

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

The Amīr/National President
Jamā‘at Ahmadīyya,

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Dear Brother,

السلام علیکم ورحمة اللہ وبرکاتہ

Summary of the Friday Sermon delivered by Ḥaḍrat Khalīfa-tul-Masīh V (May Allāh be his Helper) on 23rd April 2021 at Mubarak Mosque Islāmabad, Tilford, UK.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Today I will speak about Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar bin Al-Khaṭṭāb (May Allāh be pleased with him). He belonged to *Banu ‘Adiyy bin Ka‘ab bin Lu‘aiy* tribe. His father's name was *Khaṭṭāb bin Nufail* and his mother was *Hantama bint Hashim*. There are various accounts regarding Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar’s (May Allāh be pleased with him) date of birth, according to which he was born four years before or four years after the battle of *Fijār*. In one account his year of birth is given as 583 AD, which is 13 years after the Event of the Elephant. According to another account, Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) accepted Islām in the sixth year of the prophethood at the age of 26, which makes 590 AD his year of birth. It is also said that Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) was born when the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) was 21 years old. Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar’s (May Allāh be pleased with him) epithet was *Abu Hafṣ*.

Ḥaḍrat *Ibn-e-Abbās* once asked Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) why he had been given the title of ‘*Farooq*’. Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) said that on the third day after Ḥaḍrat *Hamza’s* conversion to Islām, he was going somewhere when he learned from a man of *Banu Makhzūm* that his sister and brother-in-law had converted to Islām. He at once proceeded to his sister's house where he heard something being recited in low voices. He went in and confronted his sister and brother-in-law. During the altercation, he hit his brother-in-law and wounded him. However, when he saw his brother-in-law bleeding, he became remorseful and sat down. He then asked to be shown the book they had been reading. His sister said that he must take a bath and purify himself first. When he had taken the bath, they brought out the pages containing verses 2 to 9 of *Surah Ṭā Hā*. The majesty of these verses had a great impact on Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him). He immediately proceeded to *Dar-e-Arqam*, presented himself before the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him), and accepted Islām. Seeing this, the Companions raised slogans of *Allāhu Akbar* that reverberated throughout Mecca. The Companions then went to *Masjid al-Harām* forming two rows. Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) was in one row and Ḥaḍrat *Hamza* in the other. When *Quraish* saw Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) and Ḥaḍrat *Hamza*, they were greatly shocked. On that day, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) gave Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) the title ‘*Farooq*’, meaning ‘one who distinguishes between truth and falsehood’. It is said that Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) was the last person to have accepted Islām at *Dar-e-Arqam*.

Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) was an expert horseman and wrestler. He was tall in stature and well-built. He was among the seventeen people among *Quraish* who

knew how to read and write. Prior to his conversion to Islām, he was given the role of ambassador by *Quraish*.

Ḥaḍrat *Musleh Mau'ūd* (May Allāh be pleased with him) says that, despite his hostility towards Islām, Ḥaḍrat 'Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) was spiritually astute. Even though he persecuted the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) and his Companions, there was an element of kindness and compassion in him. On the eve of the Abyssinian migration, Ḥaḍrat 'Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) was walking around in Mecca at night, he saw a female Companion of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) preparing for a journey. When he asked her where she was going, she said, "'Umar! We are leaving the country because you and your brothers do not let us live here and we do not have the freedom to worship the One God." Ḥaḍrat 'Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) was overcome by emotions after listening to her answer that he looked away and said, "Go, then, and may God protect you."

The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) had offered a prayer for Ḥaḍrat 'Umar's (May Allāh be pleased with him) conversion to Islām. He had prayed that Allāh may grant honour to Islām through the one whom He loved more among *Abu Jahl* and 'Umar bin *Khaṭṭāb*. When Ḥaḍrat 'Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) converted to Islām in the 6th year of the prophethood, there were only forty Muslims in Mecca. After his conversion to Islām, Gabriel descended and said to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him): "O Muhammad! The dwellers of heavens are also pleased with the conversion of 'Umar to Islām."

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Books of Hadith and Seerah contain a number of accounts related to Ḥaḍrat 'Umar's (May Allāh be pleased with him) conversion.

It is said that one night Ḥaḍrat 'Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) saw the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) engaged in prayers in the Holy Ka'abah. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) was reciting *Surah Ar-Rahman*. Ḥaḍrat 'Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) says that when he heard the Holy Qur'ān, his heart melted and he wept, and he at once embraced Islām.

According to a similar account, Ḥaḍrat 'Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) says: One night when my sister was in labour and I was clinging to the curtains of the *Ka'abah* in prayer and supplication, I heard the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) reciting the Holy Qur'ān. The words had such an impact on me that when the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) started to leave, I followed him. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) said: "O 'Umar! You don't leave me alone either by day or by night." On hearing this, Ḥaḍrat 'Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) became afraid that the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) might curse him, so he immediately recited the *Kalima*.

According to another account, one day when Ḥaḍrat 'Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) heard the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) reciting *Surah Al-Hāqqah*, he was amazed at the beauty and eloquence of the Holy Qur'ān and thought, "By God, this is the word of a poet." No sooner had he thought this than the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) recited the verse:

إِنَّهُ لَقَوْلُ رَسُولٍ كَرِيمٍ. وَمَا هُوَ بِقَوْلِ شَاعِرٍ

“It is surely the word brought by a noble Messenger; and it is not the word of a poet.” (69:41-42).

Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) then thought that he was a soothsayer, upon which the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) read;

وَلَا يَقُولُ كَافِرٍ قَلِيلًا مَّا تَدَّكُرُونَ

“Nor is it the word of a soothsayer; little is it that you heed!” (69:43)

Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) says that in that instant Islām entered my heart.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: There are a number of similar accounts in books of history and Seerah that are considered authentic by those who have related them. We, however, give preference to the Hadith which says that Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) first visited his sister's house and then went to *Dar-e-Arqam*. It is quite possible that all the above accounts are correct in their own way and they reflect Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar’s (May Allāh be pleased with him) change of heart on various occasions, which finally culminated in the incident at his sister’s house where he heard the Holy Qur’ān and then accepted Islām.

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) informed the Jamā‘at about the sad demise of the following members of the Jamā‘at and led their funeral prayer in absentia after the Friday prayer:

1. *Ahmad Muhammad Usman Shabooti Sahib*, President of the Aḥmadiyya Jamā‘at in Yemen, passed away on 9th April at the age of 87 in Egypt.
2. *Qureshi Zakaullah Sahib*, accountant in the office of Jalsa Sālāna Rabwah, passed away on 9th April at the age of 87.
3. *Malik Khaliq Daad Sahib* of Canada passed away at the age of 85.
4. *Muhammad Saleem Sabir Sahib*, who worked at Nazārat Umūr ‘Āmma, passed away on 27th March at the age of 77.
5. *Naeema Latif Sahiba*, wife of *Sahibzada Mehdi Latif Sahib* of USA, passed away on 10th March.
6. *Safiyya Begum Sahiba*, wife of *Muhammad Sharif Sahib* of Canada, passed away on 11th March at the age of 80.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) prayed that Allāh may have mercy on all the deceased and elevate their spiritual station in heaven. *Amīn*.

Jazākumullāh.

Wassalām,

Abdul Majid Tahir

Additional Wakīlut Tabshīr

ISLĀMABAD (UK)

Dated: 29 April 2021