

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

The Amīr/National President
Jamā‘at Ahmadīyya,

.....

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 27th November 2020 from Mubarak Mosque Islāmabad, Tilford, UK.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: I will begin the mention of the *Khulafā’ Rashidīn*, starting with Ḥaḍrat ‘Ali bin Abu Tālib (May Allāh be pleased with him). His father's name was ‘Abdul Manāf and he was known by the epithet *Abu Tālib*. His mother's name was *Fatima bint Asad bin Hashim*.

Ḥaḍrat ‘Ali was born ten years before the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) was ordained. He was of medium height, had dark eyes, was heavily built and broad-shouldered. Ḥaḍrat ‘Ali had three brothers, *Tālib*, ‘*Aqeel* and *Ja’far*, and two sisters, *Umm-e-Hani* and *Umm-e-Jumanah*. All of them, except *Tālib* and *Umm-e-Jumanah*, had converted to Islām. Ḥaḍrat ‘Ali was known by the epithets *Abul Hassan*, *Abu Sibtain* and *Abu Turāb*.

One day the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) visited the house of Ḥaḍrat *Fatima* but did not find Ḥaḍrat ‘Ali at home. He was told that he was sleeping in the mosque. When the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) came to the mosque, Ḥaḍrat ‘Ali was lying there. His sheet was bit a side from his body due to which his side was covered in dust. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) wiped off the dust and said, “Get up, *Abu Turāb!*” In this way, Ḥaḍrat ‘Ali acquired the epithet *Abu Turāb*.

Ḥaḍrat *Abu Tālib* was a very respectable person but he was poor and had a large family. Therefore, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) along with his uncle Ḥaḍrat ‘*Abbās* thought that a way of helping him would be to adopt some of his children. When they came to Ḥaḍrat *Abu Tālib* for this purpose, he said, “Let ‘*Aqeel* stay with me. You can take anyone other than him.” The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) then took the responsibility of Ḥaḍrat ‘Ali, and Ḥaḍrat ‘*Abbās* took the responsibility of *Ja’far*. Ḥaḍrat ‘Ali was six or seven years old at the time.

According to a Ḥadīth, Ḥaḍrat ‘Ali was surprised to see Ḥaḍrat *Khadija* (May Allāh be pleased with her) and the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) offering the Ṣalāt a day after Ḥaḍrat *Khadija*’s conversion to Islām, and asked what they were doing. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) said to Ḥaḍrat Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him), “This is the chosen religion of Allāh, so I call you to deny *Lāt* and ‘*Uzza* and to the worship of Allāh.” The next morning Ḥaḍrat ‘Ali converted to Islām. He was 13 years old at that time.

With regard to the question as to who was the first Muslim, Ḥaḍrat *Mirza Bashīr Ahmad Sahib* says that Ḥaḍrat ‘Ali and Ḥaḍrat *Zaid bin Harith* lived in the Holy Prophet’s (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) household and were like his children. Therefore, they probably did

not even need to verbally profess their faith. Hence, Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was definitely the first of the believers.

With regard to Ḥaḍrat *Khadija* affirming the claim of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) without any hesitation, Ḥaḍrat *Musleh Mau'ūd* (May Allāh be pleased with him) says: Ḥaḍrat *Musa* (Peace be upon him) got a helper when he asked Allāh to grant him one, but look at the glory of Ḥaḍrat Muhammad (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) who received a helper even without asking. Hearing the talk of divine revelation in the house, Ḥaḍrat *Zaid bin Harith*, the slave-servant who lived with the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him), came forward and accepted Islām. Ḥaḍrat 'Ali, who was ten or eleven years old, was standing by the door listening to the conversation between the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) and Ḥaḍrat *Khadija*. He also stepped forward and said, "I, too, believe in what my aunt and *Zaid* believe in."

Ḥaḍrat 'Ali used to pray with the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) in secret away from the eyes of his father and the people of Mecca. One day, Ḥaḍrat *Abu Tālib* saw the two of them praying and asked the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) about this new religion. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) told him that it was the religion of Ḥaḍrat *Ibrahim* (Peace be upon him) and briefly gave him the message of Islām. Ḥaḍrat *Abu Tālib* replied, "I do not have the strength to leave the religion of my forefathers, but, by Allāh, as long as I am alive, nothing will come to you that you dislike."

