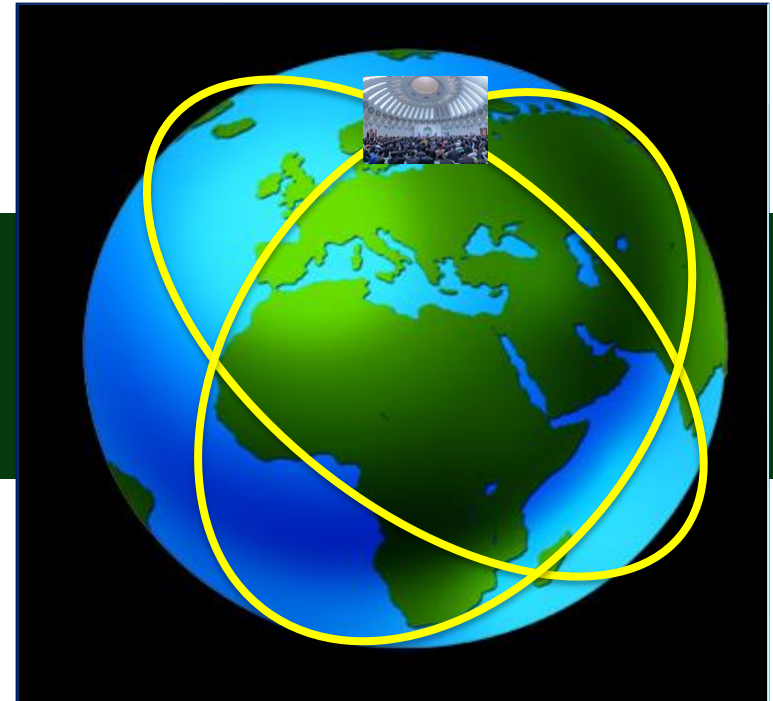


Life of the Holy Prophet (sa): Circumstances Leading to the Battle of Badr



**Sermon Delivered by Hadhrat
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Head of the Ahmadiyya
Muslim Community**



**Relayed live all across the
globe**

2nd June 2023

Summary

Life of the Holy Prophet (sa): Circumstances Leading to the Battle of Badr

His Holiness (aba) said that today he would begin a series of sermons about the Holy Prophet (sa) in relation to the Battle of Badr.

Before mentioning the battle itself, it is important to understand the circumstances which led to the battle in the first place.

During the Makkan life of the Holy Prophet (sa), the cruelties which were inflicted upon the Muslims by the Quraish were enough reason for war to break out between any two nations.

Even after migration and pursuit, a bounty was put on the Holy Prophet (sa) and various schemes were employed by the Quraish to threaten Muslims in Madinah. At this vulnerable time, Divine revelation was sent that now he should also take up the sword in opposition to these disbelievers.

His Holiness (aba) quoted Hazrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad (ra) explaining the four strategies deployed by the Holy Prophet (sa) during the hostilities against the Muslims in Madinah.

His Holiness (aba) led the funeral prayers of four deceased members.

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Context

Life of the Holy Prophet (sa)

Threats

His Holiness (aba) said that over the years, he has highlighted various aspects of the Holy Prophet (sa) in his sermons.

Jihad

However, his life was such that it cannot be limited to certain aspects.

Four Strategies

His qualities were so vast that they cannot even be encompassed over the course of a number of sermons.

Prayers

In fact every sermon or address comprises some mention of an aspect of the Holy Prophet's (sa) life, because our lives revolve around him.

We cannot act according to the Shariah without his example.

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Circumstances Leading Up to the Battle of Badr

Hazrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad (ra) write:

The Makkan life of the Holy Prophet (sa), the cruelties which were inflicted upon the Muslims by the Quraish and the schemes they employed in order to expunge Islām, were enough reason for war to break out between any two nations.

Makkah forcefully stopped the Muslims from worshipping the One God and announcing His Unity.

They were very brutally beaten and battered mercilessly, their wealth was usurped unlawfully, they were boycotted in an attempt to kill and ruin them, while some were martyred ruthlessly and their women were dishonoured.

