

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

The Amīr/National President
Jamā‘at Ahmadiyya,

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Dear Brother,

السَّلَامُ عَلَیْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللّٰهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

The Companions showed such sincerity that they did not only turn away from idolatry and creature worship, but their desire for the world grew cold and they began to see God.

The excellent character of the Companions of the Holy Prophet ﷺ and our need to follow in their footsteps.

They were so devoted to path of God that it would seem each of them was an Abraham (عليه السلام), ready to sacrifice in the path of faith.

On 22nd Dec 2017, Hadrat *Khalīfa-tul-Masīh V* ایدہ اللہ تعالیٰ delivered the Friday Sermon at Baitul Futūh Mosque, London.

Huzoor ایدہ اللہ تعالیٰ said: In the last sermon I related some examples of the life and character of some Companions of the Holy Prophet ﷺ. Seeing the response I have received through letters, I have decided to mention some more of these examples that were left out due to shortage of time.

Once the Holy Prophet ﷺ ordered an eminent Companion Hadrat Abu Ubaidah Bin Al-Jarah رضی اللہ عنہ to go to Najran. He said: 'Every nation has a custodian, and o ye people! the custodian of ours is Abu Ubaidah Bin Al-Jarah رضی اللہ عنہ.' When the Holy Prophet ﷺ was hit during the battle of Uhud, two rings from his helmet became embedded in his jaw. Hadrat Ubaida رضی اللہ عنہ pulled out these rings with his teeth in the process of which he lost two of his teeth.

An example of his humility, cooperation and settling matters with wisdom is that once on an expedition the Holy Prophet ﷺ sent Hadrat 'Amr bin Al-'Aas رضی اللہ عنہ as the chief of the army. Hadrat Amr bin Al-'Aas رضی اللہ عنہ requested the Holy Prophet ﷺ for reinforcements. Subsequently, the Holy Prophet ﷺ sent a group under the leadership of Hadrat Abu 'Ubaida رضی اللہ عنہ, and the Holy Prophet ﷺ instructed Hadrat Abu 'Ubaida رضی اللہ عنہ that both leaders should mutually work together. However, there was a misunderstanding as Hadrat 'Amr bin Al-'Aas رضی اللہ عنہ thought he was the leader of both the units and started giving direct instructions to both. Instead of getting into any argument, Hadrat Abu 'Ubaida رضی اللہ عنہ said that he had been sent as an independent Amir but he had also been sent for mutual cooperation, therefore he would accept the decisions of Hadrat 'Amr bin Al-'Aas رضی اللہ عنہ. Today Muslims need to realize that sometimes it is important to forego one's own authority for the sake of mutual cooperation.

An example of winning the hearts of the subjects is that when the Byzantine king gathered armies from across the entire country and sent them to fight Muslims, after consulting the generals, Hadrat Abu 'Ubaida رضی اللہ عنہ strategically decided to withdraw from the city for the time being and to leave the areas

which Muslims had conquered. However, as they had already received taxes from the non-Muslim inhabitants after the victory, he returned these amounts to them saying: “As we are unable to protect you for the time being and are unable to safeguard your rights, we are returning the sum which we had received as taxes from you.” This justice and repayment of a trust had such a great influence on non-Muslims that the Christian residents were weeping at the departure of Muslims, and offered heartfelt prayers that may Allāh soon bring them back.

The Holy Prophet ﷺ said with regard to Hadrat Abbas رضي الله عنه that he was the most generous of men.

Then there is Hadrat Ja'far رضي الله عنه, the paternal cousin of the Holy Prophet ﷺ and the blood brother of Hadrat 'Ali رضي الله عنه. He was also fortunate to have accepted Islam in the early period and later migrated to Abyssinia. When the Meccans learnt of this migration, they demanded the return of these converts. At this, Najashi, called the Muslims to his court and asked them why did they leave their faith and why did they not accept christian faith? On that occasion, Hadrat Ja'far رضي الله عنه represented the Muslims and said, “O King! We were an ignorant people. We used to worship idols, eat dead animals, it was our common practice to commit vulgar acts and mistreat our relatives and the one who was more powerful among us would suppress the one who was weaker. In these circumstances, Allāh the Exalted raised a prophet among us who called us towards the Oneness of God and towards His worship. He taught us to be truthful, trustworthy, to treat our neighbours with kindness, and forbade us from fighting and shedding blood without reason. For this reason our people have turned against us. We heard great things about your fairness and justice, so we hope that we will not be treated unjustly in this country”. At this, Najashi said that he wanted to hear a portion of the revelation that was sent down to the Prophet (ﷺ). When verses of surah Maryam were recited to him, tears came to his eyes, and he said, ‘By God, it seems that these words and the words of Moses are from the same fountainhead.’ He said that Muslims would have complete freedom. Thus the wisdom of Hadrat Ja'far رضي الله عنه helped the Muslims to continue living in Abyssinia.

