

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

The Amīr/National President
Jamā‘at Ahmadiyya,

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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 19th April 2019 at Baitul Futūh Mosque, London.

Our Imām, *Ḥaḍrat Khalīfa-tul-Masīh V* (May Allāh be his Helper) continued with the account of the Companions of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) who participated in the Battle of *Badr* and said: the companion about whom I will speak today is;

***Ḥaḍrat Uthman bin Maz’ūn* (May Allāh be pleased with him):**

He was known as *Abu Sāib*. His mother’s name was *Sukhailah bint ‘Anbas*. *Ḥaḍrat Uthman* (May Allāh be pleased with him) and his brother *Ḥaḍrat Qudamah* looked identical. He belonged to *Banu Jumah* clan of *Quraish* of Mecca. *Ḥuzoor* (May Allāh be his Helper) related the events surrounding *Ḥaḍrat Uthman bin Maz’ūn’s* (May Allāh be pleased with him) conversion to Islām and said that he was among the very first people to have become a Muslim. According to *Ibn-e-Ishāq*, he was the fourteenth person to have accepted Islām. He is said to have migrated to Abyssinia and later returned to Mecca. *Ḥaḍrat Uthman* (May Allāh be pleased with him) and his son *Sāib* migrated to Abyssinia along with a group of Muslims, but while in Abyssinia they received the news that the *Quraish* had converted to Islām, whereupon they returned to Mecca. According to *Ibn-e-Ishāq*, when these migrants heard that the Meccans had prostrated along with the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him), they immediately started their journey back to Mecca. They didn’t know the reason for the prostration and thought that the disbelievers had accepted the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him). They only learnt of the truth when they had reached close to Mecca and it was difficult to turn back. But some of them did return to Abyssinia. The rest remained there until one by one they were all given protection by someone from Mecca before they entered the city.

Ḥaḍrat Uthman bin Maz’ūn (May Allāh be pleased with him) was given protection by *Waleed bin Mughīrah*. According to *Ibn-e-Ishāq*, when *Ḥaḍrat Uthman bin Maz’ūn* (May Allāh be pleased with him) saw that the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) and his Companions were being persecuted and beaten and tormented, while he himself was living peacefully under the protection of *Waleed bin Mughīrah*, he swore that he could not spend his days and nights peacefully under the protection of an idolater while his friends and family were being tormented. He thought that there must be some shortcoming in him. He therefore went to *Waleed bin Mughīrah* and said to him that while *Waleed* had fulfilled his pledge of giving him protection, he now wished to be free of his protection and to go to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him), because to him the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) and his Companions were the example to follow. Thereafter, *Ḥaḍrat Uthman bin Maz’ūn* (May Allāh be pleased with him) went to *Ka’abah* and publicly announced that he was no longer under *Waleed’s* protection.

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) cited *Mirza Bashīr Ahmad Sahib’s* (May Allāh be pleased with him) narrative regarding the migration to Abyssinia. He says that one day *Labeed*, a famous Arab poet, was reading his verses before Arab noblemen and when he came to the verse:

كُلُّ نِعْمَةٍ لَا مَحَالَةَ زَائِلٌ

“Every bounty is bound to end.”

Ḥaḍrat *Uthman bin Maz'ūn* (May Allāh be pleased with him) said that this was wrong, because the bounties of paradise would last forever. *Labeed* was a man of high status and he became infuriated at this interruption. He said, “O people of *Quraish*, your guests were never so humiliated before, when did you start this new custom!” Someone replied that this man is a fool and that he should not be given any attention. But Ḥaḍrat *Uthman bin Maz'ūn* (May Allāh be pleased with him) insisted on what he had said, whereupon someone stood up and hit him hard on his face and injured his eye. *Waleed*, who had previously given protection to Ḥaḍrat *Uthman bin Maz'ūn* (May Allāh be pleased with him), was also present. Seeing this he said, “My protection could have saved you from this injury to your eye. You were under a powerful protection which you forsook of your own accord, and so this came to happen.” Ḥaḍrat *Uthman* (May Allāh be pleased with him) replied, “I was desirous of what has happened to me. You are wailing over my injured eye, whereas my other eye is also desirous of the same fate.” Ḥaḍrat *Uthman bin Maz'ūn* (May Allāh be pleased with him) said: The example of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) is sufficient for me. If he is suffering persecution, I should too.

Other accounts tell this story as follows: People said, “*Uthman*, you were under a strong protection, and your eye was secure from what it has suffered,” whereupon *Uthman* replied, “God's protection is more secure and more honourable; and my other eye is desirous of the same fate as this one. For me it is incumbent that I follow the example of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) and his followers.” *Waleed* asked, “What was wrong with my protection?” Ḥaḍrat *Uthman* (May Allāh be pleased with him) said, “I seek no protection but God's.”

