

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

The National Amīr/ President
Jamā‘at Aḥmadīyya,

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Dear Brother,

السلام علیکم ورحمة اللہ وبرکاتہ

Summary of the Friday Sermon delivered by Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V (May Allāh be his Helper) on 07th July 2023 at Mubārak Mosque Islāmabād, Tilford, UK.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: In the previous sermon, mention was made of the dispute between *Abu Jahl* and *‘Utbah* regarding whether or not to engage in fighting. However, after being taunted by *Abu Jahl*, *‘Utbah* declared war.

‘Utbah bin Rabī‘ah came forward with his brother *Shaibah bin Rabī‘ah* and his son *Walīd bin ‘Utbah* by his side and challenged anyone for one-on-one combat. Ḥaḍrat *‘Ali* (May Allāh be pleased with him) relates that when some *Ansār* youth responded to *‘Utbah’s* challenge, he asked who they were, and upon hearing their response, said that he had only come to fight against the sons of his uncle. He called out, "O Muḥammad, send our equals from among our relatives to face us in combat!" The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) said, "Rise, O Ḥamza! Rise, O *‘Ali*! Rise, O *‘Ubaidah bin Hārith!*". Ḥaḍrat *Ḥamza* (May Allāh be pleased with him) fought *‘Utbah*, Ḥaḍrat *‘Ali* (May Allāh be pleased with him) fought *Shaibah*, and Ḥaḍrat *‘Ubaidah* (May Allāh be pleased with him) fought *Walīd*. Ḥaḍrat *Ḥamza* and Ḥaḍrat *‘Ali* were both victorious, while Ḥaḍrat *‘Ubaidah* was injured. When he was brought before the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him), he said, "O Messenger of Allāh, am I not a martyr?" The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) replied, "Indeed, you are a martyr." *‘Ubaidah bin Hārith* could not survive his wounds and passed away while returning from *Badr*.

When the two forces met and intense fighting ensued, *Abu Jahl* prayed, "O God! Destroy the person among us who breaks family ties and says things that no one has heard." The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says that it appears that *Abu Jahl* held the erroneous belief that the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) was not a pure and holy being—God forbid—and this is why he offered such a prayer. However, within an hour, *Abu Jahl* met his death, while the one whose holy life he accused of being impure returned home victorious.

The battle raged and the Muslims were facing an enemy three times stronger, whose sole aim was to wipe out the very name of Islām. However, living faith—the most powerful force in the world—permeated their souls and infused them with strength, and they demonstrated unparalleled dedication in the battlefield.

Ḥaḍrat *Ḥamza*, Ḥaḍrat *‘Ali*, and Ḥaḍrat *Zubair* (May Allāh be pleased with them) cut right through the enemy ranks. Ḥaḍrat *‘Umar’s* freed slave, Ḥaḍrat *Mihja ‘a* (May Allāh be pleased with him) became the target of an arrow and attained martyrdom. He was the first Muslim to be martyred. He was followed by Ḥaḍrat *Hāritha bin Surāqa*, a member of *Banū ‘Adi bin Najjar* tribe.

The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) said, "Whoever perseveres in battle today, considering it to be an act meriting Allāh’s reward, and does not turn back, Allāh will grant him entry into Paradise." Upon hearing these words, *‘Umair bin Ḥumām* from *Banū Salamah* tribe, who happened to be eating some dates at that moment, exclaimed, "Amazing! The only thing separating me from Paradise is the time that these infidels will take to kill me." He then took up his sword, fought valiantly, and embraced martyrdom. *Auf bin Hārith*, the son of *‘Afrā*, then asked the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him), "O Messenger of Allāh, what pleases Allāh regarding His servants?" The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him)

replied, "When they confront the enemy without any armour." Upon hearing this, he promptly discarded his armour and threw himself into battle. After slaying numerous unbelievers, he himself was honoured with martyrdom.

At the conclusion of the battle, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) stood amidst the slain, searching for *Abu Jahl*. When he couldn't find him, he prayed, "O Allāh, do not make me powerless against the Pharaoh of the *Ummah*." Ḥaḍrat 'Abdullah bin Mas'ūd (May Allāh be pleased with him) found *Abu Jahl*, who had been injured by Ḥaḍrat Mu'ādh and Ḥaḍrat Mu'awidh. Though he was breathing his last, he said that he wanted his neck to be cut off at lower end. 'Abdullah responded, "I will not fulfil your desire." He severed his neck near the chin and presented it to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him), who thanked Allāh Almighty and said "Allāh, is the Pure Being, besides whom there is no deity worthy of worship."

