

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 22nd November 2019 from Baitul Futūh Mosque, London.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Today, I will narrate the account of Ḥaḍrat *Miqdād bin Aswad* (May Allāh be pleased with him). His father’s name was ‘*Amr bin Tha’labah*, but he is known by *Miqdād bin Aswad* on account of *Aswad bin Yaghūth* who had adopted him in his childhood. His father ‘*Amr bin Tha’labah* belonged to the *Bahrā’* branch of *Quzā’* tribe of Yemen. In the pre-Islamic era, ‘*Amr* killed a person and then fled to *Hadhar Maut* and became a confederate of *Qindah* tribe and thus came to be called *Qindi*. There he got married and Ḥaḍrat *Miqdād* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was born of the wedlock. When Ḥaḍrat *Miqdād* (May Allāh be pleased with him) came of age, he had a quarrel with *Abu Shimar bin Hajar Qindi* and cut off his leg with his sword. He then escaped to Mecca and became a confederate of *Aswad bin Abd-e-Yaghūth*. Ḥaḍrat *Miqdād* (May Allāh be pleased with him) wrote a letter to his father upon which he also moved to Mecca. *Aswad* adopted Ḥaḍrat *Miqdād* (May Allāh be pleased with him) and, on this account, Ḥaḍrat *Miqdād* (May Allāh be pleased with him) came to be called *Miqdād bin Aswad*. But when the following verse was revealed, he again came to be called *Miqdād bin ‘Amr* but continued to be known as *Miqdād bin Aswad*.

أَدْعُوهُمْ لِأَبَائِهِمْ

“Call them by the names of their fathers” [33:6]

Ḥaḍrat *Miqdād* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was known by the epithets *Abu Ma’abad*, *Abu Aswad*, *Abu ‘Amr*, and *Abu Saeed*. It is said that once Ḥaḍrat *Abdur-Rahmān bin Auf* (May Allāh be pleased with him) asked Ḥaḍrat *Miqdād* (May Allāh be pleased with him) why he did not marry. Ḥaḍrat *Miqdād* (May Allāh be pleased with him) said, “If you are concerned, then give me your daughter in marriage.” Ḥaḍrat *Abdur Rahmān* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was infuriated by this remark and rebuked him. When Ḥaḍrat *Miqdād* (May Allāh be pleased with him) complained to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him), the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) said, “I will arrange your marriage.” Then the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) arranged for him to marry *Zuba’ah*, the daughter of his uncle Ḥaḍrat *Zubair bin Abdul Muttalib* (May Allāh be pleased with him). From this marriage Ḥaḍrat *Miqdād* (May Allāh be pleased with him) had two children, *Karima* and *Abdullah*. *Abdullah* was martyred

in the Battle of *Jamal* while fighting on the side of Ḥaḍrat *Aysha* (May Allāh be pleased with her). The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) gave *Zuba'ah* about 600 kilograms of dates after the battle of *Khaybar*. Ḥaḍrat *Miqdād* (May Allāh be pleased with him) also had a son named *Ma'abad*.

Karima described her father as tall, with fair complexion, large belly, thick hair, a beautiful beard that he would colour with henna, dark eyes and thin eyebrows.

Ḥaḍrat *Abdullah bin Mas'ūd* (May Allāh be pleased with him) relates: Ḥaḍrat *Miqdād* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was among the first seven Companions who openly professed to Islām in Mecca. He also migrated to Abyssinia but returned after a short while. He was unable to migrate to Medina at the time when the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) migrated. He remained in Mecca until the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) sent an army under the leadership of Ḥaḍrat *'Ubaidah bin Harith* (May Allāh be pleased with him). Ḥaḍrat *Miqdād* and Ḥaḍrat *'Utbah bin Ghazwān* (May Allāh be pleased with them) joined the army under the command of *'Ikramah bin Abu Jahl* (May Allāh be pleased with him) with the intention of joining the Muslims as soon as they had the opportunity. They were both Muslims at heart but had not migrated for fear of *Quraish*.

Ḥaḍrat *Miqdād* (May Allāh be pleased with him) accompanied the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) in all the battles, including *Badr*, *Uhud* and *Khandaq*. He is said to be one of the Holy Prophet's (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) archers. Ḥaḍrat *Abdullah bin Mas'ūd* (May Allāh be pleased with him) relates that on the occasion of the Battle of *Badr* he witnessed a sight that he thought was more precious than virtues of a whole lifetime. Ḥaḍrat *Miqdād* (May Allāh be pleased with him) came to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) and said, "O Messenger of Allāh, we shall not say what the people of Moses said to him, that is, 'Go thou and thy Lord and fight.' No! Indeed, we shall fight on your right and on your left, in front of you and behind you." These words of *Miqdād* so pleased the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) that I saw his face shine with delight.

It is also narrated that Ḥaḍrat *Miqdād* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was the first to fight in the way of Allāh riding a horse, it was during the battle of *Badr*.

It is reported that once when the Holy Prophet's (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) camels were grazing outside Medina and were been herded by a man from *Banu Ghaffār* tribe along with his wife, they were attacked by some horsemen led by *'Uyainah bin Hisn* who killed the herder and took away the camels and the herder's wife. Ḥaḍrat *Salamah bin Akwa'a* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was the first to learn of this and he followed the attackers. When he reached *Thaniatul Wadā'a*, he saw *'Uyainah* and his men. He then went on top of a hill near Medina and called out for help before going after the attackers. Hearing the call, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) summoned men to go out after the enemy. At once horsemen started presenting themselves at the service of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him), and the first of these was Ḥaḍrat *Miqdād* (May Allāh be pleased with him).