Hadrat Musab Bin Umair رضي الله عنه was another Companion who was very handsome and was brought up in luxury. After he accepted Islam, he faced hardship and destitution and his clothes were mended with pieces of leather. Once when he came to the Holy Prophet ﷺ in this state, the Holy Prophet ﷺ said: I have seen Musab at a time when there was no one more affluent than he in the city of Mecca, but his love for the Messenger of Allāh brought him to these circumstances. Hadrat Musab رضي الله عنه was an ardent preacher and conveyed the message of Islam to the people of Medina.

Hadrat Saad Bin Rabi رضي الله عنه was an Ansari. After migration to Medina, the Holy Prophet ﷺ made him a brother to Hadrat Abdur Rahman Bin Auf رضي الله عنه. Hadrat Saad Bin Rabi رضي الله عنه brought his newly appointed brother to his home and said that he would give him half his property, and that he could divorce any of his two wives so that he could marry her. Hadrat Abdur Rahman Bin Auf رضي الله عنه said: “I am a tradesman and will be able to take care of myself, so just show me the way to the market. I thank you for your sentiments.” In this way he began trading and there came a time when he was among the wealthiest of traders. Hadrat Saad Bin Rabi رضي الله عنه was martyred in the battle of Badr. When the Holy Prophet ﷺ saw him surrounded by the enemy, the Holy

Prophet ﷺ sent someone to him. He said: Give the Holy Prophet ﷺ my Salam. And to his people he gave the message: We protected this trust with our lives, you too must do the same.

A Companion used to say that if he remained constantly under one of the three states, he would enter paradise. One is the state of awe that he experienced from reciting the Holy Qur'ān. Second is the state he was in when he listened to the Holy Prophet ﷺ. And the third is the state when he attends a funeral and imagines that it is his funeral. Huzoor ایدہ اللہ تعالیٰ said: Such are the thoughts through which one can constantly strive to do good deeds.

Once the Holy Prophet ﷺ asked why two persons had not come for the prayer. He then said that Fajr and Isha prayers are indeed heavy upon hypocrites. If you knew the importance of these prayers, you would come to them even on your knees.

Once a Companion asked the Holy Prophet ﷺ what he should do with 100 dinars he had found. The Holy Prophet ﷺ told him to announce it for one year, and then for another year, and another year, and after that he could spend these as he wishes.

One Companion asked: When I pray, I want to offer lot of Durood. Can I make Durood fourth part of my prayers? The Holy Prophet ﷺ said: You can offer it as much as you like. He said: I wish to offer nothing but Durood. The Holy Prophet ﷺ said: If you do so, all your worries and sorrows will go away.

Once the Holy Prophet ﷺ sent a Companion to receive Zakāt. He calculated the Zakāt of one Companion to be equal to a one-year-old camel, but he insisted that he wanted to give a more valuable grown up camel. But this Companion refused that he had a trust to fulfil and he could not receive more than was due. If he wanted to give more he should speak to the Holy Prophet ﷺ. The Holy Prophet ﷺ was pleased at his sacrifice and said God would reward him for it.

The Promised Messiah علیہ السلام says: What was it that caused the Companions of the Holy Prophet ﷺ to show such steadfastness that they not only gave up idolatry and creature worship, but in fact all love for the world grew cold in them and they began to see God. They became so devoted in the path of God that it seemed like each of them was Abraham who was willing to make any sacrifice in the path of faith. In fact, the Companions who did not get martyred thought that there might be some shortcoming in their faith, as says the verse

فَمِنْهُمْ مَّنْ قَضَىٰ نَحْبَهُ وَمِنْهُمْ مَّنْ يَنْتَظِرُ

“There are some of them who have fulfilled their vow, and some who still wait.”
(33:24)

Did these people not have needs like other people, and did they not have children and other loved ones? But such was the attraction of faith for them that they gave it preference over everything else.

Huzoor ایدہ اللہ تعالیٰ prayed that Allāh may enable Ahmadīs to follow in the footsteps of these bright stars and may our every action be at winning Allāh's pleasure.

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor ایدہ اللہ تعالیٰ informed the Jamā'at of the sad demise of Areesha Sahiba, wife of Faheem Sahib of Holland, currently serving as life

devotee in Benin. Huzoor ايدہ اللہ تعالیٰ led her funeral prayer in absentia after the Friday prayer.

Please convey these guidelines given by Huzoor ايدہ اللہ تعالیٰ to members of your Jamā'at.

Jazākumullāh.

Wassalām,

(Mansoor Ahmad Khan)

Acting Wakīl A'lā

Tahrīk Jadīd Anjuman Ahmadiyya Pakistan

Dated: 28 Dec. 17