According to a narration by Ḥaḍrat Qatādah, the Messenger of Allāh said, "Every nation has its Pharaoh, and *Abu Jahl* is the Pharaoh of this *Ummah*. Allāh Almighty has dealt with him severely. Both sons of *Afrā* (*Mu'ādh* and *Mu'awidh*) and the angels have killed him, and 'Abdullah bin Mas'ūd has completed the task."

The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says: *Abu Jahl* has been likened to Pharaoh, but from my perspective, he surpasses Pharaoh in his transgressions. Pharaoh eventually acknowledged, and said :

أَمِنْتُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا الَّذِي آمَنَتْ بِهِ بَنُو إِسْرَائِيلَ وَأَنَا مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ

"I believe that there is no God but He in Whom the children of Israel believe, and I am of those who submit to Him. " (10:91)

However, *Abu Jahl* remained a disbeliever until the very end. It was he who instigated and perpetuated the relentless persecution of Muslims in Makkah, driven by his immense arrogance and desire for power and prestige.

While interpreting the following verse:

وَمَا رَمَيْتَ إِذْ رَمَيْتَ وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ رَمَىٰ

'And thou threwest not when thou didst throw, but it was Allah Who threw. ' (8:18)

Ḥaḍrat Imām Rāzi writes that when the *Quraish* launched their attack, the Messenger of Allāh supplicated, "O Allāh! The *Quraish* tribe has come with their horses and weapons and they ridicule Your Messenger and deny him. O Allāh! I seek that which You have promised me." The angel *Jibrāil* then descended and said, "O Messenger of Allāh! Take a handful of dust and throw it towards the disbelievers." When the two armies clashed, the Messenger of Allāh said to Ḥaḍrat 'Ali, "Give me a handful of dust from the valley," and he threw it towards the disbelievers. The Messenger of Allāh said, "May their faces be disfigured." Consequently, the polytheists started rubbing their eyes because of the dust and this resulted in their defeat. Allāh says:

وَمَا رَمَيْتَ إِذْ رَمَيْتَ وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ رَمَىٰ

'And thou threwest not when thou didst throw, but it was Allah Who threw. ' (8:18)

It means that the handful of dust the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) threw was not actually thrown by him, for his throwing had only as much impact as the throwing of a human could have; rather, it was Allāh who threw it, and as a result, the particles of dust reached their eyes. The act of throwing originated from the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him), but its power came from Allāh.

Allāh says in the Holy Qur’ān:

إِذْ تَسْتَغِيثُونَ رَبَّكُمْ فَاسْتَجَابَ لَكُمْ أَنِّي مُمِدُّكُم بِأَلْفٍ مِّنَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ مُرَوِّدِينَ

‘When you implored the assistance of your Lord, and He answered you, saying, ‘I will assist you with a thousand of the angels, following one another.’ (8:10)

The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) testified to the descent of angels during the Battle of *Badr*. *Jibraīl* came to the Messenger of Allāh and asked, "What status do you give to the Companions who participated in *Badr* from among the Muslims?" The Messenger of Allāh replied, "They are the best among the Muslims". *Jibraīl* said, "The angels who participated in the Battle of *Badr* are also the most superior among angels."

Some people have the misconception that the descent of angels only signified good news and reassurance for the believers and that the angels did not actually participate in the battle. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that this notion contradicts authentic *Ḥadīth*. The question, however, arises: if one angel was enough to bring about victory, then why were thousands of angels sent down? *Imām Ibn Kathīr* cites the *Ḥadīth* about the descent of angels during the Battle of *Badr* and says that the descent of angels from Allāh was a support and glad-tiding for the Muslims; otherwise, Allāh could have helped the Muslims against their enemies even without the angels. In *Sūrah Muḥammad*, it is mentioned that if Allāh so wills, He Himself can take revenge on these disbelievers, but He chooses to test the believers.

This battle ended with a clear victory for the Muslims and the defeat of the polytheists. In this battle, fourteen Muslims (six *Muhajirīn* and eight *Ansār*) embraced martyrdom, while the polytheists suffered heavy losses. Seventy of their prominent leaders, commanders, and influential figures were killed or taken captive.

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) appealed for prayers for Muslims in Palestine, that may Allah grant them relief and help the oppressed. May He bless them with a just leadership that respects their rights.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) also condemned the incident in Sweden of dishonouring the Holy Qur’ān in the name of freedom of speech.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) also urged to remember France in their prayers amidst the recent riots that unfolded following the tragic killing of a boy by a policeman. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) prayed that may Allāh grant the people of France the ability to pursue justice and bring about unity among the Muslim community.

Wassalām,

Abdul Majid Tahir
Additional Wakīlut Tabshīr
ISLĀMABAD (UK)
Dated: 12 July 2023