

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 1st January 2021 from Mubarak Mosque Islāmabad, Tilford, UK.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: While speaking about the background of the martyrdom of Ḥaḍrat ‘Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him), Ḥaḍrat *Musleh Mau‘ūd* (May Allāh be pleased with him) says: *Kharijites* decided to kill all the prominent people in order to end this crisis. They planned to kill Ḥaḍrat ‘Ali, Ḥaḍrat *Amīr Mu‘āwiyah*, and Ḥaḍrat ‘*Amr bin Ā‘as* all at once. But those who had planned to kill the first two failed in their plan. However, the one who had planned to attack Ḥaḍrat ‘Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him) managed to attack him on a Friday at the time of *Fajr* Prayer and said to Ḥaḍrat ‘Ali: ‘*Ali!* You don’t deserve to be followed in each and every matter. This is a singular right of Allāh’.

The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him), had prophesied the martyrdom of Ḥaḍrat ‘Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him) and declared his murderer to be the most ill-fated person of all times and pronounced him to be akin to the person who had hamstrung the she-camel of Ḥaḍrat *Sāleh* (Peace be upon him).

When *Ibn-e-Muljam*, who had attacked Ḥaḍrat ‘Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him), was apprehended and brought before Ḥaḍrat ‘Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him), Ḥaḍrat ‘Ali ordered that *Ibn-e-Muljam* should be treated well and said: ‘If I survive, I will either kill him or pardon him. But, if I die, kill him to avenge my killing. However, you must not subject him to any undue harm’. Ḥaḍrat ‘Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him) also instructed that *Ibn-e-Muljam* must not be killed through driving a spear into his belly or private parts.

Three men from among *Kharijites* who had come to Mecca and offered themselves to kill three most important persons [from among those who had pledged allegiance to Ḥaḍrat ‘Ali] were as follows: ‘*Abdur Rahmān bin Muljam*, who had attacked Ḥaḍrat ‘Ali, *Bark bin ‘Abdullah Tamimi* who offered himself to kill Ḥaḍrat *Amīr Mu‘āwiyah*, and ‘*Amr bin Bukair Tamimi* who offered himself to kill ‘*Amr bin Ā‘as*. The three chose the seventeenth night of the month of *Ramaḍān* to execute their evil plan. After this, *Ibn-e-Muljam* returned to *Kūfa*.

In the morning of the day on which Ḥaḍrat ‘Ali was martyred, he said: ‘In my dream, I submitted to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him), that I am faced with crookedness and confrontation by my followers. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him), replied: ‘Pray against them saying, ‘O Allāh! Grant me in return

for them those who are better than them, and grant them in return for me the one who is worse than me’.

In his will, Ḥaḍrat ‘*Ali* (May Allāh be pleased with him) praised Allāh and proclaimed his faith in His Unity and then said: ‘You should all hold fast the rope of Allāh and avoid discord, for I have heard from *Abul Qāsim* (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) that to mend mutual relationships is better than offering Prayer and keeping fast’. About this *Huzoor* (May Allāh be his Helper) said it is a very important instruction which should always be kept in mind, since to live peacefully with others and reform mutual relationship is a great act of piety.

Ḥaḍrat ‘*Ali* further wrote in his will to look after the needy and the orphans, to safeguard prayer and not to be unmindful of calling others towards good and stopping them from evil, for if this is not practiced, those who are bad among us would become our rulers. *Huzoor* (May Allāh be his Helper) said: To ask each other to perform good deeds and avoid bad habits is a very important matter. Otherwise, those who are bad among us would become our rulers. Then we would pray, but our prayers would not be accepted. *Huzoor* (May Allāh be his Helper) said that this condition is being witnessed today among the Muslim countries.

Having realized that the injury he had received on his head was fatal, Ḥaḍrat ‘*Ali* (May Allāh be pleased with him) one day said to his family: ‘Soon I am going to leave you’. Having heard this, his daughter, *Umm-e-Kulthūm*, began to cry. Ḥaḍrat ‘*Ali* (May Allāh be pleased with him) said to her: ‘If you see what I am seeing, you would stop crying. I am seeing groups of angels and prophets. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him), is also among them and he is telling me: ‘O ‘*Ali*! Rejoice, for the place you are moving to is better than the one you are currently living in’.

Narrating the events of Ḥaḍrat ‘*Ali*’s (May Allāh be pleased with him) martyrdom, Ḥaḍrat *Musleh Mau’ūd* (May Allāh be pleased with him) says: ‘Upon the death of Ḥaḍrat ‘*Ali* (May Allāh be pleased with him), Ḥaḍrat *Hasan* said: ‘O people! The man who has died today was such that some of his virtues have neither been attained by those who lived before him, nor will they be attained by those who are going to live after him. When the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him), sent him for a war, he was accompanied by Gabriel on his right and by Michael on his left. He left only 700 dirhams as his inheritance. He died on the night on which the soul of Jesus was raised to heaven, that is, the 27th of Ramaḍān’.

