

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

The Amīr/National President  
Jamā‘at Ahmadiyya,

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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 16<sup>th</sup> August 2019 at Baitul Futūh Mosque, London.**

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Today, I will continue with the accounts of the lives of the Companions of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) who participated in the battle of *Badr*. First of them about whom I will speak today is;

**Ḥaḍrat *Qatadah bin Nu’mān Ansāri* (May Allāh be pleased with him):**

He belonged to *Banu Zafar* clan of *Ansār’s* tribe *Khazraj*. His father’s name was *Nu’mān bin Zaid* and his mother was *Unaisah bint Qais*. Ḥaḍrat *Qatadah* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was known by the epithet *Abu Umar* as well as *Abu ‘Amr* and *Abu Abdullah*. Ḥaḍrat *Qatadah* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was half-brother of Ḥaḍrat *Abu Saeed Khudri* (May Allāh be pleased with him) and shared the same mother. Ḥaḍrat *Qatadah* (May Allāh be pleased with him) had the honour of participating in the *Bai‘at-e-Aqabah* along with 70 *Ansāri* Companions. However, *Allama Ibn-e-Ishāq* has not mentioned him among those. Ḥaḍrat *Qatadah* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was one of the archers appointed by the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him). He accompanied the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) in all the battles including *Badr*, *Uhud* and *Khandaq*.

During the battle of *Uhud*, Ḥaḍrat *Qatadah* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was struck by an arrow which caused his eye ball to fall out of its socket. Detailing this incident, Ḥaḍrat *Qatadah* (May Allāh be pleased with him) relates: The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) had been given a bow as a gift and the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) gave it to me on the day of *Uhud*. I stood in front of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) and continued to shoot arrows with this bow until its string broke. Even then I remained there protecting the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him). (Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: A similar incident is attributed to Ḥaḍrat *Talha* (May Allāh be pleased with him), but this one relates to Ḥaḍrat *Qatadah*). Whenever an arrow came towards the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him), I would move my head towards it so that I could be a shield for the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him). I did not have more arrows that I could shoot. Then an arrow hit my eye ball causing it to fall out of its socket. I came to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him), and when he saw me tears came into his eyes. He said, “O Allāh, *Qatadah* has saved the face of Your Prophet with his face. Pray, make this eye more beautiful and more sharp.” Ḥaḍrat *Qatadah* (May Allāh be pleased with him) says, Thereafter that eye of mine was more beautiful than the other and had better vision. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) took the eye ball and

placed it back in the socket and his vision was restored. Thereafter Ḥaḍrat *Qatadah* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was known as *Zul-'Ain* (possessor of the eye).

On the occasion of the Conquest of Mecca, Ḥaḍrat *Qatadah* (May Allāh be pleased with him) held the flag for the tribe of *Banu Zafar*. He passed away in 23 AH at the age of sixty-five. Ḥaḍrat *Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) led his funeral prayer in Medina.

Ḥaḍrat *Qatadah* (May Allāh be pleased with him) had a grandson *Asim bin Umar* who was an expert in genealogy and has been widely cited by *Allama Ibn-e-Ishāq*. According to one narrative, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) possessed a bow that was named *Kutūm* and had been carved out of a *naba'* tree. It was broken on the day of *Uhud* after being excessively used by Ḥaḍrat *Qatadah* (May Allāh be pleased with him).

It is related that once Ḥaḍrat *Qatadah* (May Allāh be pleased with him) spent the whole night reciting *Surah Al-Ikhlās*. When this was mentioned before the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him), he said, "By the One in whose hand is my life, *Surah Al-Ikhlās* is equal to half or a third of the Holy Qur'ān."

