

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 20th December 2019 from Mubarak Mosque Islamabad, Tilford, UK.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: In the last Friday Sermon, I spoke about Ḥaḍrat *‘Utbah bin Ghazwān* (May Allāh be pleased with him) and today I will relate more about him. In 2 AH, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) sent an expedition to *Nakhlah* under the leadership of Ḥaḍrat *‘Abdullah bin Jahsh* (May Allāh be pleased with him), his paternal cousin. Ḥaḍrat *‘Utbah* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was part of this expedition. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) read a detailed account of this expedition from *Seerat Khatam un Nabiyyīn* by Ḥaḍrat *Mirza Bashīr Ahmad Sahib* (May Allāh be pleased with him) and said that every incident regarding these Companions who, were ardent lovers of Islām, testifies to their bravery and utmost devotion. Ḥaḍrat *‘Utbah bin Ghazwān* (May Allāh be pleased with him) had the honour of accompanying the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) in all the battles, including *Badr*. His two freed slaves *Khabbāb* and *Sa’ad* also participated in the battle of *Badr*. Ḥaḍrat *‘Utbah bin Ghazwān* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was among the Holy Prophet’s (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) elite archers.

Ḥaḍrat *‘Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) sent Ḥaḍrat *‘Utbah* (May Allāh be pleased with him) towards *Basrah* with 800 men and helped them with more men afterwards. Ḥaḍrat *‘Utbah* (May Allāh be pleased with him) conquered *Ubullah* and demarcated the boundaries of *Basrah*. He was the first man to build and inhabit *Basrah*. Ḥaḍrat *‘Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) appointed Ḥaḍrat *‘Utbah* (May Allāh be pleased with him) as Governor of *Basrah*. At that time Ḥaḍrat *‘Utbah* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was camping at *Kharībah*, an ancient Persian city that had also been the site of the Battle of the *Jamal*. Ḥaḍrat *‘Utbah* then wrote to Ḥaḍrat *‘Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) that the Muslims should have a place where they can spend the winter and the returning armies can stay at. Ḥaḍrat *‘Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) instructed him to choose a place where water and pasturing grounds were close by. For this purpose Ḥaḍrat *‘Utbah* (May Allāh be pleased with him) chose *Basrah*. At first the Muslims built houses out of bamboo. Ḥaḍrat *‘Utbah* (May Allāh be pleased with him) had a mosque built out of bamboo as well as a house for the *Amīr* near the mosque. This was in 14 AH. When the men

left for battle, they would dismantle the bamboo houses and tie the bamboo, and rebuild them when they returned. Later people started building permanent houses.

Upon Ḥaḍrat 'Utbaḥ's (May Allāh be pleased with him) instructions, *Mehjan bin Adra'* founded *Basrah* Mosque and had it built out of bamboo. Thereafter, Ḥaḍrat 'Utbaḥ (May Allāh be pleased with him) departed for Hajj and appointed *Mujāshe' bin Mas'ūd* to take his place and commanded him to move to the Euphrates. He ordered Ḥaḍrat *Mughīrah bin Shu'bah* (May Allāh be pleased with him) to lead the prayers. When Ḥaḍrat 'Utbaḥ (May Allāh be pleased with him) met Ḥaḍrat 'Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him), he said that he wished to resign because the work was difficult for him and someone else should be appointed *Amīr* instead of him. Ḥaḍrat 'Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him), however, did not accept his resignation. It is related that Ḥaḍrat 'Utbaḥ (May Allāh be pleased with him) prayed; "O Allāh, do not return me to that city." Thus, while returning back from Mecca to *Basrah* he fell off his ride. He passed away in 17 AH at the age of 57. He was a tall and handsome man.

