

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 3rd April 2020 at Mubarak Mosque Islāmabad, Tilford, UK.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: According to the new regulations laid down by the government to curb the pandemic, it is not permissible to deliver the Khutba in front of a congregation. Therefore, arrangements have been made for today’s Khutba within the confines of the law. There are hundreds of thousands of people listening to this Khutba all around the world, and it does not matter whether people are sitting in front of me or not. We should always strive for and pray to maintain this unity. May Allāh cause things to improve and may He do away with this pandemic from the world so that we can gather in our mosques as before.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Two Fridays ago, I was speaking about Ḥaḍrat *Talha bin ‘Ubaidullāh* (May Allāh be pleased with him), a Companion of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him). In this context today I will answer some questions that arise with regard to the Battle of *Jamal*.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Prior to his demise, Ḥaḍrat *‘Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) had set up a committee that would elect the next Khalīfa. *Sahih Bukhari* contains a detailed account of this. When Ḥaḍrat *‘Umar*’s demise was close, people asked him to make a will and to appoint someone to be Khalīfa after him. Ḥaḍrat *‘Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) said that he did not find anyone more deserving of Khilāfat than the following Companions with whom the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) was pleased at the time of his demise. These were: Ḥaḍrat *‘Ali*, *‘Uthmān*, *Zubair*, *Talha*, *Sa’ad* and *‘Abdur Rahmān bin Auf* (May Allāh be pleased with them). Ḥaḍrat *‘Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) then instructed that whoever becomes Khalīfa after him should take care of the *Muhajirīn* as well as of *Ansār*. When Ḥaḍrat *‘Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) passed away, the Companions he had named came together and Ḥaḍrat *‘Abdur Rahmān bin Auf* (May Allāh be pleased with him) suggested that they all place their authority in three person’s from among them. Ḥaḍrat *Zubair* (May Allāh be pleased with him) then gave Ḥaḍrat *‘Abdur Rahman bin Auf* (May Allāh be pleased with him) the authority to decide on his behalf. Ḥaḍrat *‘Abdur Rahmān* (May Allāh be pleased with him) then said to Ḥaḍrat *‘Uthmān* and Ḥaḍrat *‘Ali* (May Allāh be pleased with them), “Whoever of you withdraws his candidacy will be given the responsibility to elect whoever is most eligible in the eyes of Allāh.” Hearing this, both Ḥaḍrat *‘Uthmān* and Ḥaḍrat *‘Ali* (May Allāh be pleased with them) fell silent. Ḥaḍrat *‘Abdur Rahmān* (May Allāh be pleased with him) then asked them whether they would

consign the matter to him, and they both said that they would. He then led Ḥaḍrat 'Uthmān (May Allāh be pleased with him) aside and asked him that if he were chosen as the *Amīr*, would he act with justice; and that if he were to choose 'Ali, would he obey him? He did the same with Ḥaḍrat 'Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him), and when they had both pledged to this, he asked Ḥaḍrat 'Uthmān (May Allāh be pleased with him) to raise his hand and take his pledge of *Bai'at*. Ḥaḍrat 'Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him) then also pledged *Bai'at* and the other Companions also followed him.

Ḥaḍrat Musleh Mau'ūd (May Allāh be pleased with him) describes the election of Ḥaḍrat 'Uthmān (May Allāh be pleased with him) as follows: After Ḥaḍrat 'Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) was injured and he realized that he was going to pass away, he instructed that the following six Companions would choose the new Khalīfa after him: Ḥaḍrat 'Uthmān, Ḥaḍrat 'Ali, Ḥaḍrat 'Abdur Rahmān bin Auf, Ḥaḍrat Sa'ad bin Waqas, Ḥaḍrat Zubair and Ḥaḍrat Talha (May Allāh be pleased with them). He also appointed Ḥaḍrat 'Abdullah bin 'Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) to advise the six men but that he would himself not be eligible for Khilāfat. According to Ḥaḍrat 'Umar's instructions, these Companions would make their decision within three days, and during those three days Ḥaḍrat Suhaib (May Allāh be pleased with him) would lead the prayers. He appointed Ḥaḍrat Miqdād bin Aswad (May Allāh be pleased with him) to oversee the consultation process and to gather the participants in one place and oblige them to come to a decision. He said that people should pledge *Bai'at* to whoever had the majority, but if the verdict was divided with three on both sides then 'Abdullah bin 'Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) would choose the one who would be the Khalīfa. If the members did not agree to his decision, then the one 'Abdur Rahmān bin Auf (May Allāh be pleased with him) favoured would be the Khalīfa.

When Ḥaḍrat 'Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) passed away, the Companions met and had a long discussion. At the end of it Ḥaḍrat 'Abdur Rahmān bin Auf (May Allāh be pleased with him) asked if anyone would want to withdraw his name. When all remained silent, Ḥaḍrat 'Abdur Rahmān bin Auf said that he was withdrawing his name. Ḥaḍrat 'Uthmān did the same, and so did the other two, but Ḥaḍrat 'Ali remained silent. Finally, after taking an oath from Ḥaḍrat 'Abdur Rahmān bin Auf that he would be completely fair, Ḥaḍrat 'Ali also withdrew his candidacy. Thus the decision now rested with Ḥaḍrat 'Abdur Rahmān bin Auf. For three days he went to every home in Medina asking people who they favoured as the Khalīfa. People overwhelmingly sided with Ḥaḍrat 'Uthmān, and thus Ḥaḍrat 'Uthmān (May Allāh be pleased with him) became the Khalīfa.