Many Muslims left Makkah and migrated to Abyssinia.

Context

Circumstances Leading Up to the Battle of Badr

Threats

Quraish sent a delegation to the Royal Court of the Negus in an attempt that these Muhājirīn would return to Makkah and the Quraish would become successful in reverting them from their faith, or eliminating them.

Jihad

Great pains were inflicted upon the Master and Leader of the Muslims, who was dearer to them than their own souls.

Four Strategies

Upon professing the name of God, the friends and comrades of the Quraish bombarded the Holy Prophet (sa) with stones in Ṭā'if, to the extent that his body became drenched in blood.

Prayers

Ultimately, with the agreement of the representatives of all the tribes of Quraish, it was decided in the National Parliament of Makkah that Muḥammad (sa), be assassinated.

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Circumstances Leading Up to the Battle of Badr

In order to practically implement this bloody resolution, the youth of Makkah assembled a group and attacked the home of the Holy Prophet (sa) by night.

However, God protected the Holy Prophet (sa), and he departed from his home – leaving them in the dust – and he took refuge in the cave of Thaur.

Were these cruelties and bloody resolutions not then equivalent to an announcement of war by the Quraish?

In the backdrop of these incidents, can any sensible individual assert that the Quraish of Makkah were not at war with Islām and the Muslims?

Could these cruelties of the Quraish not become sufficient grounds to warrant a defensive war by the Muslims?

Circumstances Leading Up to the Battle of Badr

Context

If there had been another nation in place of the Muslims, they would have entered the field of battle against the Quraish much earlier.

Threats

The Muslims, however, were ordered to exhibit patience and forgiveness by their Master.

Jihad

When the persecution of the Quraish intensified, ‘Abdur-Raḥmān bin ‘Auf (ra), and other Companions sought permission to fight from the Holy Prophet (sa) but he responded:

Four Strategies

“For now, I have been ordered to pardon. Thus, I cannot give you permission to fight.”

Prayers

The Companions bore every pain and insult in the way of religion but did not let go of the handle of patience.

Context

Circumstances Leading Up to the Battle of Badr

When the God of this universe found the divine message to have been conveyed incontrovertibly, it was only then that God ordered His servant to leave the city.

Threats

This migration of the Holy Prophet (sa) was a sign of the acceptance of the ultimatum of the Quraish.

Jihad

It was a subtle indication by God of the announcement of war; both the Muslims and disbelievers understood this.

Four Strategies

During the consultation at Dārun-Nadwah, when an individual proposed that the Holy Prophet (sa) should be exiled from Makkah, the chieftains rejected this proposal on the basis that if Muḥammad (sa) was to leave Makkah, the Muslims would definitely accept their ultimatum and enter the field of battle in opposition to them.

Prayers

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Context

Circumstances Leading Up to the Battle of Badr

Upon the occasion of the second Bai‘at at ‘Aqabah, when the question of the migration of the Holy Prophet sa arose before the Anṣār of Madīnah, they immediately said,

Threats

“This entails that we should become prepared for war against the whole of Arabia.”

Jihad

When the Holy Prophet (sa) left Makkah, he cast a sorrow-stricken glance upon the boundaries of Makkah and said,

Four Strategies

“O Makkah! You were more beloved to me than all other cities, but your people have not allowed me to live here.”

Prayers

Upon this, Ḥaḍrat Abū Bakr (ra) said, **“They have exiled the Messenger of God. Now they shall indeed be God. Now they shall indeed be destroyed.”**

Context

Circumstances Leading Up to the Battle of Badr

Until the Holy Prophet (sa) resided in Makkah, he endured all kinds of torment, but did not take up the sword against the Quraish.

Threats

The reason being that firstly, before any measures could be taken against the Quraish, according to the custom of Allāh, the divine message needed to be conveyed incontrovertibly.

Jihad

Secondly, it was the desire of God that the Muslims exhibit a model of forgiveness and patience to that final limit whereafter remaining silent was equivalent to suicide, which cannot be deemed a commendable deed by any sensible individual.

