

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

The Amīr/National President
Jamā‘at Ahmadīyya,

.....

Dear Brother,

السلام علیکم ورحمة اللہ وبرکاتہ

Summary of the Friday Sermon delivered by *Ḥaḍrat Khalīfa-tul-Masīḥ V* (May Allāh be his Helper) on 11th March 2022 at Mubarak Mosque Islāmabad, Tilford, UK.

Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul Masīḥ V (May Allāh be his Helper) continued with the series of sermons regarding Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him).

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: I was speaking about the challenges faced by Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) after becoming Khalīfa. The first of these was the immense grief and sorrow he suffered over the demise of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him). It was a time when all the Companions were overcome with grief. Ḥaḍrat ‘*Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) even drew his sword and said, “Whoever says that the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) has passed away, I will sever his head from his body!” It was under these circumstances that Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) said, “O people! Whoever of you worshipped Muhammad, know that Muhammad has died. And whoever of you worshipped Allāh, rejoice that Allāh is alive and will never die!” Despite his great and unparalleled love for the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him), he only taught Oneness of Allāh and gave courage and solace to the Companions with great wisdom. The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says: He recited a verse of the Holy Qur’ān in an open gathering and thus put to rest the doubts of some of the Companions that the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) was still alive.

Another important achievement of Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was that he brought together and united all Muslims. The second great challenge that arose after the demise of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) was the gathering of *Ansār* at *Thaqifah Banu Sā’idah*, who were not ready to accept anyone from among Muhājirīn as Khalīfa. At this perilous hour, Allāh so blessed the speech of Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) that the discord and disunity at once turned into love and oneness.

The third important matter that Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) addressed was that of the departure of Ḥaḍrat *Usāma*’s army. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) had prepared this army to be sent to the border of Syria to combat the Byzantines. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) had given the command of this army to Ḥaḍrat *Usāma* and had given him detailed instructions in this regard. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) had also tied a flag for Ḥaḍrat *Usāma* with his own hands. Many eminent Companions, including Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* and Ḥaḍrat ‘*Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with them), were part of this army. When some people had objected that a ‘boy’ was being given command over eminent Companions, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) was greatly displeased. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) was on his deathbed when the army departed. After the Holy Prophet’s (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) demise, the army returned to Medina from *Jurf* on the way to Syria.

Once allegiance was pledged at the hands of Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him), he commanded that the mission that had been assigned to *Usāma* by the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) must be completed and not a single person from his army should remain in Medina. The army consisted of three thousand or, according to another account, seven hundred men.

While the Arab tribes were starting to apostatize after the demise of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him), the Jews and Christians were also raising their heads and watching the situation. In view of all this, Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was advised to stop the departure of the army, but he said, "By Him in whose hands is my life, if I know that beasts would eat my flesh, I would implement the command of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) regarding *Usāma's* army."

Ḥaḍrat *Musleh Mau'ūd* (May Allāh be pleased with him) says in the context of the departure of *Usāma's* army that Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) said, "Do you wish that the first command issued by the son of *Abu Quhafah* after the demise of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) should be to stop the army prepared by the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him)? By God, even if the enemy armies enter Medina and jackals drag the corpses of Muslim women, I will not stop the army whose departure had been ordered by the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him)." Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) found such bravery and courage because Allāh says in the Holy Qur'ān:

مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ وَالَّذِينَ مَعَهُ أَشِدَّاءُ عَلَى الْكُفَّارِ

Muhammad is the Messenger of Allāh. And those who are with him are hard against the disbelievers. (48:30)

Even an ordinary wire, when it comes into contact with electricity, gains extraordinary power; in the same way, the people who established a bond with the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) became the fulfilment of the above verse.

The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says in his book *Sirrul Khilafah*: "When the news of the demise of the Messenger of Allāh (May Allāh's blessings be upon him), reached Mecca, its Governor, *Attāb bin Asīd*, went into hiding and Mecca was shaken to the core, and it seemed imminent that its people would renounce Islām." In these circumstances, the people asked Ḥaḍrat *Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) to convince Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) not to send the army, or at least appoint some older person as its commander. When Ḥaḍrat *Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) conveyed this, Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) held him by the beard and said: "O son of *Khattāb*! May your mother be bereaved of you! The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) appointed him as the commander of the army, and you ask me to remove him from his position?"

Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) also addressed the army at the time of its departure and said: I advise you to be mindful of ten things: do not be dishonest, do not steal from the spoils of war, do not break any covenant, do not mutilate the dead, do not kill children or the elderly or women, do not cut down date palm trees or burn them, do not cut down fruit trees, do not slaughter a goat, cow or camel, except for food. You will come across people who have dedicated their lives to the church, so let them be. People will offer you all kinds of food; you should eat them after invoking the name of Allāh. When you meet certain people who have shaved their head from the middle, you ought to use your swords to deal with them. These were the people who would incite the people to wage war against the Muslims and

would also take part in the war. Thereafter, Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) said to *Usāma*, “Follow all the instructions that the Messenger of Allāh gave you.”

The army set out towards the end of *Rabi'-ul-Awwal*, 11 A.H and, after travelling for 20 nights, reached the people of *Ubna*, launched a surprise attack. When the army returned to Medina with the spoils of war, Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) along with *Muhājirīn* and the people of Medina came out to welcome them.

The sending of *Usāma*'s army had far-reaching effects and everyone realized that decision of the Khalīfa had been timely and fruitful. Secondly, it not only established the authority of the Muslims over the Arab tribes but also overawed the non-Arabs who were keenly watching the situation from across the borders.

Sir Thomas Walker Arnold, a famous British orientalist, writes that *Usāma*'s was the first among the great expeditions through which the Muslims conquered Syria and North Africa, brought an end to the ancient Persian empire, and snatched from the Byzantines their most prized provinces.

Another challenge that Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) had to face was the disorder created by those who refused to pay *Zakāt*. Among the several forms of this challenge, one was that some people remained Muslims but denied the obligation of *Zakāt* and refused to give it to the Khalīfa. After consultations with eminent Companions, Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) said, “By God, if those who oppose *Zakāt* refuse to give me so much as a rope which they used to give during the time of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him), I will wage war against them.”

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that he would continue with these accounts in future.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Today, I would again like to say something about the current situation of the world. May Allāh give guidance and wisdom to the governments on both sides so that they desist from shedding human blood. The Muslims, too, should learn from how these nations have all united. May Allāh have mercy on the Muslims and enable them to accept the Imam of the age.

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) spoke about *Syeda Qaisara Zafar Hashmi Sahiba*, wife of *Zafar Iqbal Hashmi Sahib*, of Lahore, who passed away recently. She was regular in fasting and offering prayers, and a very devoted, kind, hospitable, patient, grateful, and pious woman. One of her sons, *Mahmood Iqbal Hashmi Sahib* is currently a prisoner in the way of Allāh at Camp Jail in Lahore. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) prayed that Allāh may forgive the deceased and grant her a lofty station in heaven. *Amīn*.

Jazākumullāh

Wassalām,

Abdul Majid Tahir

Additional Wakīlut Tabshīr

ISLĀMABAD (UK)

Dated: 17 March 2022