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: This was the faith of these people; they felt the pain of their brothers and if their brothers were suffering they did not want to be left behind. Their relationship with the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) was of love, so that if he was suffering, then they should not be safe from it. These examples set by the Companions irritated the disbelievers.

Ḥaḍrat *Muṣleh Mau'ūd* (May Allāh be pleased with him) says: The reason Ḥaḍrat *Uthman bin Maz'ūn* (May Allāh be pleased with him) gave this reply was because he had read the Holy Qur'ān and was cognizant of the teachings of Islām. In his eyes, poetic verses were meaningless. In fact, *Labeed* himself converted to Islām later. Once Ḥaḍrat 'Umar asked a governor to send him some newly composed verses by famous poets. *Labeed* had accepted Islām by this time and when he was approached for this purpose, he wrote down some verses of the Holy Qur'ān and sent them back.

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The following incident illustrates the deep love the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) had for Ḥaḍrat *Uthman bin Maz'ūn* (May Allāh be pleased with him).

It is related that when Ḥaḍrat *Uthman* (May Allāh be pleased with him) passed away, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) kissed him and tears flowed from his eyes. When the Holy Prophet's (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) son, *Ibrahim* passed away, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) stood next to his body and said:

الْحَقُّ بِسَالِفِنَا الصَّالِحِ عُثْمَانَ بْنِ مَطْعُونٍ

“May you be in the company of our righteous and dear friend, *Uthman bin Maz'ūn*.”

Ḥaḍrat *Uthman bin Maz'ūn* (May Allāh be pleased with him) migrated to Medina and participated in the battle of *Badr*.

Moreover out of all the people, Ḥaḍrat *Uthman bin Maz'ūn* (May Allāh be pleased with him) prayed with most fervour. He would observe the fast in the day and worship at night. He would safeguard himself from sensual desires and would keep away from his wife. Ḥaḍrat *Uthman bin Maz'ūn* (May Allāh be pleased with him) sought permission from the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) to lead an ascetic life but the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) did not grant this permission. According to one account Ḥaḍrat *Uthman bin Maz'ūn's* (May Allāh be pleased with him) wife came to meet the Holy Prophet's (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) noble wives. Seeing her unclean clothes and unkempt hair, they enquired the reason for her dishevelled state and advised her to be more presentable since her husband was a wealthy man. She responded that Ḥaḍrat *Uthman bin Maz'ūn* (May Allāh be pleased with him) did not have anything for her, that he prayed all night and kept fast during the day and did not pay any attention to her. When the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) came and his wives informed him of the situation, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) went to Ḥaḍrat *Uthman bin Maz'ūn* (May Allāh be pleased with him) said, "Am I not a model for you to follow?" Ḥaḍrat *Uthman bin Maz'ūn* (May Allāh be pleased with him) replied, "May my parents be sacrificed for you, is something wrong? I strive my utmost to emulate your example." The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) replied, "Do you fast during the day and worship all night?" He replied in the affirmative. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) instructed him not to do so, and said, "Your eyes have a right over you; your body has a right over you; your family has a right over you; and your wife and children have a right over you. Therefore, you may pray indeed, but it is also important to sleep. If you keep voluntary fasts then you should not keep them consecutively and take breaks in between." After some time when his wife came to meet the noble wives of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him), she was wearing perfume and was dressed up like a bride. When asked why she had made such an effort to adorn herself, she replied that she had also been granted what other women had i.e. the attention of her husband.

Ḥaḍrat *Mirza Bashīr Aḥmad Sahib* (May Allāh be pleased with him) writes that Ḥaḍrat *Uthman bin Maz'ūn* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was an abstinent kind of person who wanted to become an ascetic, but the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) said that asceticism is not permitted in Islām and therefore did not allow him to do so. Islām teaches us to live in the world and partake of its pleasure, but not to forget God who should always remain in our consciousness. Ḥaḍrat *Uthman bin Maz'ūn* (May Allāh be pleased with him) passed away in 2AH and was the first Companion to have died in Medina. According to some accounts, he died 22 months after the Battle of *Badr*. He was the first person to be buried in *Jannatul Baqī'i*. There is more about him that I will relate in the next Friday sermon.

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

Jazākumullāh.

Wassalām

(Ch. Hameedullah)

Wakīl A'lā,

Tahrīk Jadīd Anjuman Aḥmadiyya Pakistan.

Dated: 25 April 2019