

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 26th April 2019 at Baitul Futūh Mosque, London.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: In the previous sermon while narrating the account of the life of Ḥaḍrat *Uthman bin Maz’un* (May Allāh be pleased with him) I concluded by saying that he was the first person to be buried in *Jannatul Baqī’i*. The following details have been found regarding the foundation of *Jannatul Baqī’i*: At the time of the arrival of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) in Medina, there were several graveyards in Medina. The Jews had their own graveyard while the various tribes of the Arabs had their own. Since Medina was divided into different sectors, every tribe buried its dead in their own open areas. The graveyard of *Quba’* was the larger and more famous graveyard, but there were other smaller ones as well. *Banu Zafar* tribe had their own graveyard while *Banu Salmah* had their own. There was also a graveyard for *Banu Sā’dah* where *Suq-un-Nabi* was later established. The land on which the Prophet’s Mosque was built also had some date-palm trees under which the idolaters had their graves. Among all these graveyards, *Baqī’i ul-Gharqad* was the oldest and most famous. After the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) selected it as graveyard for the Muslims, it gained a distinctive status that it enjoys to this day and for all time to come.

Ḥaḍrat *Ubaidullah bin Abi Rafi’* (May Allāh be pleased with him) relates that the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) was seeking a site for establishing an exclusively Muslim graveyard, and for this purpose he visited several sites, but the honour was reserved for *Baqī’i ul-Gharqad*. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) said: “I have been commanded to select this place.” At that time it was called *Baqī’i ul-Khabkhabah*. It had many Gharqad trees and a profusion of wild bushes. There was an infestation of mosquitos and other insects which, when they rose, made it seem like a cloud of smoke.

The first person to be buried in this cemetery was Ḥaḍrat *Uthman bin Maz’un* (May Allāh be pleased with him). The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) placed a stone as a marker at the head of the tomb and said, “He has preceded us.” Thereafter, whenever a person died and people asked the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) where he should be buried, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) would say, “Close to *Uthman bin Maz’un*, who preceded us.” *Baqī’i* is an Arabic word denoting a place with a lot of trees. This spot was known in Medina as *Baqī’i ul-Gharqad* because of the profusion of Gharqad trees. There were also many desert bushes. It was also known as *Jannatul Baqī’i*. *Jannat* means a garden or paradise, and hence this place is more commonly known as *Jannatul Baqī’i* among non-Arab pilgrims.

Ḥaḍrat *Salim bin Abdullah* (May Allāh be pleased with him) cites his father as saying that whenever someone died, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him)

would say, “Send him to those who have preceded us; and what a good man of my ummah was *Uthman bin Maz’un*, who preceded us.” Ḥaḍrat *Ibn-e-Abbās* (May Allāh be pleased with him) relates that when Ḥaḍrat *Uthman bin Maz’un* (May Allāh be pleased with him) died, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) came to his body, bowed down three times and then raised his head and said aloud, “O *Abu Sāib*, may Allāh forgive you. You went from the world without having been defiled by anything.” According to Ḥaḍrat *Aysha* (May Allāh be pleased with her), the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) kissed Ḥaḍrat *Uthman bin Maz’un* (May Allāh be pleased with him) on this forehead and tears were flowing from his eyes and flowing onto Ḥaḍrat *Uthman*’s (May Allāh be pleased with him) cheeks. When the Holy Prophet’s (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) son Ibrahim died, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) said:

الْحَقُّ بِسَلَفِنَا الصَّالِحِ عُثْمَانَ بْنِ مَظْعُونٍ

“Go and join the company of our righteous and dear friend, *Uthman bin Maz’un*.”

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) quoted Ḥaḍrat *Mirza Bashīr Ahmad Sahib* (May Allāh be pleased with him) with regard to the demise of Ḥaḍrat *Uthman bin Maz’un* (May Allāh be pleased with him): In 2AH the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) established a cemetery for his Companions which is known as *Jannatul Baqī’i*, and the Companions were most often buried in that cemetery. The first Companion to be buried there was Ḥaḍrat *Uthman bin Maz’un* (May Allāh be pleased with him). He was from among the early Muslims, a pious and godly person. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) was much bereaved at his death. According to accounts, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) kissed him on the forehead and his eyes were filled with tears. After his burial the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) placed a stone as a marker at the head of his grave and would often go to his grave to pray for him. Ḥaḍrat *Uthman bin Maz’un* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was the first Muhajir who died in Medina.

