

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 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020 from Mubarak Mosque Islāmabad, Tilford, UK.**

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: I will continue with the account of Ḥaḍrat ‘*Ali* (May Allāh be pleased with him).

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: During his last illness, when the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) was staying at Ḥaḍrat *Aysha’s* house, he would walk to the mosque with the support of Ḥaḍrat ‘*Abbās* and Ḥaḍrat ‘*Ali* (May Allāh be pleased with them). One day, when Ḥaḍrat ‘*Ali* came out of the house, the people inquired about the Holy Prophet’s (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) health. Ḥaḍrat ‘*Ali* was optimistic but Ḥaḍrat ‘*Abbās bin ‘Abdul Muttalib* (May Allāh be pleased with him) expressed concern and suggested that the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) be consulted about the matter of Khilāfat. Ḥaḍrat ‘*Ali* did not agree with this suggestion.

After the demise of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him), Ḥaḍrat ‘*Ali*, Ḥaḍrat *Fazl* and Ḥaḍrat ‘*Usama bin Zaid* (May Allāh be pleased with them) washed the Holy Prophet’s (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) body and lowered it into the grave.

There are varying accounts regarding Ḥaḍrat ‘*Ali’s* pledge of *Bai’at* to Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him). According to one narration, Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* summoned Ḥaḍrat ‘*Ali* and said, "Do you want to undermine the power of the Muslims?" Ḥaḍrat ‘*Ali* replied, "O Khalīfa of the Messenger of Allāh! Please do not reprimand me." He then immediately pledged *Bai’at*. According to another narration, when Ḥaḍrat ‘*Ali* was called to pledge *Bai’at* to Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr*, he came at once without a moment's delay. Ḥaḍrat ‘*Ali* pledged *Bai’at* to Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* on the first or second day.

The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says: Ḥaḍrat ‘*Ali* initially hesitated in pledging *Bai’at* to Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr*, but when he returned home he realized his error and at once came back, without even properly wearing his turban, and pledged *Bai’at*.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: There are some narrations that suggest that Ḥaḍrat ‘*Ali* pledged *Bai’at* to Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* after the death of Ḥaḍrat *Fatima*. However, scholars have questioned these accounts. Some scholars have said that this second *Bai’at* was in fact a renewal of *Bai’at*.

The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says in his book *Sir-ul-Khilafah* if we assume that Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was enamoured by the world and had usurped Khilāfat, then we would also have to admit that Ḥaḍrat ‘*Ali* was a hypocrite who did not part ways with disbelievers and apostates—God forbid! If Ḥaḍrat ‘*Ali* was indeed sure that

Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* had usurped Khilāfat, then why did he agree to pledge *Bai'at* to Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) instead of leaving the land of oppression and tyranny and moving elsewhere?

Ḥaḍrat *‘Ali* performed very important services during the time of the three Khulafā. After the demise of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him), when Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* sent an army under the command of Ḥaḍrat *‘Usama*, very few people were left in Medina and, in view of possible Bedouin attacks, guards were posted at the entrances of the city. Ḥaḍrat *‘Ali* was among those who supervised these guards. On several occasions when Ḥaḍrat *‘Umar* travelled out of Medina, he appointed Ḥaḍrat *‘Ali* as Amīr in his place.

In the Battle of *Jisr*, the Muslims had to suffer a great deal at the hands of the Iranians. Ḥaḍrat *‘Umar* decided to lead the army himself as there was no barrier between Medina and Iran. The people agreed with this decision but Ḥaḍrat *‘Ali* did not. He said that if, God forbid, Ḥaḍrat *‘Umar* was martyred, the Muslims would be totally vanquished and fall into disarray. He, therefore, suggested that someone else should lead the army. Thus, Ḥaḍrat *‘Umar* agreed to Ḥaḍrat *‘Ali*’s suggestion.

When there was strife and disorder during the Khilāfat of Ḥaḍrat *‘Uthmān*, Ḥaḍrat *‘Ali* gave sincere advice to Ḥaḍrat *‘Uthmān* and informed him of the excesses of the collectors (عمال).

When the Egyptians besieged the house of Ḥaḍrat *‘Uthmān*, Ḥaḍrat *‘Ali* did his best to deliver him food and water. Many slaves of *Banu Hāshim* and *Banu Umayya* were injured while trying to deliver water bags to Ḥaḍrat *‘Uthmān*’s house. When Ḥaḍrat *‘Ali* learned of the plot to assassinate Ḥaḍrat *‘Uthmān*, he sent his sons *Imām Hasan* and *Imām Husain* to guard Ḥaḍrat *‘Uthmān*’s house. When Ḥaḍrat *‘Ali* received the painful news of the martyrdom of Ḥaḍrat *‘Uthmān*, he was very angry with Ḥaḍrat *Hasan* and Ḥaḍrat *Husain* and asked how such a thing could have happened under their guard. Before Ḥaḍrat *‘Uthmān* was brutally martyred by the rebels, Ḥaḍrat *‘Ali* put on the turban of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him), sheathed his sword, and came to Ḥaḍrat *‘Uthmān* and asked his permission to fight the rebels but Ḥaḍrat *‘Uthmān* did not agree to it.