Ḥaḍrat *Miqdād* (May Allāh be pleased with him) participated in the Battle of *Yarmūk* and in this battle he was the *Qāri* [reciter of the Qur'ān]. After the Battle of *Badr*,

the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) established the practice that *Surah Al-Anfāl* would be recited at every battle. This practice was continued even after the Holy Prophet's (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) demise.

On one occasion, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) sent an expedition and made Ḥaḍrat *Miqdād* (May Allāh be pleased with him) its Amīr. When he returned, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) asked *Miqdād* (May Allāh be pleased with him) how he had experienced being an Amīr. Ḥaḍrat *Miqdād* (May Allāh be pleased with him) replied, "O Messenger of Allāh! When I set out, I felt like everyone was my slave." The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) said, "O *Abu Ma'abad*; Such is leadership, unless Allāh saves one from its evil." Upon this, Ḥaḍrat *Miqdād* (May Allāh be pleased with him) said he would not want to be made guardian, even over two men.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Such were the standards of righteousness (*taqwa*) of these men that they did not want to become leaders over men as it might cause them to become conceited. Our office-bearers should also bear this in mind. They should not desire to hold an office, and if they are appointed to an office they should pray to be saved from its evils so that they do not become arrogant and should seek Allāh's blessings.

Ḥaḍrat *Miqdād* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was heavy due to overweight, but would still take part in Jihād. Once someone commented to him that being so overweight Allāh had exempted him from Jihād. Ḥaḍrat *Miqdād* (May Allāh be pleased with him) replied that it is written in *Surah Al-Taubah*:

إِنْفِرُوا خِفَافًا وَثِقَالًا

"Go forth, light and heavy." [9:41]

Ḥaḍrat *Miqdād* (May Allāh be pleased with him) had a large belly and once his Roman slave said that he could operate him and remove the extra fat. This procedure was undertaken but Ḥaḍrat *Miqdād* (May Allāh be pleased with him) could not recover from it and died as a result of it. Seeing this, the slave escaped. According to another account, Ḥaḍrat *Miqdād* (May Allāh be pleased with him) died as a result of drinking castor oil.

Ḥaḍrat *Miqdād's* (May Allāh be pleased with him) daughter *Karima* relates that he died at *Jurf*, which is situated three miles from Medina, and people carried his body on their shoulders and brought it back to Medina. Ḥaḍrat *'Uthmān* (May Allāh be pleased with him) led his funeral prayer and he was then buried in *Jannat-ul-Baqī'i*. Ḥaḍrat *Miqdād* (May Allāh be pleased with him) passed away in 33 AH at the age of 70.

Jubair bin Nufair relates: One day we were sitting with Ḥaḍrat *Miqdād* (May Allāh be pleased with him) when a man came and said, "How blessed are the eyes that beheld the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him), By God; we wish we could have seen what you have seen." Ḥaḍrat *Miqdād* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was visibly displeased to hear this. Someone asked why he was displeased by this apparently good remark? Ḥaḍrat *Miqdād* (May Allāh be pleased with him) said,

How can he want to be present in that age, which Allāh has caused to be hidden? Who knows what this man would have done if he had been present during the life of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him)? By God, there were people who witnessed the time of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) and yet they were cast in hell for they did not accept him. How do we know whether this man would have accepted him or rejected him? Ḥaḍrat *Miqdād* (May Allāh be pleased with him) said: Why do you not praise Allāh that He caused you to be born at a time when you could recognize your Lord, do not do any kind of idolatry, recognize His Prophet and testify to the law brought by him, and that Allāh has saved you from trials and tribulations through others. By God, Allāh sent the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) at the time of ignorance after a long and terrible period wherein Divine revelation remained on hold and people started worshipping idols and holding them to be superior over everything else. At such a time the Prophet came with *Furqān* (the one who makes Distinction), which clearly distinguished between truth and falsehood, and between fathers and sons, so much so that a man would consider his son or brother to be an unbeliever whereas Allāh had opened his heart to the faith. He knew that if his brother died in disbelief he would go to hell and was agonized to think that the person he loved would come to such an end. This is why those who accepted Islām were worried about their relatives who had not accepted. Hence Allāh taught us to pray:

وَالَّذِينَ يَقُولُونَ رَبَّنَا هَبْ لَنَا مِنْ أَزْوَاجِنَا وَذُرِّيَّاتِنَا قُرَّةَ أَعْيُنٍ وَاجْعَلْنَا لِلْمُتَّقِينَ إِمَامًا

And those who say, ‘Our Lord, grant us of our spouses and children the delight of our eyes and make each of us a leader of the righteous. [25:75]

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: We should regularly offer this prayer so that our future generation may continue to be firm in their faith. And we should be grateful to Allāh for His blessing upon us.

Ḥaḍrat *Anas* (May Allāh be pleased with him) relates that the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) once heard someone reciting the Holy Qur’ān in a loud voice and said, “This person has the fear of Allāh in him.” This person was in fact Ḥaḍrat *Miqdād bin ‘Amr* (May Allāh be pleased with him).

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: May Allāh grant us the true understanding of Islām and fulfil our obligations as part of the Holy Prophet’s (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) ummah and inculcate the love and fear of Allāh in our hearts. *Amīn*.

Wassalām,

(Ch. Hameedullah)

Wakīl A‘lā,

Tahrīk Jadīd Anjuman Ahmadīyya Pakistan.

Dated: 28 November 2019