

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

The Amīr/National President
Jamā‘at Ahmadīyya,

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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 8th May 2020 from Mubarak Mosque Islāmabad, Tilford, UK.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The Companion of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) about whom I will speak today is;

Ḥaḍrat *Khabbāb bin Arat* (May Allāh be pleased with him):

He was among the Companions of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) who participated in the Battle of *Badr*. He belonged to *Banu Sa’ad bin Zaid* clan. His father’s name was *Arat bin Jandalah*. According to the various accounts, his epithet was *Abu ‘Abdullah* or *Abu Muhammad* or *Abu Yahya*.

In days prior to Islām, he was made a slave and sent to Mecca. He was the slave-servant of *‘Utbah bin Ghazwān*, or of *Ammār Khuzā’iyyah* according to another account. He was the sixth person to accept Islām and was among the first Muslims who were chastised because of their faith. The first people to openly profess Islām were Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr*, Ḥaḍrat *Khabbāb*, Ḥaḍrat *Suhaib*, Ḥaḍrat *Bilal*, Ḥaḍrat *‘Ammār*, and his mother Ḥaḍrat *Sumayyah* (May Allāh be pleased with them). History bears witness that the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) himself was not spared mistreatment at the hands of the idolaters of Mecca, nor was Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him), for they were subjected to all kinds of persecution. The other Companions were severely tortured. They were made to wear iron-plated armour and left under the blazing sun. Some were subjected to even more unbearable forms of cruelty.

Ḥaḍrat *Khabbāb* (May Allāh be pleased with him) relates: I once came to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) while he was lying under a tree with his head resting on his arm. I said, “O Messenger of Allāh, will you not pray for us and against the people who we fear may force us to turn our backs to the faith?” Three times I said this and each time the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) turned away from me. At last he sat up and said: “O people, fear Allāh and show forbearance. By God, there have passed before you believers who were cleft into two with a saw upon their heads and yet they did not recant their faith. Fear Allāh, for Allāh will open the paths for you and bring this matter to a consummation.”

Ḥaḍrat *Khabbāb* (May Allāh be pleased with him) relates: I was a blacksmith and *‘Āas bin Wa’il* owed me a debt. But when I went to collect my debt from him, he said, “No, I will not pay my debt to you until you reject Muhammad.” I replied “I will never reject

Muhammad until you die and are resurrected again [meaning, I will never do it].” Then Allāh revealed the verse:

أَفَرَأَيْتَ الَّذِي كَفَرَ بِآيَاتِنَا وَقَالَ لَأُوتِيَنَّ مَالًا وَوَلَدًا. أَظَلَعَ الْغَيْبِ أَمْرَ الْمُتَّخِذِ عِنْدَ الرَّحْمَنِ عَهْدًا. كَلَّا سَنَكْتُبُ مَا يَقُولُ وَنَمُدُّ لَهُ مِنَ الْعَذَابِ مَدًّا. وَنَرْتِئُهُ مَا يَقُولُ وَيَأْتِينَا فَرْدًا.

“Hast thou then seen him who disbelieves in Our Signs, and says, ‘I shall certainly be given wealth and children?’ Has he become acquainted with the unseen or has he taken a promise from the Gracious God? Nay! We shall note down what he says and We shall greatly prolong for him the punishment. And We shall inherit of him all that of which he talks, and he shall come to Us all alone.” [19:78-81]

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Ḥaḍrat *Khabbāb* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was a blacksmith and he made swords. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) had great affection for him and would often visit him. When the woman who owned Ḥaḍrat *Khabbāb* (May Allāh be pleased with him) learned of this, she would burn his head by placing hot iron on it. When Ḥaḍrat *Khabbāb* (May Allāh be pleased with him) told the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) about this mistreatment, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) prayed, “O Allāh, help *Khabbāb*.” Soon afterwards the woman developed a mental disease and started barking like dogs. She was told that she should have hot iron placed on her head as treatment. Therefore, she would have Ḥaḍrat *Khabbāb* place hot iron on her head.

One day Ḥaḍrat *Khabbāb* (May Allāh be pleased with him) came to Ḥaḍrat *’Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him). Ḥaḍrat *’Umar* asked him to sit by his side and said, “No one is more eligible for this place, other than one other person.” When asked who that was, Ḥaḍrat *’Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) said, “It is *Bilal*.” Ḥaḍrat *Khabbāb* then said, “O *Amīr-ul-Mu’minīn*, he is not more eligible than me. When *Bilal* was in the hands of the idolaters, he always had someone who would come to save him, but I had no one to protect me. One day the people caught me and lit a fire and threw me upon it, and then one of them put his foot on my chest so that there was nothing between the fire and me but my back.” He then raised the cloth from his back and it was completely white from the burns.