After his death, Ḥaḍrat ‘*Ali* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was given a bath by his two sons and Ḥaḍrat ‘*Abdullah bin Ja’afar*, and the funeral prayer was led by Ḥaḍrat *Hasan*. He was buried before the *Fajr* Prayer. Ḥaḍrat ‘*Ali* (May Allāh be pleased with him) possessed some of the musk scent which was applied on the dead body of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him). Ḥaḍrat ‘*Ali* willed that the same scent should be applied on his dead body as well.

There are various traditions regarding the whereabouts of Ḥaḍrat ‘*Ali*’s (May Allāh be pleased with him) grave. According to some he was buried in the main mosque of *Kūfa*, and according to some his dead body was shifted to Medina where he was buried in

Jannatul Baqi'i close to the grave of Ḥaḍrat *Fatima* (May Allāh be pleased with her). According to Shia traditions, his grave is in *Najaf. Ibn-e-Athūr* and Imām *Ibn-e-Taimiya* believed this was not credible; rather it was the grave of Ḥaḍrat *Mughīra bin Shu'aba*.

Ḥaḍrat 'Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him) married eight women during his life time and had 14 sons and 19 daughters.

About the excellences of Ḥaḍrat 'Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him), the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) said: 'I am the City of Knowledge and 'Ali is its gate. The one who intends to enter the City should move towards its gate'.

Speaking about the courage of Muslim scholars, Ḥaḍrat *Musleh Mau'ūd* (May Allāh be pleased with him) says: 'The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) pronounced Ḥaḍrat 'Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him) to be from among the scholars but at the same time during the Battle of Khyber, he granted the banner of Islām to Ḥaḍrat 'Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him). This shows that the [Muslim] scholars at the time of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) were not cowards.

On one occasion, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) said to Ḥaḍrat 'Ali: 'You are my brother and my companion'. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) also said: 'The Paradise is anxiously waiting for 'Ali, 'Ammār and *Salmān*'. On another occasion, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) said to Ḥaḍrat 'Ali: 'Allāh has granted you such a great quality that a quality better than that has not been granted by Him to His servants, that is, the quality of keeping away from worldly pursuits'.

At the end of the sermon referring to the beginning of the New Year, *Huzoor* (May Allāh be his Helper) said: 'Today is the first day of the New Year and the first Friday as well. We should pray that this year proves blessed for the *Jamā'at*, the world and humanity, and that we are able to fulfil our obligations and rights of Allāh and His creation. Otherwise, Allāh is capable of drawing the attention of the worldly people to these matters in His own way. For the past one year, we are faced with a very dangerous viral disease. However, a majority of the world does not want to realize that this disease might be a warning from Allāh the Almighty to us to draw our attention towards fulfilling our duties and obligations towards Allāh and His creature. A few months back, I had written letters to different heads of states so as to draw their attention towards this. Some of the heads of states also replied to my letters, but their replies had a sense of worldly formalities about them. They did not refer to the rights of Allāh that I had referred to in my letters. Every leader and wise person in this world knows that the aftermath of this disease would be too dangerous. Despite this, they do not pay attention to the actual solution and are making only worldly efforts. Hence, every *Aḥmadī* needs to realize the hugeness of the task he has been assigned. In order to accomplish this task, one should first try to create an atmosphere of love and affection and brotherhood around him, so that the world could be brought under the banner which was raised by the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him). Only then will we be able to fulfil the obligations of *Bai'at* and offer New Year greetings to each other.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) once again reminded the Jamā‘at to pray for the Aḥmadīs in Pakistan and Algeria. He said: In Pakistan, some clerics and government officials are bent upon persecuting the Aḥmadīs. The worldly people, on account of being the rulers and possessing wealth, may persecute us, but they ought to remember that we believe in Allāh the Almighty who is نعم المولى (the Best Friend) and نعم النصير (the Best Helper). What we should, therefore, do is to adorn our worships further with prayers. If we do this, we will succeed. One court in Algeria had acquitted all the Aḥmadīs, while another released almost all of them after imposing nominal fines on them. However, some are still in prisons.

Likewise, we should also pray for the Aḥmadīs who are imprisoned in Pakistan. We should also pray for the Muslim ummah, that they are able to accept the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him). May Allāh bless the world with wisdom and enable them to fulfil the rights of one another. May this year be blessed for the Aḥmadīs living in any part of the world. *Amīn* Jazākumullāh.

Wassalām,

Dated: 07 January 2021