

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 19th June 2020 from Mubarak Mosque Islāmabad, Tilford, UK.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Today I will continue with the accounts regarding Ḥaḍrat *‘Abdur Rahmān bin ‘Auf* (May Allāh be pleased with him). Ḥaḍrat *‘Abdur Rahmān* was an old friend of *Umayyah bin Khalf*. After migrating to Medina, Ḥaḍrat *‘Abdur Rahmān bin ‘Auf* (May Allāh be pleased with him) wrote a letter to *Umayyah bin Khalf* asking him to safeguard his property in Mecca and promising to do the same for *Umayyah*’s property in Medina. Ḥaḍrat *‘Abdur Rahmān* (May Allāh be pleased with him) had signed this letter with his Muslim name *‘Abdur Rahmān*, to which *Umayyah* replied that he did not recognize anyone by the name of *‘Abdur Rahmān*. Ḥaḍrat *‘Abdur Rahmān* (May Allāh be pleased with him) then wrote back and signed the letter with *‘Abd-e-‘Amr*, the name he had before Islām.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: During the battle of *Badr*, *Umayyah bin Khalf* requested Ḥaḍrat *‘Abdur Rahmān bin ‘Auf* (May Allāh be pleased with him) to take him and his son under his refuge, which Ḥaḍrat *‘Abdur Rahmān* (May Allāh be pleased with him) agreed to do. The two were with Ḥaḍrat *‘Abdur Rahmān* when Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* (May Allāh be pleased with him) saw them and recognized *Umayyah* who used to torture him in Mecca. Seeing him accompanying Ḥaḍrat *‘Abdur Rahmān bin ‘Auf* (May Allāh be pleased with him), Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* (May Allāh be pleased with him) called out to *Ansār* and said to them, “That is a leader of the infidels. If he escapes then I am lost.” Hearing this, a party of Muslims attacked *Umayyah* and his son and killed them.

In the Battle of *Uhud*, Ḥaḍrat *‘Abdur Rahmān bin ‘Auf* (May Allāh be pleased with him) remained steadfast with the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) even though he suffered 21 wounds, lost two of his front teeth, and suffered a severe injury because of which he used to walk with a limp.

In 6 AH, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) sent an army of 700 Companions to *Dumat ul-Jandal* under the command of Ḥaḍrat *‘Abdur Rahmān bin ‘Auf* (May Allāh be pleased with him). The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) instructed them to invite the people to Islām, and that if fighting became inevitable then they should avoid dishonesty, deception and killing of women and children. Accordingly, Ḥaḍrat *‘Abdur Rahmān bin ‘Auf* (May Allāh be pleased with him) invited the people of *Kalb* tribe to Islām for three days and they finally accepted Islām. Following the Holy Prophet’s (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) instructions, Ḥaḍrat *‘Abdur Rahmān bin*

'Auf (May Allāh be pleased with him) married *Tumāzir*, the daughter of the chief of *Kalb* tribe. She later came to be known as *Umm-e-Abu Salama*.

In 14 AH, on the occasion of the Battle of *Jisr*, when the news of Ḥaḍrat *Abu 'Ubaid bin Mas'ūd's* (May Allāh be pleased with him) martyrdom reached Medina, Ḥaḍrat 'Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) appointed Ḥaḍrat 'Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him) as his deputy in Medina and decided to go out with an army. Ḥaḍrat 'Abdur Rahmān bin 'Auf (May Allāh be pleased with him) was one of the Companions who asked Ḥaḍrat 'Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) not to go. He said, "I have never said to anyone the words 'may my parents be sacrificed for you' other than to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him). But today I say to you, 'Umar, may my parents be sacrificed for you, stop here and send a large army. Because if the army is defeated in your presence, it will be considered your defeat. And if you are martyred at the start, then I am afraid the Muslims will not even be able to proclaim the *Kalima*." Ḥaḍrat 'Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) accepted this advice and, after consultation with Ḥaḍrat 'Abdur Rahmān bin 'Auf (May Allāh be pleased with him), sent an army under the command of Ḥaḍrat *Sa'ad bin Mālik* (May Allāh be pleased with him).

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) had assigned land to various Companions and their tribes in Medina. The tribe of Ḥaḍrat 'Abdur Rahmān bin 'Auf (May Allāh be pleased with him) was given a place in a cluster of date palm trees behind the Prophet's Mosque. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) had promised Ḥaḍrat 'Abdur Rahmān bin 'Auf (May Allāh be pleased with him) that after the victory of Syria, he would be given a certain piece of land. He was given this piece of land during the Khilāfat of Ḥaḍrat 'Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him).

Ḥaḍrat 'Abdur Rahmān bin 'Auf (May Allāh be pleased with him) had the honour of leading the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) in prayer. This occurred at *Fajr* prayer during the Battle of *Tabūk*. When, after the prayer had ended, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) got up to offer his remaining *rak'ah*, those present became concerned and started to recite *tasbih*. After completing his prayer, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) said, "Every Prophet has offered prayer behind some righteous person." This was a great honour for Ḥaḍrat 'Abdur Rahmān bin 'Auf (May Allāh be pleased with him) because the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) thus testified that he was indeed a righteous man.

