

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 09<sup>th</sup> October 2020 from Mubarak Mosque Islāmabad, Tilford, UK.**

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Today I will continue with the account regarding Ḥaḍrat *Abu ‘Ubaidah bin Al-Jarrah* (May Allāh be pleased with him).

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The largest battle in Syria took place on the banks of the Yarmouk River in 15 AH. The Roman army had 250,000 men, as against 30,000 Muslims, of whom there were about 1,000 Companions of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) including 100 *Badri* Companions. After strategically withdrawing from Homs area, the Muslims had returned to its Christian population the large amount of *Jizya* that they had received from them. This act of fairness on the part of the Muslims had a profound effect on the Christians. On the other hand, the Muslim withdrawal from Homs made the Romans more audacious.

Before the battle, the Roman commander sent an emissary by the name of George to Ḥaḍrat *Abu ‘Ubaidah*. George asked him some questions and when Ḥaḍrat *Abu ‘Ubaidah* explained to him the Muslim beliefs about Jesus, the emissary cried out that these were the true attributes of Christ, and he, therefore, became a Muslim.

Ḥaḍrat *Abu ‘Ubaidah* first invited the Christian army to Islām and, on their refusal, started preparing for war. The Muslims army included Muslim women who would bring water to the fighters and take care of the wounded. Before the war, Ḥaḍrat *Abu ‘Ubaidah* gave instructions to Muslim men and women.

There was a golden cross in front of the Roman army and the shimmer of their shiny weapons was dazzling. The enemy troops were covered in armour from head to toe. Christian pastors kept the Roman army motivated by reciting passages from the Bible. The Romans had already identified the Companions of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) in the Muslim army and were using archers stationed upon a height to target them. In this situation, Ḥaḍrat *‘Ikrimah* asked Ḥaḍrat *Abu ‘Ubaidah* that four hundred young soldiers be given a chance to attack the heart of the enemy, instead of the older Companions. Ḥaḍrat *Abu ‘Ubaidah* was concerned that in this way all the young men would be killed. However, upon repeated insistence by Ḥaḍrat *‘Ikrimah*, Ḥaḍrat *Abu ‘Ubaidah* gave permission. The Muslim youth made a forceful attack that caused the enemy to scatter. Most of the young were martyred in this battle. A total of three thousand Muslims were martyred. On the other hand, 80,000 of the enemy soldiers drowned in the river Yarmouk and 100,000 of their soldiers were killed by the Muslims on the battlefield.

Relating an example of the spirit of selflessness among the Muslims in the battle of Yarmouk, Ḥaḍrat Musleh Mau'ūd (May Allāh be pleased with him) says: At the end of the battle, a search was carried out for Ḥaḍrat *'Ikrimah* and his twelve companions. A Muslim soldier found Ḥaḍrat *'Ikrimah* badly wounded and offered him water, but Ḥaḍrat *'Ikrimah* saw Ḥaḍrat *Faḍl bin Abbās* lying wounded nearby and he said, "I cannot bear that those who helped the Messenger of Allāh when I was against him and their descendants should die of thirst while I drink water." The soldier then went on to Ḥaḍrat *Faḍl bin Abbās*, but he also pointed to the next wounded man and said, "He is more in need, give him water first." In this manner, all the wounded kept pointing to the other, and when the soldier reached the last one, he found him dead. When he turned back to reach Ḥaḍrat *'Ikrimah*, he found that all the others had also died.

The people of Syria, who had been followers of different religions, embraced Islām after witnessing the justice and fairness of Ḥaḍrat *Abu 'Ubaidah*. Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) passed away a few months before the conquest of Yarmouk. After becoming Khalīfa, Ḥaḍrat *'Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) gave Ḥaḍrat *Abu 'Ubaidah* overall command of Syria and its troops. When Ḥaḍrat *Abu 'Ubaidah* received this letter of appointment, the battle was in full swing, so he did not mention it to Ḥaḍrat *Khalid bin Walīd* lest he be discouraged. After the battle, when Ḥaḍrat *Khalid's* army started to leave for Iraq, he said to the people regarding Ḥaḍrat *Abu 'Ubaidah*, "You should be happy that the trustee (*Amīn*) of this ummah is now your leader." Ḥaḍrat *Abu 'Ubaidah* responded to this by saying, "I have heard from the Messenger of Allāh that *Khalid bin Walīd* is one among God's swords."

