

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 18th September 2020 from Mubarak Mosque Islāmabad, Tilford, UK.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Today I will continue with the accounts regarding Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* (May Allāh be pleased with him).

When camp was set up on the way back from the Khyber expedition, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) said to Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl*, "Tonight, you will guard our prayer time." That meant that *Bilāl* would wake people up for *Fajr* prayer. Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* continued to perform *Nawāfil* as long as he could, but a little before *Fajr* he fell asleep and so could not wake up the others. No one else woke up either until the sun came out. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) was the first to wake up and he summoned *Bilāl*, who apologized for his lapse as sleep had overwhelmed him. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) then gave instructions to move on from that place. After traveling a short distance, he ordered the Companions to stop and prepare for the prayer. After the prayer, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) said, “Whoever forgets his prayer should offer it when he remembers it.”

On the day of the conquest of Mecca, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) ordered Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* to give *Adhān* from the roof of *Ka’bah*. Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* also accompanied the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) when he entered *Ka’bah* and offered prayers between its two pillars.

Ḥaḍrat *Musleh Mau‘ūd* (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) says with regard to the conquest of Mecca: Ḥaḍrat *‘Abbās* brought *Abu Sufyān* to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him). *Abu Sufyān* then pledged allegiance to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) and sought amnesty for the people of Mecca in the name of their ancestral relationship with the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him). The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) then announced an amnesty for anyone who entered *Ka’bah* or the house of *Abu Sufyān*, or surrendered his arms, or closed the doors of his own house. *Abu Sufyān* said that in this situation the homeless people on the streets might be killed. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) then had a flag prepared and said that this was the Banner of *Bilāl*, whoever stood under it would also be safe. *Abu Sufyān* was satisfied with this and he entered Mecca announcing these terms.

Ḥaḍrat *Musleh Mau‘ūd* (May Allāh be pleased with him) says that the greatest thing about this whole incident is the Banner of *Bilāl*. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) was himself a chief but he did not hoist a banner for himself or any of the other Companions. This was because *Bilāl* was the only person who had no relatives in Mecca,

and the torment that he had suffered at the hands of the Meccans had not been inflicted upon anyone else. On this day, when a ten-thousand strong Muslim army was entering Mecca, *Bilāl* might have thought that now was the time for the atrocities inflicted upon him to be avenged. But when the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) announced a general amnesty, *Bilāl* might have felt disappointed. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him), realizing that *Bilāl* was the only person who would be hurt by his general amnesty, so he found such a wonderful way to avenge Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* that nothing like it had ever been witnessed before. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) commanded all the oppressors that, if they wanted to save their lives and the lives of their wives and children, they must come under *Bilāl's* banner. The heads of all those who used to stomp on his chest with their shoes, were now made to seek protection by standing under his banner. This was the revenge that was more glorious than the revenge of Ḥaḍrat *Yūsuf* (Peace be upon him), because Ḥaḍrat *Yūsuf* (Peace be upon him) only forgave his brothers for the sake of his father, whereas the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) forgave his own uncles and brothers because of a slave.

After citing the above details from *Sair-e-Ruhāni*, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) also gave a brief account of these events from Introduction to the Study of the Holy Qur'ān (*Dibācha Tafsīr-ul-Qur'ān*). Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that some people try to find discrepancies between the two accounts, but the only difference is that one is detailed and the other is concise.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: *Najāshi*, the King of Abyssinia, sent the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) three spears as a gift, one of which he kept for himself. On the occasion of *Eid-ul-Fitr*, Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* would carry the spear in front of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) and then fix it at a certain place, and the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) would pray facing it. After the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him), Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* used to walk before Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) in the same manner.

After the death of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him), Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* asked Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) for permission to go on *Jihād*, but Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) said, "I beseech you in the name of Allāh and remind you of my sanctity. I have grown old and weak and my death is near, so stay with me." Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* agreed to stay in Mecca on the condition that he would not call *Adhān* for anyone after the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him). After the death of Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr*, Ḥaḍrat *'Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) also tried to persuade *Bilāl* to stay in Mecca, but *Bilāl* insisted on going to *Jihād*. Ḥaḍrat *'Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him), therefore, permitted him to go.

While Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* was staying in Syria, he once saw the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) in a dream. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) said to him: "O *Bilāl*! What callousness! Isn't it time for you to come and visit me?" Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* woke up in great sorrow. When he reached Medina, he came to the tomb of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) and started to weep bitterly. Ḥaḍrat *Hassan* and Ḥaḍrat *Husain* (May Allāh be pleased with them) also came and Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* kissed and hugged them. Ḥaḍrat *Hassan* and Ḥaḍrat *Husain* said to Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* that we want you to call the morning *Adhān*. The narrator says that upon hearing Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl's*

Adhān that day, Medina trembled with emotion as people recalled the time of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him).

Referring to Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl’s* last days, Ḥaḍrat *Musleh Mau’ūd* (May Allāh be pleased with him) says: In the latter part of his life, *Bilāl* had gone to live in Syria. There he asked for a woman’s hand in marriage. He said, “I am an Abyssinian, and you can refuse me. On the other hand, if you accept my offer considering that I am a Companion of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him), it would be very kind of you.” She accepted his offer and he got married and he stayed in Syria.

When Ḥaḍrat *‘Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) set up office to distribute stipends, he asked *Bilāl* who he would appoint on his behalf. Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* replied that he would be represented by Ḥaḍrat *Abu Ruwaiha*, whom he would never forget because of the brotherhood which the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) had established between the two of them.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) cited the following example of Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl’s* truthfulness. Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* had a brother who portrayed himself as an Arab. He sent an offer of marriage to an Arab lady. The family of the lady replied that they would only agree if Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* came to them in person. When Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* came, he recited *tashahhud* and said that, “I am *Bilāl bin Rabāh*, and he is my brother. But he is not a good man in terms of morals and religion. If you like, you can marry him, or you can refuse.” The family, however, agreed to the marriage because he was Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl’s* brother.

One day some people came to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) and asked him to perform the Nikah of their sister with a certain man. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) asked, “What do you think about *Bilāl*?” They came to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) a second time and the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) asked the same question. When they came the third time, he said, "What do you think of a man who is one of the dwellers of Paradise?" At this they agreed to marry their sister to Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl*.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: It is only through sacrifices that one is exalted. It is the beautiful teaching of Islām that those who make sacrifices and show loyalty right from the beginning, even if they are Abyssinian slaves, receive high status.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said he would continue next time with the accounts regarding Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl*, *Inshā’Allāh*.

Jazākumullāh.

Wassalām,

(For) Wakīl A‘lā,

Tahrīk-i-Jadīd Anjuman Aḥmadiyya Pakistan.

Dated: 23 September 2020