According to one account, Ḥaḍrat 'Abdur Rahmān bin 'Auf (May Allāh be pleased with him) used to offer long *Nawāfil* before Zuhr. According to another account, Ḥaḍrat 'Abdur Rahmān bin 'Auf (May Allāh be pleased with him) was seen performing a circuit of the *Ka'aba* and praying, "O Allāh, save me from the greed of the ego." In the first year of his Khilāfat, Ḥaḍrat 'Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) appointed Ḥaḍrat 'Abdur Rahmān bin 'Auf (May Allāh be pleased with him) as the chief judge.

On one occasion, Ḥaḍrat 'Abdur Rahmān bin 'Auf (May Allāh be pleased with him) came to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) complaining of lice and asked that he be allowed to wear silk clothes. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon

him) graciously permitted him to do so. One day during the Khilāfat of Ḥaḍrat 'Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him), Ḥaḍrat 'Abdur Rahmān bin 'Auf (May Allāh be pleased with him) and his son came to Ḥaḍrat 'Umar's presence wearing silk clothes. Ḥaḍrat 'Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) tore the cloth that the son was wearing and said to Ḥaḍrat 'Abdur Rahmān bin 'Auf (May Allāh be pleased with him), "You received permission to wear silk because you complained of lice to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him). The permission was specifically for you and for no one else."

Sa'ad bin Ibrahīm relates that Ḥaḍrat 'Abdur Rahmān bin 'Auf (May Allāh be pleased with him) used to wear a cape that cost about 400 or 500 Dirham. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: This is an example of God's blessings. When he migrated from Mecca he had no possessions whatsoever, but then the time came when he wore expensive clothes and Allāh blessed him with many properties.

When Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) considered to appoint Ḥaḍrat 'Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) as Khalīfa after him, he asked Ḥaḍrat 'Abdur Rahmān bin 'Auf (May Allāh be pleased with him) for his opinion on the matter. Ḥaḍrat 'Abdur Rahmān bin 'Auf (May Allāh be pleased with him) admitted Ḥaḍrat 'Umar's superiority over all Muslims and added that his only drawback was that he was rather fierce in his disposition.

On one occasion Ḥaḍrat *Khalid bin Walīd* (May Allāh be pleased with him) spoke harshly to Ḥaḍrat 'Abdur Rahmān bin 'Auf (May Allāh be pleased with him) and asked why he imagined that it was an honour to be among the early Muslims. When the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) heard of this, he said, "Leave my Companions alone. I swear by Him who holds my life in His hands, that if one of you were to spend as much gold as *Uhud* mountain, you would not equal the meagre sacrifices made by these people." The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) said regarding Ḥaḍrat 'Abdur Rahmān bin 'Auf (May Allāh be pleased with him), "He is chief among the Muslims and honest among the dwellers of heaven and earth."

On one occasion, a variety of foods were served before Ḥaḍrat 'Abdur Rahmān bin 'Auf (May Allāh be pleased with him). As he took the first morsel, he became perturbed and pulled back his hand saying, "When *Mus'ab bin Umair* was martyred, he was buried in a single sheet, even though he was better than us. The sheet was so small that if his feet were covered, his head would be bare; and if his head was covered, his feet would be exposed." He said similar words regarding Ḥaḍrat *Hamza* (May Allāh be pleased with him) and said, "We have been granted financial abundance and worldly comforts in good measure. I am afraid we may have been given our reward in this world." Tears started to flow from his eyes and he did not eat anymore. On another occasion he said that the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) left this world in such a state that he and his family never had eaten their fill of barley bread.

One day, Ḥaḍrat 'Abdur Rahmān bin 'Auf (May Allāh be pleased with him) expressed before *Ummul Mu'minīn* Ḥaḍrat *Salama* (May Allāh be pleased with her) the fear lest the profusion of wealth might destroy him. Ḥaḍrat *Salama* (May Allāh be pleased with her) said that he should give a lot in charity and alms because she had heard the Holy Prophet

(May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) say, "There are some among my Companions who will never see me again after we part." Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Ḥaḍrat 'Abdur Rahmān bin 'Auf (May Allāh be pleased with him) was among the Companions who had been given the glad tiding of paradise by the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) himself, and yet he was always vigilant for the fear of God.

At one time when news was received of an outbreak of the plague in Syria, Ḥaḍrat 'Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) summoned the eminent Companions for advice as to whether the army should continue to advance towards Syria or turn back. Ḥaḍrat 'Abdur Rahmān bin 'Auf (May Allāh be pleased with him) said that he had heard the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) say that when you hear of an epidemic in some place, do not go there, and if you are already there then do not leave. Ḥaḍrat 'Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him), therefore, decided to return the army. Upon this, Ḥaḍrat 'Ubaidah bin Al-Jarrah said, "Are you fleeing from the decree of Allāh?" Ḥaḍrat 'Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) replied, "Only if someone other than you had said this! We are fleeing from one decree of Allāh to another decree of Allāh."

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Even today we can see that the countries that implemented a lockdown earlier have been able to control the pandemic more successfully, whereas it is continuing to spread in other countries.

At the end of the sermon Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that he would continue with the rest of the account regarding Ḥaḍrat 'Abdur Rahmān bin 'Auf (May Allāh be pleased with him) in the next sermon, *Insha'Allāh*.

Jazākumullāh.

Wassalām,

(For) Wakīl A'lā,

Tahrīk Jadīd Anjuman Ahmadiyya Pakistan.

Dated: 24 June 2020