Four Strategies

Thirdly, the Quraish headed a kind of democratic government in Makkah and the Holy Prophet (sa) was one of its citizens.

Prayers

Good citizenship demanded that until the Holy Prophet (sa) remained in Makkah, he respect the authorities, not allow anything to disturb the peace, and when the issue exceeded the limit of forgiveness, he migrated.

Context

Circumstances Leading Up to the Battle of Badr

Fourthly, it was also necessary that until the people had become deserving of punishment due to their actions in the estimation of God, and until the time to destroy them had not arrived, the Holy Prophet (sa) live among them.

Threats

The reason being that, according to the custom of Allāh, until a Prophet of God remains within his people, they are not struck by a punishment as would destroy them.

Jihad

When a destructive punishment is impending, the Prophet is ordered to leave such a place.

Four Strategies

Due to these reasons, the migration of the Holy Prophet (sa) possessed distinct indications within it, but it is unfortunate that these wrong-doing people did not recognize them, and continued to grow in their tyranny and oppression.

Prayers

For if the Quraish had refrained from employing a course of compulsion in religion, and had permitted the Muslims to live a life of peace, then God is the Most Merciful of those who are Merciful, and His Messenger was also Raḥmatullil-‘Ālamīn.

Circumstances Leading Up to the Battle of Badr

Indeed, even then they would have been forgiven.

However, migration of the Holy Prophet (sa) served as fuel upon the fire of the Quraish's enmity and they stood up with an even greater zeal and uproar than before, to obliterate Islam.

In addition to persecuting the weak Muslims, who remained in Makkah, the first undertaking of the Quraish, as soon as they found out that the Holy Prophet (sa) had left was to pursue him.

They scanned every inch of the Valley of Bakkah and even reached the mouth of the cave of Thaur.

Allāh the Exalted aided the Holy Prophet (sa) and placed such a veil upon their eyes that they returned frustrated and unsuccessful.

When they became disappointed in this search, they made a public announcement that any individual who brought Muḥammad sa back – dead or alive – would receive a bounty of a hundred camels, which in today's currency would be tens of millions of pounds.

Threats of the Quraish Against the Muslims

Context

Many young men from Quraish set out in all directions to search for the Holy Prophet (sa), in greed of the bounty.

Threats

The pursuit of Surāqah bin Mālik, was also a result of this announcement of reward.

Jihad

The Quraish were made to confront failure in this scheme as well.

Four Strategies

If one contemplates, for war to break out between two nations, even this sole reason is enough, that a bounty of this nature is set for the Leader of the other.

Prayers

When Quraish found out that the Holy Prophet (sa) had reached Madīnah safe and sound, the chieftains of Quraish sent a terribly threatening letter to the head chieftain of Madīnah, 'Abdullāh bin Ubayy bin Sulūl.

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Threats of the Quraish Against the Muslims

Context

Threats

“You have given protection to an individual of ours (i.e., Muḥammad (sa)), and we swear in the name of Allāh that you shall either leave him and declare war against him, or in the least, exile him from your city.

Jihad

If not, we shall most definitely gather our entire army and attack you; and we shall kill your men and take your women into our own possession, making them lawful unto ourselves.”

Four Strategies

The anxiety of Muhājirīn due to this letter is evident, but a tremor of fear also surged through the Anṣār as well.

Prayers

When the Holy Prophet (sa) received news of this, he went to ‘Abdullāh bin Ubayy and reasoned with him and calmed him down saying,“

“Your very own kith and kin are with me, will you fight against your own loved ones?”

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Threats of the Quraish Against the Muslims

Context

It was in these days that Sa'd bin Mu'adh (ra), chieftain of the Aus, came to Makkah for the purpose of 'Umrah.

Threats

Upon seeing him, the eyes of Abū Jahl gorged with blood in rage and he furiously said, "You have (God-forbid) given protection to that renegade (Muḥammad (sa)). Do you believe that you will be able to protect him...?"

