

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

The Amīr/National President
Jamā‘at Aḥmadiyya,

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Dear Brother,

السلام علیکم ورحمة اللہ وبرکاتہ

Extracts from the Friday Sermon delivered by *Ḥaḍrat Khalīfa-tul-Masīh V* (May Allāh be his Helper) on 14 December 2018 at Baitul Futūh Mosque, London.

Our Imam, *Ḥaḍrat Khalīfa-tul-Masīh V* (May Allāh be his Helper) continuing with the accounts of the Companions of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) who participated in the Battle of *Badr* said: today first of them about whom I will speak is;

***Ḥaḍrat Mistah bin Uthatha* (May Allah be pleased with him):**

His name was 'Auf, but he was known by *kuniyyat* of *Mistah*. His mother's name was *Ḥaḍrat Umme Mistah Salma bin Sakhr* (May Allāh be pleased with her). *Ḥaḍrat Mistah* (May Allāh be pleased with him) accompanied the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) in all the Battles, including the Battle of *Badr*. In the Battle of *Khyber*, the Holy Prophet (May Allah's Blessings be upon him) gave *Ḥaḍrat Mistah* (May Allāh be pleased with him) and *Ibn Ilyas* 50 "wasq" (our *wasq* is equal to 130 kg) of grain from the spoils of war, as was the custom in those days. He passed away at the age of 56 in 34 AH during the *Khilāfat* of *Ḥaḍrat Uthman* (May Allāh be pleased with him). According to some accounts he lived until the *Khilāfat* of *Ḥaḍrat Ali* (May Allāh be pleased with him), and participated in the Battle of *Siffīn* alongside *Ḥaḍrat Ali* (May Allāh be pleased with him), and passed away in the same year e.i 37 AH.

Ḥaḍrat Mistah (May Allāh be pleased with him) is the person whose sustenance was provided by *Ḥaḍrat Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him). But when *Ḥaḍrat Mistah* (May Allāh be pleased with him) sided with the people who casted aspersions against *Ḥaḍrat Ayesha* (May Allāh be pleased with her), *Ḥaḍrat Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) vowed not to support him again. Upon this, Qur'ānic verse was revealed:

وَلَا يَأْتَلِ أُولُو الْفَضْلِ مِنْكُمْ وَالسَّعَةِ أَنْ يُؤْتُوا أُولَى الْقُرْبَىٰ وَالْمَسْكِينِ وَالْمُهَاجِرِينَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَلْيَعْفُوا وَ

لْيَصْفَحُوا أَلَا تُحِبُّونَ أَنْ يَغْفِرَ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ -

“And let not those who possess wealth and plenty among you swear not to give aught to the kindred and to the needy and to those who have left their homes in the cause of Allāh. Let them forgive and

forbear. Do you not desire that Allāh should forgive you? And Allāh is Most Forgiving, Merciful.”(24:23)

After this, Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) again started providing for Ḥaḍrat *Mistah* (May Allāh be pleased with him).

The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) says: “As is evident from the Holy Qur’ān and Ḥadīth, some simple-minded companions had sided with the hypocrites who had levelled aspersions against Ḥaḍrat *Ayesha* (May Allāh be pleased with her). Their intent was not to create mischief, but they did so out of the simplicity of their nature. One of these Companions used to eat at the table of Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him), but after this event Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) swore that, on account of these aspersions, he would no longer feed him. But when the following Qur’ānic verse was revealed Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) broke his pledge and continued to provide him food:

وَلْيَعْفُوا وَلْيَصْفَحُوا أَلَا تُحِبُّونَ أَنْ يَغْفِرَ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ عَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ -

“Let them forgive and forbear. Do you not desire that Allāh should forgive you? And Allāh is Most Forgiving, Merciful.” (24:23)

It is thus a part of Islāmic moral values not to punish someone after having sworn to do so. This means, for example, that if someone swears that he will cane his servant fifty times, but then forgives him upon his penitence, this would be in keeping with the teachings of Islām, for it will be in conformity with the Divine injunction. There will be punishment only for the breach of a promise, but there will be no punishment for breaking one’s pledge to punish someone, by way of forgiveness.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: According to the account given in *Sahih Bukhari*, Ḥaḍrat *Ayesha* (May Allāh be pleased with her) relates: “It was a custom of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) that he used to draw lots amongst his wives to decide which one would accompany him in his travel. On one occasion before going on a Battle he drew lots in the same manner and the lot fell on me. This was the time when the injunctions regarding *Purdah* had already been revealed. Hence, during this journey, I would sit in a litter and it would be placed on the back of a camel, and wherever there was a halt in the journey the litter would be placed on the ground. We travelled in this way until the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) returned from the Battle. We were camped near Medina when one night the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) gave orders for departure. At one point I went off to attend to the call of nature. When I returned and was about to embark on my camel, I realised that my black sapphire necklace was missing. I went back in search of it and was delayed a short while. In the meantime, those who had been appointed to lift my litter and place it on the back of the camel arrived and, assuming that I

