

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 25th December 2020 from Mubarak Mosque Islāmabad, Tilford, UK.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: In the previous sermon I was speaking about the martyrdom of *Ḥaḍrat ‘Uthmān* (May Allāh be pleased with him) and the conduct of the rebels. *Ḥaḍrat Musleh Mau‘ūd* (May Allāh be pleased with him) drew the Jamā‘at’s attention to a very important point regarding the role that *Ḥaḍrat ‘Ali* (May Allāh be pleased with him) played in these events. He said, “Since you are also like the Companions of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him), I would like to point out some factors that led to the downfall of the Muslims from the historical context. . . . You need to be vigilant and make proper arrangements for the proper education of those who are new in the Jamā‘at. The mischief at the time of *Ḥaḍrat ‘Uthmān* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was not created by the Companions but was instigated by those who had entered Islam afterwards and had not been blessed with the companionship of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him). Therefore, I urge you to visit Qādiān as much as you can so that your faith may continue to be renewed and you may increase in piety and fear of Allāh.”

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that in this age Allāh has blessed us with the medium of MTA. In addition to reading the books of the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him), it is very important for our training and education that we attach ourselves to MTA and particularly listen to the Friday sermons so that our relationship with Khilāfat continues to grow stronger.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The Battle of *Jamal* took place between *Ḥaḍrat ‘Ali* and *Ḥaḍrat Ayesha* (May Allāh be pleased with them) in 36 AH. *Ḥaḍrat Talha* and *Ḥaḍrat Zubair* sided with *Ḥaḍrat Ayesha*. This battle was called the Battle of *Jamal* because *Ḥaḍrat Ayesha* rode a camel in the battlefield. *Ḥaḍrat Musleh Mau‘ūd* (May Allāh be pleased with him) says that the people who martyred *Ḥaḍrat ‘Ali* (May Allāh be pleased with him) then went around trying to deflect the blame from themselves by accusing other people of having committed the murder. When *Ḥaḍrat ‘Ali* (May Allāh be pleased with him) accepted *Bai‘at* of the Muslims, the rebels had a great opportunity to blame him for the crime.

Ḥaḍrat Ayesha was returning from Hajj when she received the news of the martyrdom of *Ḥaḍrat ‘Uthmān* (May Allāh be pleased with him), the rebellion and the fact that *Ḥaḍrat ‘Ali* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was now the Khalīfa. Thus, instead of going to Medina, she returned to Mecca and appealed to the people to avenge the assassination of *Ḥaḍrat ‘Uthmān* (May Allāh be pleased with him). A large number of people left for *Basrah* under the command of *Ḥaḍrat Ayesha*, *Ḥaḍrat Talha* and *Ḥaḍrat Zubair*. On the

other side, Ḥaḍrat 'Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him) also started travelling towards *Basrah* where the two armies put up camp close to one another. Ḥaḍrat 'Ali sent an emissary who presented himself before Ḥaḍrat Ayesha and inquired about her intentions. Ḥaḍrat Ayesha said that she wanted rectification. The man then went to Ḥaḍrat *Talha* and Ḥaḍrat *Zubair* and they too stated that their goal was rectification. The emissary tried to explain to them that if rectification was indeed their objective, then this was not the right way to achieve it. He said that the situation at the moment was such that if one criminal was killed, a thousand people would stand up in support of him. In order to bring about true reform and rectification, the country must first be united and then the perpetrators be brought to justice. Both sides started to reconcile and the negotiations were successful. However, that night the group that had been involved in the assassination of Ḥaḍrat 'Uthmān (May Allāh be pleased with him) and had joined Ḥaḍrat 'Ali's (May Allāh be pleased with him) side attacked Ḥaḍrat Ayesha's army and fighting ensued. Ḥaḍrat 'Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him) understood that this war would not end as long as Ḥaḍrat Ayesha stayed on her camel. Therefore, upon his command, Ḥaḍrat Ayesha's camel was targeted. When it fell to the ground all the people on her side dispersed.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Ḥaḍrat *Zubair* had realised his error and left the battle earlier on when Ḥaḍrat 'Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him) had told him of a prophecy of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him). He had later been martyred by a ruffian while he was praying. Ḥaḍrat *Talha* had also pledged *Bai'at* to Ḥaḍrat 'Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him) before his death. When the battle ended, the body of Ḥaḍrat *Talha* was found among the slain. Ḥaḍrat 'Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him) expressed great sorrow for his martyrdom and cursed his killers. At the end of the battle, Ḥaḍrat 'Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him) arranged a ride and provisions for Ḥaḍrat Ayesha and personally came to see her off. Ḥaḍrat Ayesha said on this occasion: "O my sons! We have estranged each other through affliction and aggression. From now on, let no one transgress against one another on account of our differences. By God, there were no differences between me and 'Ali except the kind of differences that arise between a woman and her in-laws." Ḥaḍrat 'Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him) said: "O people! What Ayesha has said is good and true. She is the virtuous wife of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) in this world and in the hereafter."