Jihad

The Quraish were so preoccupied in uprooting Islām that when Walīd bin Mughīrah, a chief of Makkah was about to die, he began to weep helplessly.

Four Strategies

The people the reason for his sorrow inquired to which he responded, "I fear, lest the religion of Muḥammad (sa) might spread after my death."

Prayers

The leaders of the Quraish responded by saying, "Do not worry, we guarantee that we shall not allow his religion to spread."

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Threats of the Quraish Against the Muslims

Context

When Quraish noticed that Aus and Khazraj refused to give up their protection of the Holy Prophet (sa), and Islām may take root in Madīnah, they toured the other tribes of Arabia and incited them against the Muslims.

Threats

As Quraish had a distinct influence upon the other tribes of Arabia due to their guardianship of the Ka'bah,, upon the instigation of Quraish, many tribes become deadly enemies of the Muslims.

Jihad

The state of Madīnah was as if surrounded by a raging fire.

Four Strategies

Prayers

Ubayy bin Ka'b (ra) narrates, 'When the Holy Prophet (sa) and his Companions migrated to Madīnah, and the Anṣār gave protection to them, in turn all of Arabia collectively stood up against the Muslims.

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Threats of the Quraish Against the Muslims

Context

Threats

In that era, the Muslims would not even put off their arms at night and during the day they would walk around armed in case of a sudden attack. They would say to each other that let us see if we live till such a time when we might be able to sleep in peace at night without any fear except the fear of God.'

Jihad

The state of the Chief of Mankind himself was that:

Four Strategies

“In the beginning, when the Holy Prophet (sa) arrived to Madīnah, he would often remain awake during the night in apprehension of an enemy attack.”

Prayers

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Threats of the Quraish Against the Muslims

Context

With regards to the very same era, the Holy Qur'ān states:

Threats

“O ye Muslims! And remember the time when you were few and were considered to be weak in the land, and were in constant fear lest people should snatch you away and destroy you. But God sheltered you and granted you support with His Succour and opened the doors of pure provisions upon you. Therefore, you should now live as thankful servants.”

Jihad

Four Strategies

This was the state of external threats and, even in Madīnah, a substantial segment from among the Aus and Khazraj stood firm upon polytheism.

Prayers

Although they were apparently with their brethren and kindred, but in such circumstances, how could a polytheist be trusted?

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Threats of the Quraish Against the Muslims

Context

Threats

Jihad

Four Strategies

Prayers

Secondly, the hypocrites, who had accepted Islām but in secret they were enemies of Islām, posed threatening possibilities.

Thirdly, the Jews, with whom although there was a treaty, but to them the value of this treaty was nothing.

Hence, elements present even in Madīnah, were no less than a store of hidden ammunition against the Muslims.

A tiny spark by the Arabian tribes was enough to set this on fire, and destroy the Muslims of Madīnah with a single blast.

At this vulnerable time, divine revelation was sent to the Holy Prophet (sa) that now he should also take up the sword in opposition to these disbelievers who had entered the field of battle against him.

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The First Time Jihad of the Sword Was Permitted

Context

According to the research of Hazrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad (ra), the first verse regarding Jihad with the sword revealed to the Holy Prophet (sa) was in 12 Safar 2 AH.

Threats

It is also recorded in some narrations that this verse was revealed at the time of migration, as the Holy Prophet (sa) had started sending envoys for the protection of Madinah against real threats.

Jihad

The Qur'anic verse revealed in this regard was:

Four Strategies

“Permission to fight is granted to the Muslims against whom the disbelievers have taken up the sword because they (i.e., the Muslims) have been wronged – And Allāh indeed has power to help them – Those who have been driven out of their homes unjustly, only because they said, ‘Our Lord is Allāh’ – And if Allāh the Exalted did not repel some men by means of others (by granting permission for defensive war), there would surely have been pulled down cloisters belonging to monks and Christian churches and Jewish synagogues and mosques, wherein the name of God is oft-commemorated. And Allāh the Exalted will surely help one who helps Him. Undoubtedly, Allāh the Exalted is Powerful, Mighty.”