In keeping with the command of Allāh, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) invited 40 members of his family to a meal. After the meal, when the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) wanted to speak to them, the unfortunate *Abu Lahab* said something that caused the people to disperse. A feast was arranged once again and this time, after conveying the message of Islām, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) said, "Tell me, who will help me in this task?" Everyone remained silent on this question, but a thin thirteen-year-old boy rose and expressed his determination to be his helper. This was Ḥaḍrat 'Ali. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) said to the audience, "If you follow what this child has said then do what he says." Instead of learning the lesson, everyone laughed. *Abu Lahab* said to his elder brother *Abu Tālib*, "Muhammad (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) commands you to follow your son."

Explaining the incident, Ḥaḍrat *Musleh Mau'ūd* (May Allāh be pleased with him) said that the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) understood that in the eyes of God this eleven-year-old child was an adult, while all the grown-ups were children and had no power. Ḥaḍrat 'Ali remained with the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) till the end and became one of his successors after him, and Allāh made his progeny righteous so much so that Imāms were born among them for twelve generations.

Referring to the incident of Ḥaḍrat 'Ali's sacrifice at the time of the migration of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) to Medina, *Huzoor* (May Allāh be his Helper) said that when the people of Mecca conspired to imprison or kill the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him), Allāh informed him of their intentions and permitted him to migrate to Medina. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) instructed Ḥaḍrat 'Ali to lie down in his place instead of him. Ḥaḍrat 'Ali spent the night wearing the red robe of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him). When the Meccans entered the house in the morning and found Ḥaḍrat 'Ali in the Holy Prophet's (May Allāh's Blessings be

upon him) bed, they asked him about the whereabouts of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him), whereupon Ḥaḍrat 'Ali said, "You told him to leave Mecca, and he left." After giving back to the people the things that they had entrusted to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him), Ḥaḍrat 'Ali also left Mecca after three days and went to Medina.

Referring to this great sacrifice of Ḥaḍrat 'Ali, Ḥaḍrat *Musleh Mau'ūd* (May Allāh be pleased with him) says: Allāh knew that, in return for this sacrifice, not only Ḥaḍrat 'Ali but his progeny would be honoured. Allāh bestowed the first great blessing on Ḥaḍrat 'Ali by granting him the honour of being the Holy Prophet's (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) son-in-law. The second blessing was that He inspired the Holy Prophet's (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) heart with so much love for Ḥaḍrat 'Ali that he often praised him.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that he would continue with the mention of Ḥaḍrat 'Ali, *Insha' Allāh*.

At the end of his sermon, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) informed the Jamā'at about the sad demise of four members of the Jamā'at.

1. Dr *Tahir Mahmood Sahib*, son of *Tariq Mahmood Sahib*, of Nankana Sahib, Pakistan. He was shot dead by a 16 year old boy on 20th November after Friday prayers. The deceased was 31 years old. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that it is a new ploy being used by the opponents of Aḥmadiyyat whereby they incite young boys to attack Aḥmadīs, so that, being under-aged, they can appeal for pardon or a reduced sentence. The martyr was fond of preaching and had a great love for the Khilāfat. He is survived by his father, mother, a brother and a sister.
2. *Jamaluddin Mahmood Sahib* of Sierra Leone. He passed away of a heart attack on 3rd November. He had been serving as the National General Secretary for the last 16 years. He was a sincere and devoted servant of the Jamā'at. He had great love for Khilāfat. One of his great virtues was that he set a practical example with regard to saving Aḥmadīs from racial or national discrimination and tried to make them like one family.
3. *Amatus Salām Sahiba*, wife of *Chaudhry Salahuddin Sahib*, former *Nāzim Jaidad* and *Mushīr Qānūnī*, Rabwah. She passed away on 19th October.
4. *Mansura Bushra Sahiba*, mother of the late Dr. *Latif Qureshi Sahib*. She passed away on 6th November at the age of 97 years. She was a devout and virtuous lady and very loyal to Khilāfat.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) announced that he would lead their funeral prayer in absentia after the Friday prayer. He prayed that Allāh may have mercy on all the deceased and raise their spiritual station in heaven. *Amīn*.

Jazākumullāh.

Wassalām,

(For) Wakīl A'lā,

Tahrīk-i-Jadīd Anjuman Aḥmadiyya Pakistan.

Dated: 01 December 2020