It is related that after the martyrdom of Ḥaḍrat *‘Uthmān*, people rushed to Ḥaḍrat *‘Ali* and asked him to accept their *Bai'at* as Khalīfa. Ḥaḍrat *‘Ali* told them that only the Companions of *Badr* were entitled to make this decision. Thereafter, all the Companions came together and said that they did not consider anyone more deserving of Khilāfat than him. Ḥaḍrat *‘Ali* then inquired about Ḥaḍrat *Talha* and Ḥaḍrat *Zubair*. Ḥaḍrat *Talha* pledged *Bai'at* first, followed by Ḥaḍrat *Zubair*, and then the rest of the Companions did the same.

Ḥaḍrat *Musleh Mau‘ūd* (May Allāh be pleased with him) says that after the martyrdom of Ḥaḍrat *‘Uthmān* the rebels looted the treasury and laid siege to Medina and imposed a kind of curfew. Even the body of Ḥaḍrat *‘Uthmān* was not allowed to be buried for three or four days. Finally, some of the Companions buried him secretly at night. When Ḥaḍrat *‘Ali* agreed to become Khalīfa, Muslims started to allege, as had been feared, that Ḥaḍrat *‘Ali* had been behind the assassination of Ḥaḍrat *‘Uthmān*—God forbid. Ḥaḍrat *Musleh Mau‘ūd* (May Allāh be pleased with him) says that even if all other virtues of Ḥaḍrat *‘Ali* are ignored, the single fact that he accepted Khilāfat in such tumultuous circumstances speaks volumes about his courage and bravery. He did not care about his personal honour or prestige when it came to safeguarding Islām. Ḥaḍrat *Musleh Mau‘ūd* (May Allāh be

pleased with him) says that this act of Ḥaḍrat 'Ali was also very wise, for had he not taken the oath of allegiance at that time, Islām would have suffered greater damage than it did because of the war between him and *Amīr Mu'āwiyah*.

It is alleged with regard to Ḥaḍrat *Talha* and Ḥaḍrat *Zubair* that they broke their pledge of allegiance to Ḥaḍrat 'Ali. Ḥaḍrat *Musleh Mau'ūd* (May Allāh be pleased with him) says that this is a wrong perception. History shows that they had not pledged *Bai'at* to Ḥaḍrat 'Ali voluntarily. Even it is said that the rebels had brought them to swear allegiance by force. Therefore, due to their differences with Ḥaḍrat 'Ali, these two Companions had stood up against him. Later, when Ḥaḍrat *Talha* realized his error, he left the battlefield. He was then martyred by a savage man who came to Ḥaḍrat 'Ali seeking a reward. Ḥaḍrat 'Ali said that he had heard from the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) that a denizen of Hell would kill *Talha*, and so he gave this man the tidings of Hell.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that the accounts regarding Ḥaḍrat 'Ali would continue.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) at the end of Friday Sermon reiterated his appeal for prayer for Aḥmadīs in Algeria and Pakistan. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that the situation in Algeria is becoming more severe. A government lawyer is constantly prosecuting Aḥmadīs. Addressing the Aḥmadīs of Pakistan, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that they needed to realize the great need for prayers at this time. Much more attention needs to be given to prayers and supplications.

Afterwards, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) spoke about the sad demise of four members of the Jamā'at.

1. Dr. *Tahir Ahmad Sahib* of Rabwah, son of *Chaudhry Abdul Razzaq Sahib* (martyr), former *Amīr* of District Nawab shah, Pakistan, passed away on 4<sup>th</sup> December at the age of 60.
2. *Habibullah Mazhar Sahib*, son of *Chaudhry Allāh Ditta Sahib*, passed away on 24<sup>th</sup> October at the age of 75.
3. *Khalīfa Bashiruddin Ahmad Sahib*, son of Dr. *Khalīfa Taqiuddin Sahib*, passed away on 30<sup>th</sup> November at the age of 86.
4. *Amina Ahmad Sahiba*, wife of *Khalīfa Rafiuddin Ahmad Sahib*, passed away on 19<sup>th</sup> October.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) prayed that Allāh may have mercy upon all the deceased and grant them a lofty station in Heaven. *Amīn*.

Jazākumullāh.

Wassalām,

Dated: 22 December 2020