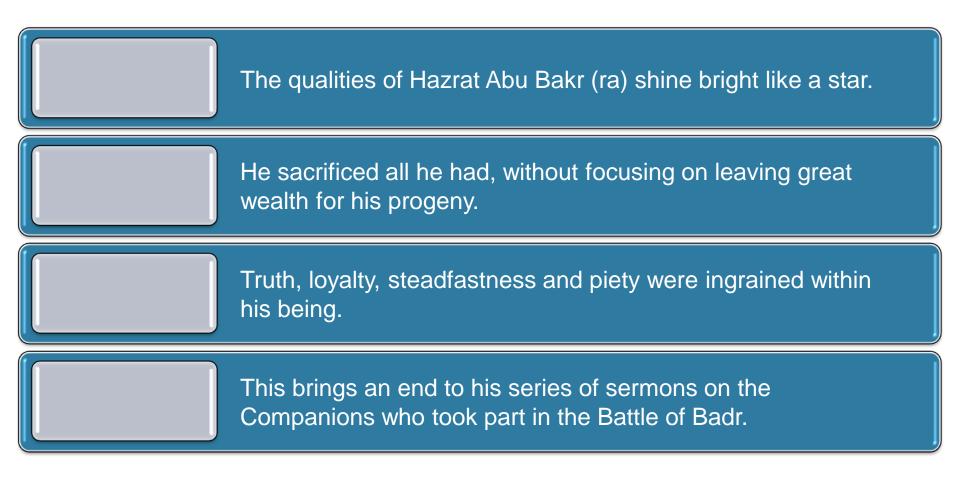


Sermon Delivered by Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba); Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community





His Holiness (aba) quoted the Promised Messiah (as) who said that Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) and Hazrat Umar (ra) were leaders of the caravan which climbed great heights for the sake of God and they invited people far and wide to Islam. Both their eras of Caliphate saw great victories and feats. Both faced dissension and threats, however it was due to the truthfulness of Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) that God helped Islam through such turbulent times. The same God who helped the Holy Prophet (sa) helped Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra). The qualities of Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) shine bright like a star. Those who deny the greatness of Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) are liars.

His Holiness (aba) further quoted the Promised Messiah (as) who said that the person of Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) was a cumulation of fear of God, love and complete devotion to God. He was at the pinnacle of truthfulness and piety. He sacrificed all he had, without focusing on leaving great wealth for his progeny.

His nature was closest to that of the Holy Prophet (sa). In fact, he possessed various qualities similar to those possessed by other prophets. We do not find direct mention of any Companion in the Holy Qur'an with certainty, other than Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra).

His Holiness (aba) further quoted the Promised Messiah (as) that Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) was so closely attached to the Holy Prophet (sa) and emulated him so closely that no swords could separate them. Truth, loyalty, steadfastness and piety were ingrained within his being.

His Holiness (aba) further quoted the Promised Messiah (as) who said that there was no Companion other than Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) who was given the title of Siddiq – the Truthful.

It is recorded that upon the demise of Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra), he was carried on the same cot as the Holy Prophet (sa), and he was buried beside the Holy Prophet (sa), such that his head was aligned with the Holy Prophet's (sa) shoulders.

There was none closer to the Holy Prophet (sa) than Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra); he was with the Holy Prophet (sa) in the cave and he is with him now by being beside his grave. Thus, one must recognise and understand the rank of Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra), because had it not been for him, then it might have been that Islam would be eradicated.

The fact that the Holy Prophet (sa) chose Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) to be his closest companion and to accompany him especially in the most difficult of circumstances is a great stamp and testament to Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) as Siddig.

A prophet looks through the lens of guidance received from God, and so it was God who made clear to the Holy Prophet (sa) that the best Companion to accompany the Holy Prophet (sa) was Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra), and so it was he who remained by the Holy Prophet (sa) even as they were in the Cave of Thaur. It was there that the Holy Prophet (sa) told him, 'fear not, for God is with us', including both of them in 'us'. This was the trust he had in God.

It was the same confidence instilled in Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) that enabled him to stand before the Muslims after the demise of the Holy Prophet (sa) and assure them that Muhammad (sa) was not but a messenger and all messengers before him had also passed away.

The Promised Messiah (as) said that if one asks why it was Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) who was chosen by God to initiate the institution of Caliphate,

then they should know that Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) was the one to accept the Holy Prophet (sa) when he was alone and remained beside him when he was forced out of his own home amidst taunt and torture.