Later when Ḥaḍrat 'Uthmān (May Allāh be pleased with him) was martyred, the people came rushing to Ḥaḍrat 'Ali's home and said he was now their Khalīfa and they wanted to pledge *Bai'at* at his hand. Ḥaḍrat 'Ali said, "This is not your task. It is the task of the Companions of *Badr*. Whoever they choose will be the Khalīfa." All the Companions of *Badr* then came together and said to Ḥaḍrat 'Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him) that they considered no one more eligible for Khilāfat than him and that he should receive their *Bai'at*. Ḥaḍrat 'Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him) then ascended the *minbar* (pulpit) and the first person who came up to pledge the *Bai'at* was Ḥaḍrat Talha (May Allāh be pleased with him). He was followed by Ḥaḍrat Zubair and then other Companions. Ḥaḍrat Talha

and Ḥaḍrat *Zubair* (May Allāh be pleased with them) were among the ten Companions whom the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) gave the glad-tiding of paradise during their lives.

With regard to the Battle of the *Jamal*, Ḥaḍrat Musleh Mau'ūd (May Allāh be pleased with him) writes: When Prophets come to the world, those who believe in them are considered more eminent. Every Muslim knows that the following Companions were considered the most esteemed after the demise of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him): Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr*, Ḥaḍrat *'Umar*, Ḥaḍrat *'Uthmān*, Ḥaḍrat *'Ali*, Ḥaḍrat *Talha*, Ḥaḍrat *Zubair*, Ḥaḍrat *'Abdur Rahman bin Auf*, Ḥaḍrat *Sa'ad*, and Ḥaḍrat *Sa'eed* (May Allāh be pleased with them). The reason why they were so revered was that they had suffered greater hardships for the faith than anyone else. After the martyrdom of Ḥaḍrat *'Uthmān* (May Allāh be pleased with him), there arose an altercation between the Muslims. One group demanded that they should at once avenge the martyrdom of Ḥaḍrat *'Uthmān* (May Allāh be pleased with him). This group was led by Ḥaḍrat *Talha*, Ḥaḍrat *Zubair* and Ḥaḍrat *Ayesha* (May Allāh be pleased with them). The other group was of the view that it was more important to bridge the divide among the Muslims and to unite them to establish the supremacy of Islām and that Ḥaḍrat *'Uthmān's* martyrdom could be avenged afterwards. This group was led by Ḥaḍrat *'Ali* (May Allāh be pleased with him). This altercation grew so tense that Ḥaḍrat *Talha* and *Zubair* and Ḥaḍrat *Ayesha* (May Allāh be pleased with them) accused Ḥaḍrat *'Ali* (May Allāh be pleased with him) of wanting to protect those who had assassinated Ḥaḍrat *'Uthmān* (May Allāh be pleased with him), while Ḥaḍrat *'Ali* (May Allāh be pleased with him) had accused them of prioritizing their self-interests over those of Islām. This led to the two sides to confront each other on the battlefield. One side was headed by Ḥaḍrat *'Ali* (May Allāh be pleased with him) and the other by Ḥaḍrat *Ayesha* (May Allāh be pleased with her).

Ḥaḍrat *Talha* and Ḥaḍrat *Zubair* (May Allāh be pleased with them) also took part in this battle. While the battle was going on, a Companion came to Ḥaḍrat *Talha* and said: *Talha*, do you remember that the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) once said to you, "A time will come when there will be two warring factions, you will be on one side while *'Ali* will be on the other, and he will be right and you will be wrong." Ḥaḍrat *Talha* (May Allāh be pleased with him) at once remembered these words and left the battle. But as he was walking away, an unfortunate person from among Ḥaḍrat *'Ali's* side attacked him from behind and martyred him. The assassin then went to Ḥaḍrat *'Ali* (May Allāh be pleased with him) to tell him of his great feat, expecting that he would be rewarded for it, but when Ḥaḍrat *'Ali* (May Allāh be pleased with him) heard of what he had done, he said: I convey to you the Holy Prophet's tiding of hellfire, because I heard him say to *Talha*, "O *Talha*, you will accept humiliation for the sake of the truth and justice, but one man will kill you, and Allāh will cast him in fire."

Muhammad Ansāri quotes his father relating that on the day of the Battle of *Jamal* a man came to Ḥaḍrat *'Ali* (May Allāh be pleased with him) and asked that the man who had killed *Talha* be granted audience. Ḥaḍrat *'Ali* (May Allāh be pleased with him) said, "Give him the tiding of hell."

When Ḥaḍrat 'Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him) saw Ḥaḍrat Talha's body after he was martyred, he wiped off the dust from his face and said, "O Abu Muhammad, it is intolerable for me to see you covered with dust under the stars of heaven." He then prayed for Ḥaḍrat Talha (May Allāh be pleased with him) and said that he wished that he had died twenty years earlier.

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) read some instructions of the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) which he gave at the time of the plague. The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) said, "Keep your houses lighted. Clean your houses thoroughly and keep your clothes clean. These are terrible days and the winds are poisonous, and cleanliness is the way of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him)."

Again, he said, "People who live in towns and villages where the plague has spread should not go to other towns. They should keep their houses clean and warm and take all necessary precautions. But, most of all, they should show true penitence. People should undergo a holy transformation and make amends with God. Wake up at night for *tahajjud* and pray and supplicate... Only true transformation can avert this chastisement from God."

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: May Allāh enable every Ahmadī to focus on prayers during these days. Follow government directives and keep houses clean. May Allāh have mercy on everyone. Let us focus on prayers during these days. May Allāh enable us to do so. *Amīn*.

Jazākumullāh.

Wassalām,

(Ch. Hameedullah)

Wakīl A'lā,

Tahrīk Jadīd Anjuman Ahmadīyya Pakistan.

Dated: 08 April 2020