In *Musnad Ahmad bin Hambal*, *Kharjah bin Zaid* cites his mother as saying that when Ḥaḍrat *Uthman bin Maz’un* (May Allāh be pleased with him) died she said, “*Abu Sāib*, you are holy. Your good days were very good indeed!” When the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) heard this, he asked who was saying this. I said it was me. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) asked, “How do you know this?” I said, “O Prophet of Allāh (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him), his actions and his worship tell me that Allāh must have treated him with forgiveness.” The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) said, “I saw nothing but good in *Uthman bin Maz’un*. But remember that I myself am a Prophet of God and yet I know not what will happen to me.” Huzoor said: There was no great upholder of God’s oneness than the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) and yet even he was fearful of God, for He is Independent and Besought of all, and said he didn’t know what would befall him. It is therefore all the more incumbent on us to be mindful of our actions and deeds and turn to Allāh, and not to pride ourselves on this but to grow in humility and always seek Allāh’s grace so that He may have mercy on us and forgive us. Allāh has indeed granted Ḥaḍrat *Uthman bin Maz’un* (May Allāh be pleased with him) a high status on account of the prayers of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him), and may He continue to do so, and may we be able to adopt his righteous deeds in our own lives.

Ḥaḍrat Wahb bin Sa'ad bin Abi Sarh (May Allāh be pleased with him):

The next Companion I shall speak about is Ḥaḍrat *Wahb bin Sa'ad bin Abi Sarh* (May Allāh be pleased with him). His father's name was *Sa'ad* and he belonged to *Banu 'Āmir bin Luay'i* tribe. Ḥaḍrat *Wahb* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was the brother of *Abdullah bin Sa'ad bin Abi Sarh*. His mother's name was *Muhanah bint Jabir* and she belonged to *Ash'ari* tribe. Ḥaḍrat *Wahb's* (May Allāh be pleased with him) brother *Abdullah bin Sa'ad bin Abi Sarh* was the one who used to write down the revelations of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) but later became an apostate. He was among those the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) ordered to be killed after the Conquest of Mecca but he was given protection by Ḥaḍrat *Uthman* (May Allāh be pleased with him). When *Abdullah bin Abi Sarh* learnt that the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) had ordered his death, he came to his foster brother Ḥaḍrat *Uthman* (May Allāh be pleased with him) and asked him to get him a reprieve. For three or four days he remained hidden in Ḥaḍrat *Uthman's* (May Allāh be pleased with him) house. Then when the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) was accepting Bai'at from people, Ḥaḍrat *Uthman* (May Allāh be pleased with him) took *Abdullah bin Abi Sarh* with him and requested the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) to accept his Bai'at. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) hesitated for a bit but then accepted his Bai'at and thus he returned to Islām. There were many reasons why his death had been ordered, among which was creating dissent and inciting people against Islām, and it was not only because he had become an apostate.

'Āsim bin Umar relates that when Ḥaḍrat *Wahb* (May Allāh be pleased with him) migrated from Mecca to Medina, he stayed at the house of Ḥaḍrat *Kulthoom bin Hidm* (May Allāh be pleased with him). The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) had established a bond of brotherhood between Ḥaḍrat *Wahb* and Ḥaḍrat *Suwaid bin 'Amr* (May Allāh be pleased with them), and both of them died in the Battle of *Moutah*. Ḥaḍrat *Wahb* (May Allāh be pleased with him) participated in the battles of *Badr*, *Uhud*, *Khandaq*, *Hudaibiyah* and *Khaibar*, and was martyred in Jamadi ul-Ūla, 8AH, at the age of 40, in the Battle of *Moutah*. May Allāh continue to raise the spiritual status of these Companions.

At the end of the Sermon, Huzoor informed the Jamā'at of the sad demise of *Malik Muhammad Akram Sahib*, Ahmadiyya Missionary in Manchester; *Chaudhary Abdul Shukoor Sahib*, Ahmadiyya Missionary; *Muhammad Saleh Muhammad Sahib*, Mu'allim of Waqf-e-Jadīd; and *Maushai Jumrah Sahib* of Tanzania. Huzoor spoke about the deceased members and their services from the Jamā'at and led their funeral prayer after the Friday prayers.

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 Ahmadiyya Pakistan.

Dated: 02 May. 19