

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 25th September 2020 from Mubarak Mosque Islāmabad, Tilford, UK.

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

One day the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) asked Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl*, “What is the reason of you always being ahead of me in Paradise? Last night, when I entered Paradise, I heard your footsteps in front of me.” Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* said, “Whenever I give the Adhān, I offer two rak‘āt of *naḥal* prayer. Whenever my ablution is broken, I perform ablution. I do not see anything in me that would give me hope other than that whenever I have performed ablution, whether during the day or the night, I have offered *naḥal* prayer along with it.”

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: This means that, because of purity and his secret worship, Allāh gave him the same position in Paradise as he had in this world where he walked in front of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) holding a spear on the day of ‘Īd.

According to another account, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) said: I heard someone’s footsteps in Paradise, so I asked Gabriel whose footsteps they were and he replied that they were *Bilāl*’s. Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) said: “I wish I was born from the womb of *Bilāl*’s mother and *Bilāl*’s father was my father! What a high status is enjoyed by *Bilāl* who was once despised and dragged on stones.”

Ḥaḍrat *Mirza Bashīr Ahmad Sahib* (May Allāh be pleased with him) says that after Syria had been conquered during the Khilāfat of Ḥaḍrat ‘*Umar*, Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* (May Allāh be pleased with them) delivered the Adhān upon the insistence of Ḥaḍrat ‘*Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him). Hearing this Adhān, all the Companions, including Ḥaḍrat ‘*Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him), cried profusely.

Ḥaḍrat *Khalīfatul Masīh II* (May Allāh be pleased with him) once said: A few days ago, an Arab came to meet me and said that he was a descendant of Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl*. Regardless of whether he was telling the truth or not, I wanted to embrace him eagerly because he was one of the descendants of the man who called the Adhān at the mosque of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him). Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl*’s children and property are nowhere today, but the Adhān that he gave in the mosque of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) lives for all times to come. These are the virtues that last forever.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Forty-four Aḥādīth have been narrated by Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl*, four of which are found in *Sahīh Bukhārī* and *Sahīh Muslim*. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) said, “Paradise is eager to meet three people; ‘*Ali*, ‘*Ammar* and *Bilāl*.”

Ḥaḍrat *Salmān*, Ḥaḍrat *Sohaib* and Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* were in a gathering when *Abu Sufyān* came. They said that the swords of Allāh did not fall on the necks of the enemies of Allāh. When Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) heard this, he rebuked them. Later when Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) told the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) about this, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) said, "Perhaps you have angered them. If you have angered them, you have angered your Lord." Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) immediately returned and apologized to the poor Companions.

According to a narration by Ḥaḍrat ‘*Ali* (May Allāh be pleased with him), the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) counted Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* among his 14 *naqībs*. Similarly, he said, “What a good man *Bilāl* is, the chief of martyrs and callers to prayer (mu’azzin). On the Day of Judgment, *Bilāl* will have the longest neck (he will be most honoured).” He also said, "*Bilāl* will be given a camel in Paradise and he will ride on it."

On another occasion, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) said, “*Bilāl!* Die in poverty and not in wealth, otherwise, the Fire will be your abode.” That is to say, never turn away a person in need, and keep spending rather than hoarding. When Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* used to pray before going to sleep: “O Allāh, forgive me my sins and consider me excused for my shortcomings.”

Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* passed away in Damascus or Aleppo in 20 AH. He was over sixty years old at the time of his death.

Describing the status of Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl*, Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul Masīḥ II (May Allāh be pleased with him) says: The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) was born at Mecca, among *Quraish* who considered themselves superior to other Arabs, and yet he never looked down upon people of other tribes and nations. He loved non-Arabs as much as he loved the Arabs. His wars with people of other nations led to the overthrow of their rulers, and yet the people loved him. There is no example of such love among the disciples of Jesus Christ as we see among the followers of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him). Having once believed in him, they gave themselves to him with all their heart and soul. When we look at Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl*, who was an Abyssinian slave, we find that his love for the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) was not an act of deference or gratitude but it was true love. Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* was an Abyssinian and had served the Arabs and had no blood relations with the Arabs, but when he finished the call to prayer in Syria, he fainted and passed away a few minutes later. This was a testimony to the claim of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) that there is no difference between Arab and non-Arab. The love and affection shown for the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) by people of other nations is the greatest practical testimony that the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) loved them more than their own people.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: This was *Sayyidnā Bilāl* who set for us the highest standards of love for the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) and God's Oneness. Today our salvation depends on following these examples. May Allah grant us the strength to do so.

In the second part of the sermon, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) informed the Jamā'at about the sad demise of some devoted members of the Jamā'at and led their funeral prayers in absentia after the Friday prayer.

1. *Maulana Talib Yaqoub Sahib*, son of *Tayyab Yaqoub Sahib*, missionary, of Trinidad Tobago. He passed away on 8th September at the age of 63. He dedicated his life in 1979 and joined Jāmi'a Aḥmadiyya Rabwah from where he obtained Shahid degree in 1989. He had the honour of serving in different countries with great devotion. He left behind a son, two daughters, two brothers and three sisters.
2. Engineer *Iftikhar Ali Qureshi Sahib*, former Wakīl-ul-Māl III, and Vice President of Majlis Tahrīk-i-Jadīd. He passed away on 3rd June at the age of 99. After retiring from government service in 1983, he dedicated his life for the Jamā'at and was able to serve in various capacities.
3. *Razia Sultana Sahiba*, wife of *Hakīm Khurshīd Ahmed Sahib*, former *Sadr 'Umoomi*, Rabwah, who passed at the age of 81. She is survived by a daughter.
4. *Muhammad Tāhir Ahmad Sahib*, Nā'ib Nāzir Baitul Māl, Qādiān, who passed away on 28th May at Noor Hospital Qādiān due to liver cancer. From 1989 to the last day of his life, for 31 years, he served in various departments. He is survived by old parents, wife and two sons.
5. *Aqeel Ahmed*, son of *Mirza Khalil Ahmed Baig Sahib* who is a lecturer at Jāmi'a Aḥmadiyya Ghana International. The deceased was visiting Pakistan where he passed away at the age of 13 after a short illness. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) prayed that Allāh may elevate the spiritual status of the deceased and give strength to the parents and sisters to bear this loss. *Amīn*.

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Nowadays, a lot of people request me to offer funeral prayers for their deceased relatives. However, due to the lack of time, it is not possible to make a mention of all of them. Therefore, I want to make it clear that all those who have made this request are included in the funeral prayer, even if their names are not specifically mentioned. May Allāh forgive them all, and grant patience to all their families and help them to continue their good deeds. *Amīn*.

Jazākumullāh.

Wassalām,

(For) Wakīl A'lā,

Tahrīk-i-Jadīd Anjuman Aḥmadiyya Pakistan.

Dated: 29 September 2020