

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 11th September 2020 from Mubarak Mosque Islāmabad, Tilford, UK.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The *Badri* Companion of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) about whom I will speak today is;

Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl bin Rabāh* (May Allāh be pleased with him):

He was a slave of *Umayya bin Khalaf*. Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl's* mother was from Abyssinia while his father was from Arabia. He was born at Mecca or, according to one account, at *Sarāt*. Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl's* complexion was wheatish and dark, his body was thin, his hair was thick, and there was very little flesh on his cheeks. Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* contracted several marriages but had no children. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) said that *Bilāl* was the first believer among the people of Abyssinia.

Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* was given the harshest punishment for converting to Islām, but he endured all kinds of hardship and kept proclaiming God's Oneness. According to one account, Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* was thrown on the ground by his masters and they put stones and cow skins on him and said, "Your Lord is *Lāt* and *Uzza*." But Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* kept saying “*Ahad, Ahad*." When Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) saw this, he bought Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* for seven *Auqiya*, or two hundred and eighty dirhams, and set him free. The people said, "We would have sold him to you even for one *Auqiya*." Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) replied, "If you had sold him for one hundred *Auqiya*, I would still have bought him." According to one account, Ḥaḍrat *‘Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) used to say, “*Abu Bakr* is our chief, and he freed our chief (*Bilāl*).”

Ḥaḍrat *Khalīfatul Masīh II* (May Allāh be pleased with him), while referring to the hardships inflicted on Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl*, says that Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl's* masters would make him lie down on hot sand and place large hot stones on top of him, or appoint some youth to jump on his chest. Whenever *Umayya* was angry at *Bilāl's* repeated denial of the divinity of *Lāt* and *Uzza*, he would put a rope around his neck and hand him over to mischievous people who would drag him over the rocks in the streets of Mecca. His body would be covered with blood, but he would still go on saying, “*Ahad, Ahad*”.

Afterwards, when Allāh gave the Muslims refuge in Medina, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) appointed Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* to give the call to prayer. He could not recite 'ش' well and used to say "أَسْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ" and the ignorant people of Medina would laugh at this. On one occasion, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) said, “You laugh at *Bilāl's* *Adhān*, but God in Heaven smiles at it.”

Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* is counted among the first people to have accepted Islām. When he declared his belief in Islām, only seven people had preceded him.

On the occasion of the migration to Medina, Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* stayed at the house of Ḥaḍrat *Sa'ad bin Khaythama*. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) established bond of brotherhood between him and Ḥaḍrat *'Ubaidah bin Harith* or Ḥaḍrat *Abu Ruwaiha Khas 'ami* (May Allāh be pleased with them).

Due to the different climate in Medina, many of the Companions became ill in the early days of the migration and started missing Mecca. Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* used to say: "O Allāh! Curse be on *Shu'bah bin Rabī'ah*, *'Utbah bin Rabī'ah* and *Umayyah bin Khalaf* who drove us out of our land towards the land of pestilence." Upon hearing this, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) prayed for the illness spreading in Medina to be removed, and for Medina to become as dear to them as Mecca was.

Advising the troubled Aḥmadīs on the occasion of migration from Qādiān, Ḥaḍrat Musleh Mau'ūd (May Allāh be pleased with him) had said: Stop thinking that you have migrated and left everything behind. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) was displeased with the emigrants who lamented the loss of their homes and property. One day, Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* developed a fever and started making up verses and reciting them aloud. When the Messenger of Allāh saw this, he was displeased and said, "Is this why you have come here?" I, too, say to you, be happy. Don't look at what you have lost, look at the fact that we have lost it for the sake of Allāh and for the progress of Islām. So, be happy.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: We Aḥmadīs were told by our then Khalīfa that our migration was for the sake of Allāh and for Islām. But today those who were themselves against the creation of Pakistan are claiming to be its creators and are depriving Aḥmadīs of their basic civil rights through lies and deception. The Parliament has banned us from using the name of the religion for whose sake and in whose service we had migrated to Pakistan. We don't need their endorsement, but it is a pity that these so-called 'custodians' of the country have committed this atrocity not only on Aḥmadīs but on Pakistan itself. They are discrediting the country and hindering its progress. They are eating away its foundations like termites. May Allāh rid this country of such transgressors.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* took part in all the battles alongside the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him). In the Battle of *Badr*, he, along with a group of Ansār, killed *Umayya bin Khalaf*. Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* was also the secretary or treasurer of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him). On one occasion, when the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) made an appeal to women to give alms, the women took off their rings and put them in a cloth that Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* was holding.

Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* also had the honour of being the first Caller to prayer (*mu'dhin*). Throughout the life of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him), whether he was at home or on a journey, Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* served as his Caller to prayer (*mu'dhin*). Initially, on the advice of the Companions, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) had instructed that a horn be blown as the call for prayer. But later when Ḥaḍrat *'Abdullah bin Zaid* was taught the words of *Adhān* in a dream, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) said that this dream was from God and he too had received a revelation to this effect. Then, according to the instructions of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him), Ḥaḍrat *'Abdullah bin Zaid* would recite the words of *Adhān* to Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl*

and Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* would repeat those words aloud. When Ḥaḍrat ‘*Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) heard these words, he said to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him), “By God! I also saw in a dream what he saw.”

After Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* would finish the *Adhān*, he would stand at the door of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) in order to inform him that it was time for prayer and say, “Come for prayer, come for prayer, O Prophet of Allāh.” In *Sunan ibn-e-Mājah*, it is narrated that one day when Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* came to the Holy Prophet’s (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) door to announce *Fajr* prayer, he was told that the Messenger of Allāh was asleep. Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* said aloud, "Prayer is better than sleep." According to another account, the Messenger of God said: “O *Bilāl*! These are wonderful words. Include them in your *Fajr Adhān*.”

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: There are some more accounts regarding Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* which I will mention later, *Inshā’Allāh*.

In the second part of the sermon, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) spoke about four members of the Jamā‘at who passed away recently. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) also led their funeral prayer in absentia after the Friday prayer.

1. *Rauf bin Maqsood Jr.* of Belgium who was a student at Jāmi‘a Aḥmadiyya UK. He passed away on 4th September due to a brain tumour. He joined Jāmi‘a Aḥmadiyya in 2018. He was a good mannered, well-spoken young man who understood the spirit of Waqf and loved Khilāfat. He was very bright and possessed extraordinary abilities.
2. *Zafar Iqbal Qureshi Sahib*, former Nā’ib Amīr of Islamabad District, Pakistan. He passed away on 3rd September at the age of 87. His grandfather Ḥaḍrat ‘*Ubaidullah Qureshi Sahib* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was a Companion of the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him). The deceased was an engineer by profession and retired from government service in 1994 as Chief Engineer. From 1998 to 2019, he served as the Nā’ib Amīr of Islamabad. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that he served the Jamā‘at humbly and selflessly.
3. Honourable *Kabine Kabaja Kate Sahib* of Senegal who died on 24th August at the age of 85. He was a Member of Parliament for 18 years and also served as the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in the Central Bureau of Investigation.
4. *Mubashar Latif Sahib*, Advocate of the Supreme Court, Pakistan, who passed away on 5th May at the age of 85. He served as President of the Jamā‘at of Faisal Town, Lahore, for 17 years. He was one of the three lawyers who had the honour of representing the Jamā‘at in 1974. He taught at Punjab University Law College for 46 years. He is survived by his wife, six daughters and several grandchildren.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) prayed that may Allāh have mercy on the deceased and accept all prayers in favour of their progeny. *Āmīn*.

Jazākumullāh.

Wassalām,

(For) Wakīl A‘lā,

Tahrīk-i-Jadīd Anjuman Aḥmadiyya Pakistan.

Dated: 15 September 2020