Ḥaḍrat *Abu Salmah* (May Allāh be pleased with him) relates: Ḥaḍrat *Abu Hurairah* (May Allāh be pleased with him) related to us that the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) said: On Friday there comes a moment, which, if a Muslim finds it in a state of prayer or seeking good from Allāh, Allāh definitely grants his prayer. Ḥaḍrat *Abu Hurairah* (May Allāh be pleased with him) signalled with his finger that this moment was extremely short. After the demise of Ḥaḍrat *Abu Hurairah* (May Allāh be pleased with him), Ḥaḍrat *Abu Salmah* (May Allāh be pleased with him) decided to go to Ḥaḍrat *Abu Saeed Khudri* (May Allāh be pleased with him) to learn about this special moment. When he went to Ḥaḍrat *Abu Saeed Khudri* (May Allāh be pleased with him) he saw him putting some sticks in order. Upon query, Ḥaḍrat *Abu Saeed* (May Allāh be pleased with him) said that these are the sticks in which Allāh has placed blessings for us. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) liked them and would take one in his hand as he walked. We used to make them straight and bring them to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him). One day the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) saw that some had spit in the mosque. He had one of these sticks with him at the time and as he cleaned the spit with it he then said, "When one is in prayer, he should not spit in front, for in front of him is his Lord." *Huzoor* (May Allāh be his Helper) said: I think the commandment in this regard was not complete at that time. According to above mentioned account, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) said that you can spit to the left or under your feet. The floor of mosque were made of mud at that time and could be cleaned afterwards by putting soil on it. But according to the more precise accounts, spit or mucus should be cleaned with the corner of one's mantle. These days it means we can use handkerchiefs or tissue papers for this purpose. Mosques these days have carpets but it doesn't mean you are allowed to spit on them, rather this was a permission granted for those specific circumstances. Afterwards, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) made clear that in such a necessity one can clean spit with the end of one's mantle.

The narrator continues saying that it rained heavily that night. When the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) came for the '*Ishā*' prayer, there was suddenly a flash of lightening and the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) saw Ḥaḍrat *Qatadah bin Nu'mān* (May Allāh be pleased with him) in the mosque. He asked what he was doing at that time? Ḥaḍrat *Qatadah* (May Allāh be pleased with him) replied that he knew there would be few people attending the prayer on account of the rain and lightning, so he had decided to come to the mosque early to join the prayer. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) said, after the prayer stay here until I get up to leave. After the prayer, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) gave him a stick and said, "Take this. It will lighten your path ten steps ahead and ten steps behind. When you enter your house and you see a human shadow, hit it with the stick before it speaks, for it will be Satan." Thus, Ḥaḍrat *Qatadah* (May Allāh be pleased with him) did likewise. Ḥaḍrat *Abu Saeed* (May Allāh be pleased with him) said, We loved these sticks because the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) gave them to us. We would carve them out and give them to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) and then he would return them to us after he had used them. There are many blessings associated with these sticks.

Ḥaḍrat *Abu Salmah* (May Allāh be pleased with him) asked him: O *Abu Saeed* Ḥaḍrat *Abu Hurairah* (May Allāh be pleased with them) told us about a moment that comes on Friday in which every prayer is accepted. When he asked the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) about this special moment, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) said that he had been told that of the exact moment but had been made to forget it, just as in the case of the *Lailatul-Qadr*.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: There are various accounts regarding this moment that comes on Friday. What is known is that it comes on Friday. Secondly, it comes towards the latter part of the day. Thirdly, it comes after *Asr* prayer. Ḥaḍrat *Musleh Mau'ūd* (May Allāh be pleased with him) says: There is a similarity between Ramadān and Friday, which is to say that both Ramadān and Friday are times of acceptance of prayer. With regard to Friday, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) says that if a person comes to the mosque for prayer and sits silently and remembers God and waits for the *Imām*, and then listens to the sermon and joins the prayer in congregations, such a person is especially blessed. And there comes a moment on the day of Friday when any prayer a person offers is accepted. Ḥaḍrat *Musleh Mau'ūd* (May Allāh be pleased with him) says that it is obvious that the prayers that are accepted have to be in keeping with Divine practice and laws of nature; frivolous prayers are not accepted. This may be a great blessing but it is not easy. The time of Friday prayer starts with or shortly before the second *Azān* and ends when the *Jumu'a* prayer is finished. Even if the sermon is short, this can take up to half an hour. And if the sermon is long, it can take an hour or an hour and a half. During this time comes the moment when any prayer a person offers is accepted. But during this 90 minute period a person does not know whether the moment comes in the first minute or the second minute or the third. Right to the 90<sup>th</sup> minute, one can't say when the moment will come. Therefore, only such a person will find that moment who spends the whole 90 minutes constantly attentive in prayer, which is not easy and not something everyone can do.