Khalid bin 'Umair Adawi relates: Ḥaḍrat 'Utbaḥ bin *Ghazwān* (May Allāh be pleased with him) said: I have seen the time when I was one of the seven who were with the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him). At that time I once got a piece of cloth and tore it into two halves, one for myself and one for *Sa'ad bin Mālik* (May Allāh be pleased with him). We did not have enough cloth to cover ourselves. But today when one of us wakes up he finds that he is the Governor of some town or city. I seek refuge with Allāh from thinking great of myself, for I am insignificant in the eyes of Allāh. Things have changed and there is more abundance, therefore you need to be more vigilant over yourselves.

Ḥaḍrat Sa'ad bin 'Ubādah (May Allāh be pleased with him):

He belonged to *Banu Sā'idah* branch of *Ansār's* tribe *Khazraj*. His father's name was *'Ubādah bin Dulaim*. His mother was *'Amrah* and she was the third daughter of *Mas'ūd bin Qais*. His mother also had the honour of pledging Bai'at to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him). Ḥaḍrat *Sa'ad* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was the maternal cousin of Ḥaḍrat *Sa'ad bin Zaid Ashhali* who participated in the battle of *Badr*. Ḥaḍrat *Sa'ad bin 'Ubādah* had two wives. The first was *Ghaziyyah bint Sa'ad* from whom he had *Saeed*, *Muhammad* and *'Abdur Rahmān*. The second wife was *Fuqaihah bint 'Ubaid* from whom he had *Umamah* and *Sadūs*. *Mandūs bint 'Ubādah* was Ḥaḍrat *Sa'ad's* (May Allāh be pleased with him) sister who also embraced Islām at the hand of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him). He also had a sister named *Laila bint 'Ubādah* and she too had the honour of accepting Islām.

Ḥaḍrat *Sa'ad bin 'Ubādah* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was known by the epithet *Abu Thābit*. He was the leader of *Ansār's* tribe *Khazraj*. He was a generous person and carried the flag of *Ansār* in all the battles. He was among the most influential and honoured people among *Ansār* and was accepted by his people as their leader. He knew how to write even before Islām when few people did. He was

also expert in swimming and archery. Anyone who possessed all these skills was given the title of *Kāmil*. Prior to Islām, Ḥaḍrat *Sa'ad* (May Allāh be pleased with him), and his ancestors before him, would slaughter animals and make an announcement that anyone in need of flesh or fat should come and get it from the castle of *Dulaim bin Haritha*. Ḥaḍrat *Sa'ad's* (May Allāh be pleased with him) son also continued with this practice.

Ḥaḍrat *Sa'ad bin 'Ubādah* (May Allāh be pleased with him) accepted Islām on the occasion of the second *Bai'at* at *Aqabah*. After the *Bai'at*, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) said: "Moses had selected twelve leaders from among his people. I will also choose twelve leaders from among you who will lead you and guide you. They will be like the twelve disciples of Jesus and will answer to me regarding your people." He then asked them to suggest the names of suitable people and when these were suggested he approved them. He then appointed leaders over each tribe and told them their duties. He appointed two leaders over some tribes. After this, Ḥaḍrat *'Abbās bin 'Abdul Muttalib* (May Allāh be pleased with him), the Holy Prophet's (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) uncle, told *Ansār* that they must be extremely vigilant since *Quraish* spies were on the alert and that if the news of this meeting got out this would create grave difficulties. Thereafter, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) returned to Mecca with his uncle *Abbās*.

In the morning, the people from Medina started their journey back to Medina but Ḥaḍrat *Sa'ad bin 'Ubādah* (May Allāh be pleased with him) remained behind for some reasons, due to which *Quraish* caught him and brought him to Mecca, where they beat him and dragged him on the rocky ground. Finally *Jubair bin Mut'im* and *Harith bin Harb*, who were acquainted with Ḥaḍrat *Sa'ad* (May Allāh be pleased with him), came to his rescue.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: There is more regarding Ḥaḍrat *Sa'ad bin 'Ubādah* (May Allāh be pleased with him) that I will relate next Friday, *Insha'Allāh*.

Wassalām,

(Ch. Hameedullah)

Wakīl A'lā,

Tahrīk Jadīd Anjuman Ahmadiyya Pakistan.

Dated: 26 December 2019