Ḥaḍrat *Musleh Mau’ūd* (May Allāh be pleased with him) says: Remember that the people who endured the most cruelty after accepting the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) were the slaves. Ḥaḍrat *Khabbāb bin Arat* (May Allāh be pleased with him), who was a slave and a blacksmith by profession, also accepted Islām in the early days. Consequently people persecuted him. Sometimes they would make him lie down on burning coals and put a stone over his chest so that he could not move. The people who owed money to him refused to pay back, and yet he remained steadfast. The marks of the injuries he suffered remained on his back until his demise. Such were the atrocities suffered by these early Muslims. However, when Islām progressed, Allāh also rewarded them with great worldly status.

The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) established bond of brotherhood between Ḥaḍrat *Khabbāb* and Ḥaḍrat *Tamīm* (May Allāh be pleased with them)

Ḥaḍrat *Khabbāb* accompanied the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) in all the battles, including *Badr*, *Uhud* and *Khandaq*.

Abu Khalid relates: One day we were sitting in the mosque when Ḥaḍrat *Khabbāb* (May Allāh be pleased with him) came and sat down and did not speak. We asked him to say something to those present or to exhort them, but he only said, "How can I exhort others to do something that I do not do myself?" *Huzoor* (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Such was the level of piety and fear of God among the Companions.

Tariq relates: A group of Companions visited Ḥaḍrat *Khabbāb* (May Allāh be pleased with him) while he was on his death-bed. They said to him, "O *Abu 'Abdullah!* Be glad that you go to meet your brothers in paradise." Ḥaḍrat *Khabbāb* (May Allāh be pleased with him) said, "You speak of our brothers who passed away in the past without receiving any reward for their deeds. But those of us who have received something of this world are afraid that this might perhaps be the reward for our virtues that has been given to us in this world [rather than in the next]." Ḥaḍrat *Khabbāb* (May Allāh be pleased with him) suffered a prolonged illness.

Harith bin Muzarrib relates: I went to see Ḥaḍrat *Khabbāb* (May Allāh be pleased with him) while he was ill. He was in a lot of pain and said that if he had not heard the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) say that it is not permissible for anyone to wish for death, he would surely have wished for it. When he saw the shroud that had been prepared for him and was made of fine cloth brought from Egypt, his eyes welled up with tears and he said, "The Holy Prophet's (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) uncle was buried in a cloth that was so small that if it covered his head it would leave his feet bare, and so his feet had to be covered with grass. I saw the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) at a time when I did not own a single dirham. Now there is a box in the corner of my house containing 40,000 dirham. But I am afraid that we might have been given our reward in this world."

Ḥaḍrat *Khabbāb* (May Allāh be pleased with him) relates: We migrated with the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) seeking Allāh's pleasure, and Allāh became responsible for our reward. Some of us passed away without receiving the reward. One of them was Ḥaḍrat *Mus'ab bin Umair* (May Allāh be pleased with him). But for some of us the fruit has ripened and we are picking of it. Ḥaḍrat *Mus'ab* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was martyred in the Battle of *Uhud* and we had only one piece of cloth that was not enough to cover his whole body. Therefore, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) ordered that his head should be covered with the cloth and his feet with grass.

Zaid bin Wahb relates: We were returning from battle of *Siffīn* along with Ḥaḍrat *'Ali* (May Allāh be pleased with him) and when we reached the gate of *Kūfa* we saw seven graves on the right side. Ḥaḍrat *'Ali* (May Allāh be pleased with him) asked whose graves they were and was told that Ḥaḍrat *Khabbāb* (May Allāh be pleased with him) had died and he had made a will that he should be buried outside of *Kūfa*. Normally the people

buried their dead in their homes, but after Ḥaḍrat *Khabbāb*'s (May Allāh be pleased with him) will, people had started burying their dead outside of the city.

Ḥaḍrat *'Ali* (May Allāh be pleased with him) then said: “May Allāh have mercy on *Khabbāb*. He accepted Islām of his own volition, and he migrated in obedience, and lived his life like a *mujāhid*, and he was tested through physical hardship. Indeed, anyone who does a good deed, his reward is not wasted.” Ḥaḍrat *'Ali* (May Allāh be pleased with him) then went to the graves and said, “Peace be on you who are believers and Muslims. You go forward to prepare for us and we shall soon follow you. O Allāh, forgive us and forgive them by your grace. Glad tidings be to those who remember the hereafter and act accordingly, and are content with what fulfils their needs, and are eager to please Allāh.” Ḥaḍrat *Khabbāb* (May Allāh be pleased with him) passed away in 37 AH at the age of 73.

Jazākumullāh.

Wassalām,

(Ch. Hameedullah)

Wakīl A'ālā,

Tahrīk Jadīd Anjuman Ahmadīyya Pakistan.

Dated: 13 May 2020