

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 20th August 2021 at Mubarak Mosque Islāmabad, Tilford, UK.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) continued with the series of sermons regarding *Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him).

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: One of the battles fought during the Khilāfat of *Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was the battle of *Gundeshapur*, a city in Khuzestan. After *Ḥaḍrat Abu-Sabra bin Abi-Ruhm* finished conquering the Sassanid settlements, he continued to advance with his army. There were daily skirmishes but the enemy remained undeterred. One day, a Muslim slave said something about an amnesty, which the enemy immediately accepted and opened the gates of the city. When the Muslims asked them why they had done so, they said, "You have given us amnesty and we have accepted it." The Muslims said that they had done no such thing. Upon investigation, it was learned that the amnesty had been offered by a Muslim slave. Relating this incident, *Ḥaḍrat Musleh Mau‘ūd* (May Allāh be pleased with him) says that when *Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) learnt about this, he said that he would never go against the word of a Muslim who had given his pledge, and that the Muslims would have to abide by the amnesty given by the slave. For the future, however, he declared that no one other than the commander of the army would be authorised to make any agreements.

Mentioning the reasons for the conquest of Persia, it is stated that *Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) fervently desired the bloody war to end after the battles of Iraq and *Ahvāz*. However, the constant warmongering by the Persians did not allow this to happen. In 17 AH, when a delegation of army chiefs from the battlefield presented themselves before *Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him), he repeatedly inquired into the cause of the revolt in the conquered areas and expressed his suspicion that Muslims were causing difficulties for the local population. All the chiefs denied this. *Ahnaf bin Qais* said: "O Amīr al-Mu‘minīn! You have stopped us from advancing further, but the king of Persia will continue to fight us as long as he lives. In obedience to your order, we did not take any territory ourselves but only captured lands in response to the enemy's attack. This attitude of the enemy will continue until you allow us to advance and finish off the Persian king." *Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) accepted this opinion but did not make the formal decision until after the battle of *Nahāwand* in 21 AH. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that this refutes the objection that the Muslims fought wars only to expand their dominion.

The battles of *Qādisiyyah*, *Jalūla* and *Nahāwand* proved to be decisive in the Persian conquests. The battle of *Nahāwand* was the last onslaught attempted by the Persians. *Nahāwand* is located about 70 km south of Hamedan. King *Yazdegerd* of Persia had actively created a movement against Muslims by sending letters all over the region, from *Khurasān* to Sindh. Persian forces started gathering in *Nahāwand* and Ḥaḍrat *Sa'ad* informed Ḥaḍrat 'Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) about this development. Ḥaḍrat 'Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) removed *Sa'ad* as the commander and replaced him with Ḥaḍrat 'Ammār bin *Yasir*. In Medina, Ḥaḍrat 'Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) gathered all the eminent Companions for consultation. Ḥaḍrat 'Uthmān (May Allāh be pleased with him) advised that Ḥaḍrat 'Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) should personally lead the forces from *Hijāz*, and that all the forces from Syria, Yemen and *Kūfa* should be brought to *Nahāwand*. While other Companions concurred, Ḥaḍrat 'Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him) expressed the opinion that if Ḥaḍrat 'Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) went to fight personally, the Muslims would rush to accompany him and Medina would be exposed. He advised that the provinces should be instructed to send a portion of their armies to Persia and to keep the rest for their own protection. Ḥaḍrat 'Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) approved this idea and appointed Ḥaḍrat *Nu'mān bin Muqarrin* as the commander of the army. He also wrote a letter to Ḥaḍrat *Nu'mān* at *Kūfa* telling him that a large army of Persians had gathered at *Nahāwand* and that he should proceed with his fellow Muslims to fight this enemy.

