

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 10th July 2020 from Mubarak Mosque Islāmabad, Tilford, UK.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: I mentioned in my previous sermon that the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) received Divine instructions to bring *Banu Quraiza* tribe to justice for their treachery.

In the context of the Battle of *Ahzāb*, Ḥaḍrat Musleh Mau‘ūd (May Allāh be pleased with him) writes: Finally, after 20 days, the Muslims had a moment of relief. However, the matter of *Banu Quraiza* still needed to be resolved. Their treachery was not of the kind that could be ignored. As soon as the Muslims returned from the battle, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) told them not to rest a moment but to reach the fortresses of *Banu Quraiza* before evening. At the same time, he sent Ḥaḍrat ‘*Ali* (May Allāh be pleased with him) to *Banu Quraiza* to learn why they had broken their pledge. Instead of expressing any remorse and asking for forgiveness, *Banu Quraiza* insulated Ḥaḍrat ‘*Ali* (May Allāh be pleased with him) and the other Companions who were with him. They uttered unspeakable words about the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) and his wives and refused to acknowledge any agreement. When Ḥaḍrat ‘*Ali* (May Allāh be pleased with him) came back, he did not want to hurt the feelings of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) by telling him what they were saying, and so he only said, “Why do you take this trouble when we are enough to fight these people?” The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) replied, “I know that they are using foul language against us but you do not want me to hear what they are saying. Moses was their own Prophet and yet they tormented him much more than this.”

When the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) arrived at the fortresses of *Banu Quraiza* with his army, *Banu Quraiza* barricaded themselves in their fortresses and fighting ensued. After a few days of the siege, the Jews realized that they could no longer defend their fortresses, so they asked the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) to send the chief of *Aus* tribe and their friend *Abu Lubaba* for consultation. When *Banu Quraiza* asked *Abu Lubaba* whether they should surrender to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him), he said that they should, but at the same time he made a gesture with his hand implying that they would be killed if they surrendered. Even though the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) had not made his intent clear up to that time, *Abu Lubaba* realized that, considering the crimes of *Banu Quraiza*, there could be no punishment for them but death.

Had *Banu Quraiza* surrendered and accepted whatever decision the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) made, they would at the most have been exiled, as was done in the case of other such tribes. Instead, they chose to give Ḥaḍrat *Sa'ad bin Mu'āz* (May Allāh be pleased with him), who was the chief of their confederate tribe, to decide their fate. A few individuals among them said that, since they had been guilty of the breach of agreement, they should either pay *jiziyah* or become Muslims. But, on the whole the Jews remained adamant. Therefore, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) summoned Ḥaḍrat *Sa'ad bin Mu'āz* to give his verdict. Ḥaḍrat *Sa'ad* approached the fortresses of *Banu Quraiza* and first took a pledge from his own tribe that they would abide by his decision. Then he took the same pledge from the Jews. He then lowered his gaze and looked towards where the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) was sitting and asked if the people sitting there will also abide by his decision. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) replied that he will.

After receiving the pledge from all three parties, Ḥaḍrat *Sa'ad* citing the Bible's commandments regarding people who have been conquered gave the verdict that the fighters were to be killed, their women and children were to be taken prisoners, and their possessions were to be distributed among the victorious army.

It is clear from this verdict that if the Muslims had been defeated, the Jews would have killed all Muslims without exception. Even if the Jews chose to be lenient and acted according to the commandments in Deuteronomy, all Muslim men would have been killed and their women, children and possession plundered. Thus, the responsibility for this decision lies not with the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) but with Moses, the Torah and the Jews themselves who had treated people of other nations in the same manner for centuries.

Today the Christian world claims that the Holy Prophet's (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) action was cruel. Do they not see that the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) did not do such a thing on any other occasion? There were hundreds of instances where people left themselves at the mercy of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) and each time he forgave them. This was the only instance where the enemy insisted that they would not accept the decision of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him). They were also asked to promise beforehand that they would abide by the decision made by Ḥaḍrat *Sa'ad bin Mu'āz* (May Allāh be pleased with him).

With regard to this episode, Ḥaḍrat *Mirza Bashīr Ahmad Sahib* (May Allāh be pleased with him) writes: It appears that God had already decreed that *Banu Quraiza* should be eliminated on account of their treachery, rebellion, murder and bloodshed, and yet He did not desire that this decision to be made through the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him). Therefore, He created the circumstances whereby the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) was not involved in giving the verdict and the authority was instead conferred upon *Sa'ad bin Mu'āz* (May Allāh be pleased with him).

After the verdict was announced, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) ordered the men of *Banu Quraiza* to be separated from the women. They were accommodated in separate houses and were given abundant fruits. The next morning the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) appointed some alert and watchful

men to carry out the verdict of Ḥaḍrat *Sa'ad bin Mu'az* and then sat down nearby. After Ḥaḍrat *Sa'ad*'s verdict, the role of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) was only to make sure that the verdict carried out in the most appropriate manner. In keeping with his mercy and kindness, he provided the prisoners with the best food and accommodation. He also ordered that the verdict be carried out in a way that would cause the least suffering to the prisoners. He instructed that when one prisoner was being executed, the others should not be there to see it. It is recorded in history that a prisoner would not know where he was being taken until he arrived at the place of execution. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) also accepted all appeals for mercy that were presented to him on behalf of some of the prisoners, and not only he let them live rather returned to them their families and belongings.

Non-Muslim scholars place the number of the people executed to be between 100 and 1000, whereas according to our research the number was 16 or 17. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Since there is no definite figure on record, this matter is still open to research.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: There is more about Ḥaḍrat *Sa'ad bin Mu'az* (May Allāh be pleased with him) that I will mention in my next sermon.

At the end of the sermon Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) spoke about four members of the Jamā'at who recently passed away.

1. *Hajiya Ruqayya Khalid Sahiba* was the Sadar Lajna of Ghana. She passed away on 30th June at the age of 65. She was punctual in her prayers and in *Tahajjud* and was highly devoted to Khilāfat. She was also a Mūsīya. She is survived by two sons, a daughter, and four grandchildren.
2. *Safiyya Beghum Sahiba*, wife of late *Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad Sahib*, former missionary who served in Africa, England and USA, passed away on 27th June at the age of 93. She was a woman of many great qualities. She was pious and devout and had great love for Khilāfat. She left behind two daughters, three sons and one step-daughter.
3. *Ali Ahmad Sahib*, retired Mu'allim of Waqf-e-Jadid, who passed away on 18th June at the age of 86. He was also a Mūsī. He left behind two sons and three daughters.
4. *Rafiqān Bibi Sahiba*, wife of *Bashir Ahmad Dogar Sahib* of Narowal, who passed away on 22nd May. She left behind six sons, one daughter and several grandchildren.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: In the funeral prayer I will also include the following deceased members I mentioned in past sermons: *Nasir Saeed Sahib*, *Ghulam Mustafa Sahib*, *Dr Naqi-ud-Din Sahib* of Islamabad, and *Zulfiqar Sahib* of Indonesia. May Allāh show His compassion and have mercy upon them. *Amīn*.

Jazākumullāh.

Wassalām,

(For) Wakīl A'lā,

Tahrīk-i-Jadīd Anjuman Ahmadīyya Pakistan.

Dated: 15th July 2020