Ḥaḍrat *Musleh Mau'ūd* (May Allāh be pleased with him) says: Some people can't keep their concentration even for five minutes. For example, I came for this prayer and looked around and saw that people who were offering *Sunnah* prayer, which barely takes a couple of minutes, can't keep their concentration even for that long and keep looking to the right or left or up or down. When it is so difficult to keep concentration for a few minutes, how hard then would it be to remain engrossed in the remembrance of Allāh for 90 minutes. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The real aim then is to remain engrossed in prayer and, as Ḥaḍrat *Musleh Mau'ūd* (May Allāh be pleased with him) says, it is not easy. It takes a great deal of effort to reap the blessings of *Jumu'a*.

**Ḥaḍrat *Abdullah bin Maz'ūn* (May Allāh be pleased with him):**

He belonged to *Banu Jumah* tribe of *Quraish*. His mother was *Sukhailah bint 'Anbas*. Ḥaḍrat *Abdullah bin Maz'ūn*, Ḥaḍrat *Uthmān bin Maz'ūn*, Ḥaḍrat *Qudamah bin Maz'ūn*, and Ḥaḍrat *Saib bin Maz'ūn* (May Allāh be pleased with them) were brothers and were maternal uncles of Ḥaḍrat *Abdullah bin Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him), as Ḥaḍrat *Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was married to their sister *Zainab bint Maz'ūn*. *Yazīd bin Rūmān* relates that Ḥaḍrat *Abdullah bin Maz'ūn* and Ḥaḍrat *Qudamah bin Maz'ūn* (May Allāh be pleased with them) accepted Islām prior to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) preaching Islām from *Dar-e-Arqam*. Ḥaḍrat *Abdullah bin Maz'ūn* (May Allāh be pleased with him) and his three brothers were part of the group that migrated to Abyssinia but later returned when they heard the rumour that *Quraish* had accepted Islām.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: It is clear that he came back from the first migration to Abyssinia, but it is not clear whether he returned to Abyssinia or directly migrated to Medina. Upon his migration to Medina, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) established a bond of brotherhood between Ḥaḍrat *Abdullah bin Maz'ūn* and Ḥaḍrat *Sahl bin Ubaidullah Ansāri* (May Allāh be pleased with them). According to another account his bond was established with Ḥaḍrat *Qutbah bin Amir* (May Allāh be pleased with him). Ḥaḍrat *Abdullah bin Maz'ūn* (May Allāh be pleased with him) took part in the Battle of *Badr* with his three brothers. He also took part in all other battles alongside the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him), including *Uhud* and *Khandaq*. Ḥaḍrat *Abdullah bin Maz'ūn* (May Allāh be pleased with him) passed away in 30AH during the Khilāfat of Ḥaḍrat *Uthmān* (May Allāh be pleased with him) at the age of 60. May God Almighty continue to elevate the spiritual status of these Companions. *Amīn*.

Please convey these guidelines given by Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) to the members of your *Jamā'at*.

Jazākumullāh.

Wassalām,

(Ch. Hameedullah)

Wakīl A'lā,

Tahrīk Jadīd Anjuman Ahmadiyya Pakistan.

Dated: 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2019