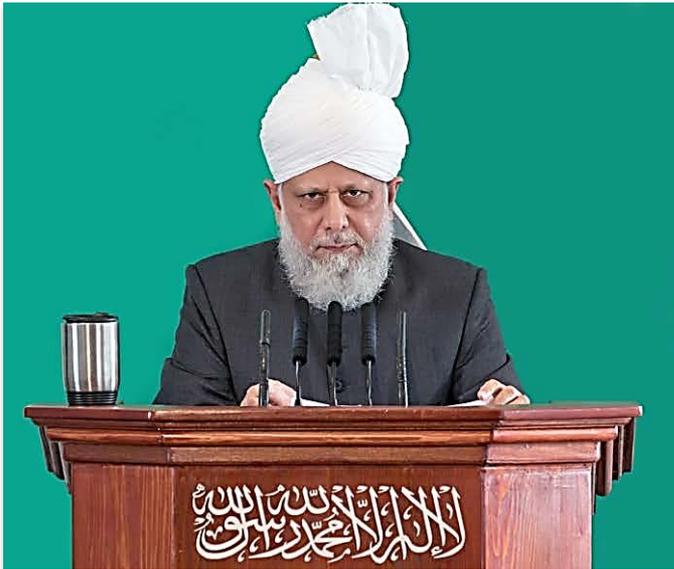
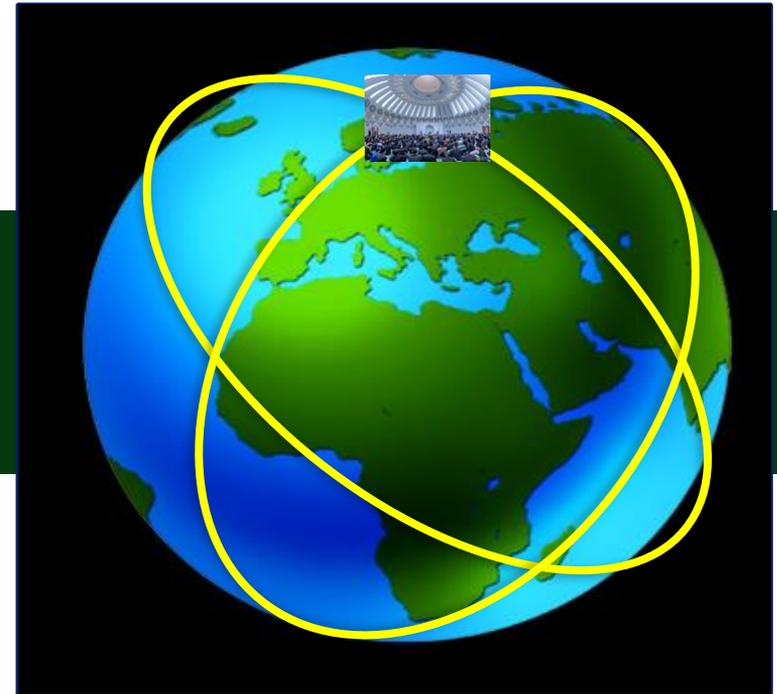


# Men of Excellence



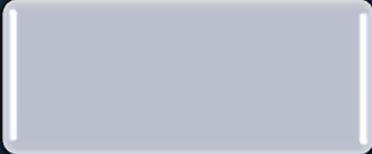
Sermon Delivered by Hadhrat  
Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba);  
Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim  
Community



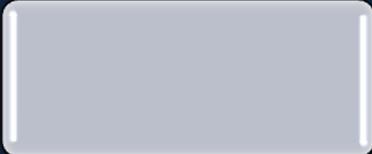
relayed live all across the globe

September 11th 2020

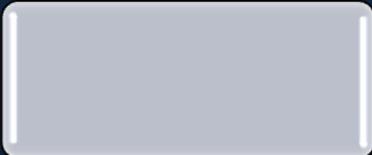
# Summary slide Men of Excellence



Hazrat Bilal (ra)



The first from Abyssinia to accept Islam



Call for prayer

September 11th 2020

## Hazrat Bilal (ra)

Hazrat Bilal (ra) was the son of Bilal who was from Arabia and Hamamah who was from Habshah [Abyssinia]. He was the slave of Umayyah bin Khalaf. According to some narrations, Hazrat Bilal (ra) was born in Makkah and was known as *muwallideen* (those who were not of pure Arab descent).