In obedience to this order, Ḥaḍrat *Nu'mān*, accompanied by some outstanding and brave Muslims, set out for battle. Ḥaḍrat 'Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) instructed that if *Nu'mān* were martyred, he would be succeeded by *Huzaiifa bin Yamān*, *Jarīr bin 'Abdullah Bajali*, *Mughīrah bin Shu'bah* and *Ash'ath bin Qais*, respectively. Ḥaḍrat *Nu'mān* learned through his spies that the way to *Nahāwand* was clear. Historians have put the number of Persian troops at 60,000 and 100,000, but *Sahīh Bukhāri* places it at 40,000. At the enemy's request, Ḥaḍrat *Mughīrah bin Shu'bah* went for talks. The Persians held the meeting with great pomp, and the Persian general painted a humiliating picture of every aspect of Arab life in contrast to the Persian lifestyle. Ḥaḍrat *Mughīrah* replied that all this was in the past and that Arabia had changed after the advent of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him). This attempt at diplomacy failed.

When clashes broke out at the beginning of the war, the situation on the battlefield was very detrimental for the Muslims. The enemy forces were safe in their trenches, forts and houses, whereas the Muslims were exposed in the open field. Whenever the enemies saw fit, they would launch a surprise attack. In these worrying circumstances, *Nu'mān bin Muqarrin*, the Amīr of the Islamic army, convened a meeting for consultation. Following various other suggestions, *Tulaiha* suggested that a small contingent be sent to provoke the enemy with their archery, and when the enemy comes out to fight, the contingent should pretend that they are being forced to retreat. Hopefully, the enemy will come out in the open in pursuit of victory, and then the Muslims would be able to deal with them. Ḥaḍrat *Nu'mān* chose Ḥaḍrat *Qa'qa'a* to implement this scheme. *Tulaiha's* plan was followed and it transpired exactly as he had predicted.

Ḥaḍrat *Nu'mān* was an ardent lover of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him), and it was the Holy Prophet's (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) practice that if the battle did not start in the morning, he would wait until late afternoon before starting it. When the enemy troops approached the Muslim army, many Muslim soldiers became restless for battle and asked Ḥaḍrat *Nu'mān* for permission to attack, but he did not allow it. Many elders also advised him to commence the battle but he continued to urge patience. In the afternoon, Ḥaḍrat *Nu'mān* took a round of the whole army, made impassioned speeches and prayed for his own martyrdom, which brought tears to people's eyes. Then, according to the strategy, the Muslims attacked the enemy at an opportune moment. Ḥaḍrat *Nu'mān* was martyred while fighting fearlessly, but Ḥaḍrat *Huzaiifa bin Yamān* and Ḥaḍrat *Nu'aim bin Muqarrin* kept his death a secret until the battle had ended. According to another account, *Ma'qil* relates, "After the victory, I came to Ḥaḍrat *Nu'mān* and found him still alive. He inquired of me and I told him that Allāh had granted us victory. He then said, "Inform 'Umar."

Ḥaḍrat 'Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) was anxiously awaiting the outcome of the battle. When the messenger arrived with the news of the victory, he asked about Ḥaḍrat *Nu'mān* and was deeply grieved to hear of his martyrdom. The victory of *Nahāwand* was very important in terms of its consequences.

After *Nahāwand*, *Asfahān* was conquered in 21 AH. This expedition was led by 'Abdullah bin 'Abdullah or 'Abdullah bin Budail bin Warqā' Khuza'ī. After *Nahāwand*, the Muslims also conquered *Hamazān*, but the people of *Hamazān* broke the treaty and revolted. Ḥaḍrat 'Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) instructed Ḥaḍrat *Nu'aim bin Muqarrin* to crush the rebellion with an army of 12,000. After a fierce battle, the Muslims conquered the city.

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) spoke about some members of the Jamā'at who passed away recently, and announced to lead their funeral prayer in absentia.

1. *Muhammad Diyantono Sahib*, Aḥmadiyya missionary of Indonesia, passed away on 15th July at the age of 46.
2. *Sahibzada Farhan Latif Sahib* of Chicago, USA, passed away at the age of 45. He served as Auditor of Jamā'at Aḥmadiyya Chicago.
3. *Malik Mubashir Ahmad Sahib* of Lahore, former Amīr of *Daud Khel, Mianwali*, passed away on 21st November 2020.

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: 26 August 2021