The conduct of two Ansāri brothers, Ḥaḍrat ‘Abdullah bin Sahl and Ḥaḍrat Rāfi‘ bin Sahl (May Allāh be pleased with them), who travelled despite their wounded condition, was also exemplary. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) prayed for both of them and said that if you are granted a long life, you will see that you will be given horses, mules, and even camels as mounts, but those mounts will not be better for you than this journey that you have undertaken on foot, meaning that the reward of this journey is greater than the best blessings of that time. It is also said that this incident involved the sons of Ḥaḍrat Anas and Ḥaḍrat Muwannis bin Faḏāla (May Allāh be pleased with them). It is possible that this incident occurred with both of them.

Ḥaḍrat Jābir bin ‘Abdullah (May Allāh be pleased with him) narrates that during this expedition, our usual provision consisted of dates. Ḥaḍrat Sa‘d bin ‘Ubadah brought thirty camels and dates to Ḥamrā’ul Asad, which proved plentiful for us. Sometimes, camel meat was also consumed. Throughout the night, many fires were lit to magnify the size of the army and intimidate the enemy.

Ma‘bad bin Abu Ma‘bad Khuzā‘ī also met the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) and then went on to instil fear in the Quraish regarding the Muslim army. He was still a polytheist at the time but later embraced Islām. He painted such a powerful picture of the Muslims before Abu Sufyān that he and his escort lost their morale and were filled with anxiety and fear. Abu Sufyān realised that his safety lay in swiftly leading his army to Makkah. After receiving news of Abu Sufyān's departure, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) remained there from Monday to Wednesday before returning to Madinah. In one narration, it is mentioned that the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) returned to Madinah on Friday and stayed outside Madinah for five days.

Ḥaḍrat Abu ‘Ubaidah relates that before returning to Madinah, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) had held Mu‘āwiyah bin Mughīra captive. There is a narration about Mu‘āwiyah bin Mughīra saying that he was hiding in Madinah and used to provide information to the enemies about the situation there. When he was apprehended, Ḥaḍrat ‘Uthmān sought amnesty for him, and the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) granted him amnesty, saying that he should leave Madinah within three days, and if he were found in Madinah even after three days, he should be executed. When he continued to hide in Madinah even after three days, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) instructed Ḥaḍrat Zaid bin Ḥāritha and Ḥaḍrat ‘Ammār bin Yāsir (May Allāh be pleased with them) to find him at a certain place. They found him there and executed him.

At Badr, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) had apprehended the polytheist poet Abu ‘Uzzah. Seeking mercy from the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him), Abu ‘Uzzah mentioned his poverty and his daughters. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) already had pardoned him once without any ransom. Instead, he took a pledge from him that he would not engage in future battles against him, gather an army, or incite others against him. However, he broke his promise, returned with the Quraish in the Battle of Uhud, and provoked them through his poetry. Ḥaḍrat ‘Āṣim bin Thābit (May Allāh be pleased with him) was the one who arrested him, and the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) commanded Ḥaḍrat Zaid, or, according to another narration, Ḥaḍrat ‘Āṣim bin Thābit, to execute him. Then the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) said, "A believer is not bitten twice from the same hole." The rest will be explained in the future, inshā’ Allāh.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) once again appealed for prayers for the state of the world and the protection of Aḥmadīs from all kinds of harm.

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) spoke about Farāz Aḥmad Ṭāhir Ṣāḥib, who was martyred in Australia in a knife attack at a shopping centre where he worked as a security guard. He was thirty years old and unmarried, hailing from Rabwah. In 2018, he moved from Pakistan to Sri Lanka, where he stayed for four years before relocating to Australia. His parents had already passed away, leaving behind three brothers, two sisters, and his grandfather.

Reports indicate that when Farāz attempted to intervene and stop the attacker, he was fatally wounded. Both the Prime Minister of Australia and the Premier of New South Wales have commended Farāz Aḥmad's bravery and sacrifice. Similarly, the High Commissioner of Pakistan in Australia expressed condolences and pledged full cooperation. Over 120 news stories regarding the incident and the deceased have been published in the media, with more expected. Today, a funeral was held in Australia, attended by the Prime Minister and others. Social media platforms are also abuzz with tributes to Farāz, with many referring to him as a national hero. His sacrifice exemplifies his commitment to religious freedom, demonstrating that he did not flee his homeland out of fear of death. May Allāh elevate the status of the deceased and grant courage to his grieving relatives. Āmīn

Wassalām,

Abdul Majid Tahir
Additional Wakīlut Tabshīr
ISLĀMABAD (UK)
Dated: 01 May 2024