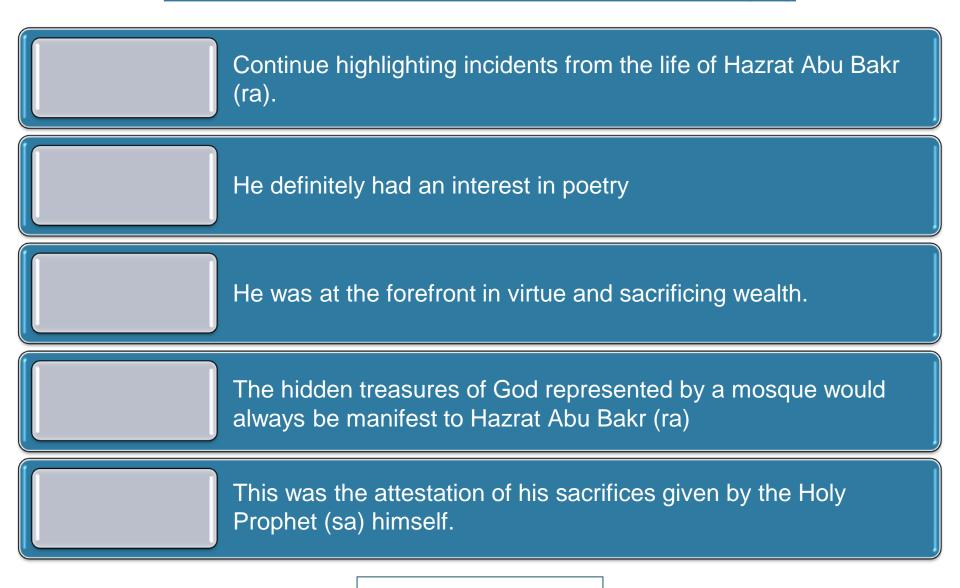


Sermon Delivered by Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba); Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community





His Holiness, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba) said that he would continue highlighting incidents from the life of Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra).

Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) was proficient in the knowledge of the history of Arab lineages, particularly those of the Quraish. He had the utmost knowledge on the subject. He knew both the positives and negatives of lineages, however he would not mention the negative aspects.

It is recorded that although Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) would not be considered a poet, he definitely had an interest in poetry. There are some who assert that there is a compilation of poetry written by Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) which can be found in Turkey.

The Holy Prophet (sa) said that God had given a person the choice between that which is in this world and that which is with Him and the person chose that which was with God. Upon this, Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) began crying, which confused some people as it seemed to them that the Holy Prophet (sa) was speaking generally about a person.

They would later realise that Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) understood this to be the Holy Prophet (sa). The Holy Prophet (sa) told Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) not to cry for he was at the forefront in virtue and sacrificing wealth. He said that if he could have a Khalil (close friend) then it would have been Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra), however the brotherhood of Islam is greater.

His Holiness (aba) said that Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) also had great perception and understanding of the Holy Qur'an.

For example, when the verse 'This day I have perfected your religion for you and completed My favour upon you.' (5:4) Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) began crying, for he felt that this meant the demise of the Holy Prophet (sa) was near.

The Promised Messiah (as) explains the Hadith in which the Holy Prophet (sa) said that all windows except that of Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) should be closed meant that the hidden treasures of God represented by a mosque would always be manifest to Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra). This did not mean that this door was closed for others, however it was open the most for Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra).

Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) also had great proficiency in the interpretation of dreams and he would interpret dreams during the time of the Holy Prophet (sa).

Once, a man went to the Holy Prophet (sa) and said that he saw a dream in which there was a cloud from which oil and honey fell and people were benefiting from it. He then saw a rope hanging from the heavens which the Holy Prophet (sa) took hold of in the dream and went up to the heavens and then two more people ascended the same way. A third person took hold of the rope but it broke apart, after which it was mended, and then he too ascended using the same rope.

After hearing this dream, Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) asked the Holy Prophet (sa) for permission to interpret it, which the Holy Prophet (sa) allowed.

Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) said that the cloud was Islam & the oil and honey that fell from it was the Qur'an. People benefitting from these things referred to those attaining knowledge of the Holy Qur'an. The rope going to the heavens...

...represented the truth upon which the Holy Prophet (sa) was established & taking a hold of it elevated the Holy Prophet (sa). Then there would be those after him established on the same truth then a third for whom it would be broken...

...& then mended.The Holy Prophet (sa) said that Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) was correct in some aspects mistaken in others with regards to his interpretation. The Holy Prophet (sa) did not deem it necessary to elaborate further at that time.

The Holy Prophet (sa) saw a dream in which he was with Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) at an elevation and the Holy Prophet (sa) was two and a half steps ahead of Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra). Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) interpreted this to mean that God would call the Holy Prophet (sa) unto HImself and that Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) would remain alive for two and a half years after that, and this is exactly what happened.

His Holiness (aba) siad that with regards to the first among men to accept Islam, it is recorded that it was Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra).

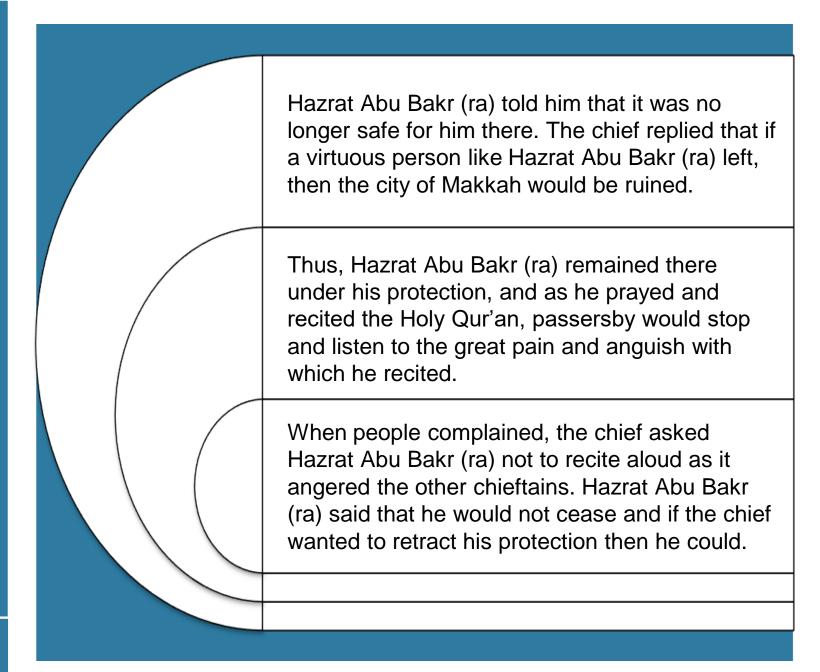
He was honoured among the Quraish, yet he did not hesitate in the slightest upon hearing the Holy Prophet's (sa) claim and accepted right away. In fact, he sacrificed all he had for the sake of the Holy Prophet (sa).

The Holy Prophet (sa) recognised the immense sacrifices made by Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) at the outset of Islam. The sacrifices made at the beginning by Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) were incomparable, even though those who came after also made great sacrifices, such as Hazrat Umar (ra). Once, when there...

...was a dispute between Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) and Hazrat Umar (ra), the Holy Prophet (sa) said that when people did not accept Islam, Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) did, and when people opposed Islam, Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) helped Islam, so then why was he being caused pain?...

...This was the attestation of his sacrifices given by the Holy Prophet (sa) himself.

Once, when Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) was leaving Makkah, a chief asked him where he was going.



His Holiness (aba) said that Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) was very kind to his children. Although his eldest son lived separately, Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) would tend to his household expenses.

His daughter
Hazrat Asma (ra)
was living under
straitened
circumstances
and did not have
a worker in her
home, ...

...thus she had to do much of the laborious work herself. Upon learning of this, Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) sent a worker to her home, a gesture which she said was a huge relief for her.