Prayers

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Context

The First Time Jihad of the Sword Was Permitted

Threats

This was the very first time that the Holy Prophet (sa) had been given permission by God to take up the sword in defence against the vile injustices and cruelties that were being inflicted upon him.

Jihad

Four Strategies

Not only was this for the protection of Muslims, but by naming the places of worship of other religions, this verse also protects the rights and freedoms of other religions as well.

Prayers

In this manner, Jihād by the sword was announced.

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Four Strategies Deployed During the Hostilities Against the Muslims

Context

Hazrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad (ra) writes the initial four strategies used by the Holy Prophet (sa):

Threats



Jihad

FIRSTLY: The Holy Prophet (sa) began travelling to nearby tribes and establishing peace treaties with them, so that the surrounding region of Madīnah would become free of threat. In this respect, the Holy Prophet (sa) gave special consideration to those tribes who were situated close to the Syrian trade route of the Quraish. As it was these tribes in particular, from whom the Quraish could have derived most benefit against the Muslims and whose enmity could have resulted in severe threats for the Muslims.

Four Strategies

Prayers

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Four Strategies Deployed During the Hostilities Against the Muslims

Context

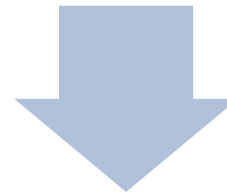
Threats

Jihad

Four Strategies

Prayers

SECONDLY: The Holy Prophet (sa) began to dispatch small companies in order to obtain intelligence in different directions from Madīnah, so that he was able to remain informed of the movements of the Quraish and their allies; and the Quraish also understood that the Muslims were not oblivious, so that Madīnah could be safeguarded from the dangers of sudden attacks.



THIRDLY: Another wisdom in dispatching these parties was so that the weak Muslims of Makkah and its surrounding areas could find an opportunity to join the Muslims of Madīnah. There were many people in the region who were Muslims at heart, but were unable to publicly profess their belief in Islām due to the cruelties of the Quraish. Furthermore, due to their poverty and weakness, they were unable to migrate.

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Four Strategies Deployed During the Hostilities Against the Muslims

Context

Threats

FOURTHLY: The fourth strategy employed by the Holy Prophet (sa) was that he began to intercept the trade caravans of the Quraish which travelled from Makkah to Syria passing by Madīnah.

Jihad

Firstly, these caravans would spark a fire of enmity against the Muslims wherever they travelled.

Four Strategies

Secondly, these caravans would always be armed and for such caravans to pass by so close to Madīnah was not empty of danger.

Prayers

Thirdly, the livelihood of the Quraish primarily depended on trade.


Therefore, the most definitive and effective means by which the Quraish could be subdued and could be pressed for reconciliation, was by obstructing their trade route.

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Four Strategies Deployed During the Hostilities Against the Muslims

Context

History testifies to the fact that among the factors which ultimately compelled the Quraish towards reconciliation, the interception of these trade caravans played an extremely pivotal role.




Threats

Hence, this was an extremely sagacious strategy, which yielded fruits of success at the appropriate time.




Jihad

Fourthly, the revenue from these caravans of the Quraish was mostly spent in efforts to eliminate Islām.



Four Strategies

Some caravans were even sent for the sole purpose that their entire profit may be utilized against the Muslims.



Prayers

Thus, the interception of these caravans, was in its own right, an absolutely legitimate motive.'

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Funeral Prayers

Context

Khawaja Muniruddin Qamar

Khawaja Muniruddin Qamar from the UK who passed away on 27 May 2023. He was the grandson of a Companion of the Promised Messiah (as).

Threats

Jihad

In fact, the Promised Messiah (as) also saw his father when he was very young. His father was the first central President of Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya.

Khawaja Muniruddin Qamar had the honour of calling the Adhan at the Fazl Mosque in the UK during the time of the Fourth Caliph. He also served as the President of the local chapter of Fazl Mosque and Putney.