The battle of *Siffin* between Ḥaḍrat 'Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him) and Ḥaḍrat *Amīr Mu'āwiyah* took place in 37 AH. *Siffin* is located between Syria and Iraq. When Ḥaḍrat 'Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him) arrived at *Kūfa* with his army, the Syrian army under the leadership of Ḥaḍrat *Amīr Mu'āwiyah* was already camped there. On the assurance of Ḥaḍrat 'Ali that he had not come to fight, Ḥaḍrat *Amīr Mu'āwiyah* agreed to come to a settlement. Ḥaḍrat *Amīr Mu'āwiyah* insisted that Ḥaḍrat 'Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him) hand over the killers of Ḥaḍrat 'Uthmān (May Allāh be pleased with him). Every possible effort was made by both sides to make peace but the battle formally broke out in Safar 37 AH. When the battle continued for some time without any side gaining the upper hand, Ḥaḍrat *Amīr Mu'āwiyah* started to lose morale. On this occasion, Ḥaḍrat 'Amr bin A'ās advised him to tie the copies of the Holy Qur'ān to the spears and announce that a decision should be reached

in accordance with the Book of Allāh. This was done but it led to a difference of opinion among the followers of Ḥaḍrat 'Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him).

The majority of Ḥaḍrat 'Ali's (May Allāh be pleased with him) army agreed to arbitration. For this purpose, Ḥaḍrat 'Amr bin A'ās was nominated by the Syrians and Ḥaḍrat Abu Mūsa al-Ash'ari was nominated by Ḥaḍrat 'Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him). This arbitration was regarding the assassination of Ḥaḍrat 'Uthmān (May Allāh be pleased with him) and the condition was that the verdict should be in accordance with the Holy Qur'ān. The arbitrators, after consultation, decided to remove both Ḥaḍrat 'Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him) and Ḥaḍrat Amīr Mu'āwiyah from their positions, even though this had not been their prerogative. In a public meeting, Ḥaḍrat Abu Mūsa first announced the removal of Ḥaḍrat 'Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him), and then Ḥaḍrat 'Amr bin A'ās stood up and said, "I agree with Abu Mūsa and I remove Ḥaḍrat 'Ali from Khilāfat, but I do not remove Mu'āwiyah from this position." Ḥaḍrat 'Amr bin A'ās was a righteous man and why he made this decision is a separate matter, but the decision was certainly wrong. Ḥaḍrat 'Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him) refused to accept this decision and said that the arbitration had not been set up for this purpose, nor was the decision based on any commandment of the Holy Qur'ān. The hypocritical rebels took full advantage of this situation and, after much debate and quarrelling, decided to recant their Bai'at to Ḥaḍrat 'Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him). They came to be called the *Kharijites*. They concocted the teaching that there can be no Khalīfa whose obedience is obligatory on all Muslims and that all decisions should be made based on the opinion of the majority of Muslims.

The *Kharijites* declared *Tahkīm* a sin and demanded repentance from Ḥaḍrat 'Ali and his removal from Khilāfat. This led to the battle of *Nahrawān* between Ḥaḍrat 'Ali and the *Kharijites* in 38 AH. The *Kharijites* gathered a group in *Basrah* and made 'Abdullah bin Wahb their leader. In their enmity to Ḥaḍrat 'Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him), they martyred Ḥaḍrat 'Abdullah bin Khabbāb, a Companion of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him), his pregnant wife, and Ḥaḍrat 'Ali's (May Allāh be pleased with him) ambassador. Under these circumstances, Ḥaḍrat 'Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him) abandoned his intention of going to Syria and decided to confront the *Kharijites* first. When the two armies came face to face, Ḥaḍrat 'Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him) offered peace to the *Kharijites*, whereupon, out of the army of four thousand, one hundred *Kharijites* joined Ḥaḍrat 'Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him) and a large number left the battle. Remaining *Kharijites* were killed in the battle. Ḥaḍrat 'Ali's (May Allāh be pleased with him) army consisted of 65,000 soldiers. According to some accounts, only seven were martyred.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said he would continue the account of Ḥaḍrat 'Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him) *Insha'Allāh*.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) once again called for prayers for the Aḥmadīs of Algeria and Pakistan.

In Algeria, by the grace of Allāh, many Aḥmadīs have been acquitted of false charges by various courts. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) stressed the need for the following prayers:

1. رَبِّ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ خَادِمُكَ رَبِّ فَاحْفَظْنِي وَانصُرْنِي وَارْحَمْنِي

2. اَللّٰهُمَّ اِنَّا نَجْعَلُكَ فِيْ نُحُوْرِهِمْ، وَنَعُوْذُ بِكَ مِنْ شُرُوْرِهِمْ

3. اِسْتِغْفَار

4. دُرُوْدِ شَرِيْف

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) informed the Jamā‘at about the sad demise of the following members of the Jamā‘at:

1. *Humda Abbas*, wife of *Abbas bin Abdul Qadir Shaheed* of Khairpur, Pakistan. She passed away on 20th December 2020. She was very pious, regular in offering her prayers, and was at the forefront of offering financial sacrifices. She is survived by three daughters and two sons.
2. *Rizwan Syed Naeemi Sahib* of Iraq who passed away on 13th October 2020.
3. *Malik Ali Mohammad* of Hajka District Sargodha, Pakistan. He passed away on 20th August 2020. He was regular in offering prayers and fasting, he was hospitable, looked after the poor, recited the Holy Qur‘ān regularly and taught many to recite it as well.
4. *Ehsan Ahmed Sahib*, son of *Shafqat Mahmood Sahib*, of Lahore. passed away on 27th October 2020 as a result of complications from the coronavirus. He served the Jamā‘at in various capacities.
5. *Riaz-ud-Din Shams Sahib*, son of *Maulana Jalaluddin Shams Sahib*. He had a great deal of love for Khilāfat. He is survived by two daughters and a son.

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: 30 December 2020