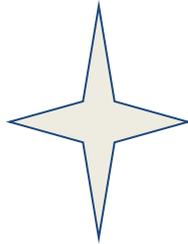
One of his wives was the sister of Hazrat Abdur Rahman bin Auf (ra). He had one brother named Khalid and a sister named Ghufairah.

The Holy Prophet (sa) said that Hazrat Bilal (ra) was the first from Abyssinia to accept Islam.

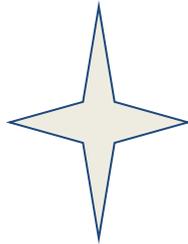
According to narrations, Hazrat Bilal (ra) was thought by some to be weak, thus the opponents of Islam would target him in their efforts to make Muslims revert from their religion. However, Hazrat Bilal (ra) remained steadfast

While being tortured... Hazrat Bilal (ra) would proclaim Ahad! Ahad! Once, while such torture was taking place, Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) came and bought Hazrat Bilal at the price of 280 Dirhams, and thereupon, he freed him from slavery.

According to a narration by Hazrat Aishah (ra), Hazrat Bilal (ra) was one of seven slaves who would be tortured but were then freed by Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra).



His Holiness (aba) related a narration, that the Holy Prophet (sa) ordered Hazrat Bilal (ra) to give the Adhan (call to prayer). Whilst calling it, Hazrat Bilal (ra) would say As-hadu (I bear witness...) instead of Ash-hadu as he was not able to pronounce the 'sh' sound.

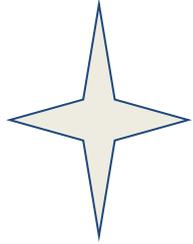


Hearing this, some of the Arabs would laugh. One day, the Holy Prophet (sa) called them and said that you laugh at him when he calls the Adhan, but when his voice reaches the heavens it pleases Allah.

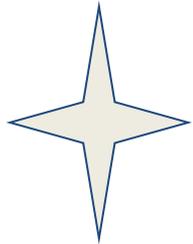


He said God knows that when he was being tortured, he would remain steadfast and proclaim Ahad! So what is the matter if he is unable to pronounce a simple letter.

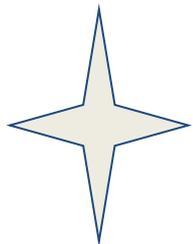
When the Holy Prophet (sa) asked his companions for suggestions as to how people could be called for prayer, the companions suggested various things such as ringing a bell or sounding a bugle.



Hazrat Umar (ra) suggested that the human voice be used, and the Holy Prophet (sa) liked this idea. Thus, he instructed Hazrat Bilal (ra) to call for people to gather for the prayer. Thus, in his own words, Hazrat Bilal (ra) would call people to gather for the prayer.



One night, Hazrat Abdullah bin Zaid (ra) saw the words of the Adhan in a dream. When he relayed this dream to the Holy Prophet (sa), he instructed him to teach these words to Hazrat Bilal (ra) so that he may call the Adhan. Upon hearing these words, Hazrat Umar (ra) bin Khattab said that he had also seen these words in a dream. Thus, Hazrat Bilal (ra) became the first mu'adhin (caller to prayer).



*His Holiness (aba) said that he would offer the funeral prayers in absentia of the following deceased members of the Community:*

Rauf Bin Maqsood Jr. who passed away on 4th September.

Zafar Iqbal Qureshi who passed away on 3rd September.

Hon. Kabine Kabaja Kate of Senegal who passed away on  
24th August.

Mubashar Latif who passed away on 5th May.