Four Strategies

After retiring, he dedicated his life to the service of Islam and served in various offices. He attended work until one day before his demise.

He possessed many great and virtuous qualities. He is survived by his wife, two sons and two daughters. He was also the maternal uncle of the National President of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community UK.

Prayers

His Holiness (aba) prayed that may Allah the Almighty grant him forgiveness and mercy and elevate his station.

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Dr Mirza Mubashar Ahmad

Context

Dr Mirza Mubashar Ahmad who was the grandson of the Second Caliph (ra).

Threats

His Holiness (aba) prayed that may Allah the Almighty grant him forgiveness and mercy and grant him a place among His beloved.

Jihad

After his studies in Pakistan, he worked for some time in Rabwah, after which he travelled to London to study at the Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh.

He had dedicated his life to the service of Islam, and so he returned to Pakistan, where he served at the Fazle Umar Hospital for about 50 years.

He was also appointed as a member of the Waqf-e-Jadid Board by the Fourth Caliph (rh), a post in which he remained until his demise.

Four Strategies

Prayers

He always tended to and cared for his relatives.

He also had the opportunity of serving and treating the elders in his family, along with treating others who were less fortunate.

He also rendered financial aid for girls to obtain an education and even helped fund their weddings.

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Dr Mirza Mubashar Ahmad

He had a deep connection with the Caliphs. Not only was he related to the Caliphs during his lifetime, but he always exhibited great respect and honour for them.

His Holiness (aba) said that despite being senior in age, Dr Mirza Mubashar Ahmad always treated him with great respect.

During his final illness, the Fourth Caliph (rh) asked for Dr Mirza Mubashar Ahmad, who immediately travelled to be with him and remained with him until his demise.

He would often travel to help treat the Fourth Caliph (rh) during a period of illness.

It is said that even non-Ahmadi and opponents of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community would secretly visit him in order to seek treatment.

There was a small spoon which the Promised Messiah (as) would use to take medicine during his illness.

This same spoon came into the possession of Dr Mirza Mubashar Ahmad, which he would use at times for the sake of blessings while giving medicine to some of his patients.

His absence has greatly been felt by all, both Ahmadi and non-Ahmadi alike as well as the hospital staff among many others.

Dr Mirza Mubashar Ahmad

Context

Threats

Many people wrote to His Holiness (aba) of the great relationships which he maintained with everyone.

Jihad

His Holiness (aba) said that those who are complimented after their demise are bound for Heaven. His Holiness (aba) prayed for this to prove true in the case of Dr Mirza Mubashar Ahmad.

Four Strategies

Prayers

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Prayers

Context

Syeda Amatul Basit

Syeda Amatul Basit who was the wife of Syed Mahmood Ahmad Basit.

Threats

She was the daughter of Syed Abdul Razzaq Shah and was the niece of Hazrat Umm Tahir.

She was regular in offering prayers, including Tahajjud (pre-dawn voluntary prayer).

She was always at the forefront of helping the poor.

Jihad

She is survived by her husband, a son and two daughters. She was loved by everyone and had a deep love for the Caliphate.

She never expressed her own pain and instead focused on serving the poor and humanity, whether by physically serving them, praying for them or giving alms.

She was very prayerful and had a strong connection with God.

Four Strategies

Prayers

His Holiness (aba) prayed that may Allah grant her forgiveness and mercy, elevate her station and enable her children to carry on the legacy of her virtues.

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2023

Prayers

Context

Sharif Ahmad Bandesha

Sharif Ahmad Bandesha of Faisalabad, Pakistan.

Threats

His son,
Rahmatullah
Bandesha, is a
Missionary.

He served as the
local President of
the Community in
his village for a long
time.

He possessed many
great qualities.

Jihad

He had a high
standard of prayer,
served the poor,
and kept good
relations with his
family and all
others.

He is survived by five
sons and three
daughters.

Four Strategies

Prayers

His Holiness (aba) prayed that may Allah the Almighty grant him forgiveness and mercy, elevate his station and enable his children to carry on the legacy of his virtues.

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