was in the litter, lifted it and placed it upon the back of the camel and moved on. When I returned after finding my necklace, the whole army caravan had left and the plain was empty. I then returned to the place where I had been camping, thinking that when they missed me they would come find me there. I sat there and was soon overcome by sleep. Now, it so happened that *Ṣafwān bin Mu'attal* was a Companion whose duty was to stay at the rear of the army to make sure nothing was left behind. When he reached my resting place and saw me and recognized me, because he had already seen me prior to the revelation of injunctions regarding the Purdah, he uttered *انا لله وانا اليه راجعون* Hearing this, I woke up. He then brought forward his camel and made it kneel down close to me. I placed my feet on his hands and sat on the camel. He then began to walk, leading the camel by its halter. We reached the place where the Muslim army had set up camp at about midday when people were resting in their camps. And thus those who were to be perish did perish.” Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: This means that some people starting levelling false allegations against Ḥaḍrat *Aysha* (May Allah be pleased with her).

Ḥaḍrat *Aysha* (May Allāh be pleased with her) further says: “The key culprit responsible for spreading this slander was *'Abdullah bin Ubai bin Salūl*. After we reached Medina, it so happened that I remained confined due to illness for about a month. During this time the people propagated the slander and talked about it. I was totally unaware of these rumours, but one thing that did cause me some unease was that during my illness I did not receive from the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) the same kind of affection and kindness that I was accustomed to. When the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) would visit me, he would only say, “*Assalam o Alaikum*”, and then enquire about my health from those who were around. I was completely unaware of those allegations. But when I heard of what was going on, I became even more ill. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) came to visit me as usual and said, “*Assalam o Alaikum*” and asked about my health. I asked if I could go to my parents' home and the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) permitted me to do so. When I went home and asked my mother what the people were saying about me, she told me not to worry about it.” I spent the night weeping over the great slander that had been spread against me. During that one day and two nights I wept so much that I thought my heart would burst. The next morning the Messenger of Allāh came to my home and sat down. He recited the *Kalimah*, praised God and addressed me saying, “O *Aysha*! I have been told something about you. If you are innocent, I trust that God shall affirm your innocence. If, however, you have committed an error, you should seek forgiveness from God and bow before Him, because when a person bows before God confessing his sins, Allāh accepts his repentance and shows him mercy.”

However, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) was still sitting there when he started receiving Divine revelation. When the revelation was over, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be

upon him) started smiling and said, ‘Ayesha! Show gratitude to God, for He has affirmed your innocence.’

Allāh had revealed:

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ جَاءُوا بِالْإِفْكِ عُصْبَةٌ مِّنْكُمْ لَا تَحْسَبُوهُ شَرًّا لَّكُم بَلْ هُوَ خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ لِكُلِّ امْرِئٍ مِّنْهُمْ مَّا اكْتَسَبَ مِنَ

الْأَثْمِ وَالَّذِي تَوَلَّى كِبْرَهُ مِنْهُمْ لَهُ عَذَابٌ عَظِيمٌ -

“Verily, those who brought forth the lie are a party from among you. Think it not to be an evil for you; nay, it is good for you. Every one of them shall have his share of what he has earned of the sin; and he among them who took the chief part therein shall have a grievous punishment.” (24:12)

Ḥaḍrat Ayesha (May Allāh be pleased with her) says, “I did not consider myself worthy that a Qur’ānic revelation would be sent down regarding me.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: According to some accounts, those who had levelled aspersions against Ḥaḍrat Ayesha (May Allāh be pleased with her) were flogged, other accounts say that they were not; but whether or not this happened, they were Companions of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) and Allāh had forgiven them, and they received whatever worldly punishment they might have incurred. Thereafter Ḥaḍrat Mistah (May Allāh be pleased with him) also participated in other Battles. He is among the eminent Companions and Allāh granted him a good end and preserved his status. May Allāh continue to increase his spiritual station. *Amīn*.

Please convey these guidelines given by Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) to members of your Jamā‘at.

Jazākumullāh.

Wassalām,

(Ch. Hameedullah)

Wakīl A‘lā,

Tahrīk Jadīd Anjuman Aḥmadiyya Pakistan.

Dated: 20 December 2018