Commenting on the incident, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The two leaders parted ways in an atmosphere of respect. A true believer has no desire for fame or position. Their only purpose is to establish the kingdom of God in the world. These people should be role models for every office-bearer of the Jamā'at as well as every Aḥmadī.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: When the Muslim army led by Ḥaḍrat *'Amr bin Al-Āṣ* conquered the cities of Palestine and laid siege to Jerusalem, the army of Ḥaḍrat *Abu 'Ubaidah* also joined them. The Christians, tired of being fortified, offered a peace deal on the condition that Ḥaḍrat *'Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) should personally come and sign the agreement. On the first of Rabi'al-Awwal, 16 AH, Ḥaḍrat *'Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) left Medina and arrived at Ḥaḍrat *Abu 'Ubaidah's* house. There he found nothing other than a sword, a shield, a mat and a bowl. This was also the occasion when Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* also gave the heart-warming Adhān.

In 17 AH, the Romans made a final effort to take back Syria from the Muslims. The Kurds, Bedouins and Christians of northern Syria, Al Jazeera, northern Iraq, and Armenia, as well as Iranians appealed to Hercules for help against the Muslims. On this occasion, on the instructions of Ḥaḍrat *'Umar*, Ḥaḍrat *Sa'ad bin Abi Waqās* (May Allāh be pleased with them) sent a relief army from *Kūfa*. On this occasion Ḥaḍrat *Abu 'Ubaidah* made a powerful motivating speech. After the Roman defeat, Caesar never had the courage to advance towards Syria ever again.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: About six miles from Ramallah on the road to Jerusalem, there is a settlement called *Ta'un 'Amwās*. Here Ḥaḍrat *'Umar* met Ḥaḍrat *Abu*

'*Ubaidah* and his forces and learnt about the outbreak of the plague in Syria. In view of this situation, consultations were made and it was decided that it is better to retreat than advance any further. Ḥaḍrat *Abu 'Ubaidah* asked Ḥaḍrat '*Umar* whether it is possible to escape from the decree of Allāh? Ḥaḍrat '*Umar* said, "We are moving from one decree of Allah towards another decree of Allah." Ḥaḍrat Musleh Mau'ūd (May Allāh be pleased with him) says: God has special and general decrees. Thus, Ḥaḍrat '*Umar* said that he was not running from the decree of Allāh, but was moving from one of His decrees to another.

After returning to Medina, Ḥaḍrat '*Umar* felt uneasy and asked Ḥaḍrat *Abu 'Ubaidah* to come back, but, for fear of spreading the plague, Ḥaḍrat *Abu 'Ubaidah* asked that he be allowed to remain among his soldiers. Whenever a Muslim soldier was martyred by the plague, Ḥaḍrat *Abu 'Ubaidah* would weep and ask Allāh for martyrdom. He passed away in 18 AH at the age of 58.

In the second part of the sermon, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) informed the Jamā'at about the sad demise of three members of the Jamā'at and led their funeral prayer in absentia after the Friday prayer.

1. *Prof. Dr Naeem-ud-Dīn Khattak Sahib*, son of *Fazluddīn Khattak Sahib* of Peshawar. He was shot and martyred by opponents of the Jamā'at on 5<sup>th</sup> October. He had a PhD in Microenvironmental Biology and was a Professor at Superior Science College. The late martyr possessed many virtues, such as compassion and hospitality. He would happily perform even minor security duties for the Jamā'at. He is survived by his wife, three daughters and two sons.
2. *Usama Sadiq*, son of *Muhammad Sadiq*, a student at Jāmi'a Aḥmadiyya Germany. The deceased passed away at the age of 20 after drowning in Rhine River. *Usama* was a man of a quiet and simple nature. He loved worship and had a passion for preaching. He is survived by his parents, five sisters and a brother.
3. *Saleem Ahmad Malik Sahib* who passed away on 24<sup>th</sup> September at the age of 87. The late was associated with the teaching profession and was Professor of Geological Chemistry. After retirement, he served as lecturer at Jāmi'a Aḥmadiyya UK. He was a member of the preliminary committee for the establishment of Jāmi'a Aḥmadiyya UK and also served as its Chief Administrator after its start. The late Professor had the honour of serving the Jamā'at UK in various capacities, such as, Secretary Education and Tarbiyat, and Secretary for External Affairs. He is survived by his wife, three daughters and grandchildren.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) prayed for the forgiveness of all the deceased and for the elevation of their spiritual ranks, and prayed that may Allāh enable their children and their descendants to remain devoted to Khilāfat and the Jamā'at *Amīn*.

Jazākumullāh.

Wassalām,

(For) Wakīl A'lā,

Tahrīk-i-Jadīd Anjuman Aḥmadiyya Pakistan.

Dated: 13 October 2020