

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

The Amīr/National President
Jamā‘at Ahmadiyya,

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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 24th September 2021 at Mubarak Mosque Islāmabad, Tilford, UK.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: I will continue with the accounts relating to the conquest of Jerusalem that took place in 15 AH. Having become weary of the siege, the Christians offered peace on the condition that Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) shall himself come to Jerusalem to sign the peace treaty. When Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) consulted the Companions, Ḥaḍrat ‘Uthmān (May Allāh be pleased with him) said that the Christians were overawed and desperate and that if he rejected their request, they would be even more humiliated. Ḥaḍrat ‘Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him), on the other hand, advised that Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) should go to Jerusalem. Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) appointed either Ḥaḍrat ‘Ali or Ḥaḍrat ‘Uthmān (May Allāh be pleased with them) as Amīr in Madinah and left for Jerusalem. This was not an ordinary journey, for its purpose was to establish Islāmic power and dominance, and yet there was no great army accompanying Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him); he only had a few companions with him or only a servant. Nonetheless, the earth seemed to shake with the news of his coming.

According to *Muhammad Hussain Haikal*, Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) did not come to Jerusalem only to ratify the treaty, rather when Ḥaḍrat ‘Amr bin Ās had asked for more help, Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar’s (May Allāh be pleased with him) patience was at an end and he had decided to go to *Jabiyah* on the border between Syria and Jordan. In the meantime, Ḥaḍrat *Abu ‘Ubaidah* and Ḥaḍrat *Khalid* had also completed their conquests in Syria and Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) summoned them both to *Jabiyah* to formulate the best strategy for conquering Jerusalem.

When the enemy chiefs learned of the arrival of Ḥaḍrat *Abu ‘Ubaidah* and Ḥaḍrat *Khalid* at *Jabiyah*, they realized that they could not hold on to Jerusalem much longer. One of the chiefs fled to Egypt with a part of the army, while Sophronius set the presence of Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) as a condition for peace. Every day during the journey, after *Fajr* prayer, Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) would urge people to pray for the completion of blessings. Ḥaḍrat *Khalid bin Walīd* and *Yazīd bin Mu‘āwiyah*, among others, greeted Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) at *Jabiyah*. When Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) saw that the Muslim were not clad in simple Arab attire, he was greatly incensed. However, he was pacified only when they showed the steel armour beneath the silk robes, indicating battle readiness. *Yazīd bin Abu Sufyān* asked Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) to use the best clothes and conveyance, but he said, "By Allāh! I will never give up the attire in

which I left my two companions, the Messenger of Allāh (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) and Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him).”

According to some historians, the agreement between Muslims and Christians took place in *Jabiyah*, while others say that it took place at Jerusalem. Ḥaḍrat *Khalid bin Walīd*, Ḥaḍrat *‘Amr bin Ās*, Ḥaḍrat *‘Abdul Rahmān bin ‘Auf* and *Mu’āwiyah bin Abu Sufyān* testified to the treaty. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) read out the words of the treaty as recorded by *Tabari*.

According to *Ibn-e-Khaldūn*, this agreement proves some points, for example, that Islām did not spread by sword, that other religions enjoyed freedom under Muslim rule, and that *Jizyah* was not forcibly taken from non-Muslims.

When the news of this treaty spread, the people of *Ramallah*, Palestine and *Ludd* also became eager for a similar agreement. Ḥaḍrat *‘Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) divided Palestine into two parts and appointed *‘Alqamah bin Hakīm* as the ruler of *Ramallah* and *‘Alqamah bin Mujazziz* as the ruler of Jerusalem.

Ḥaḍrat *‘Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) entered Jerusalem attired in very simple clothes and was welcomed by Ḥaḍrat *Abu ‘Ubaidah* and the army chiefs. The Christian clergy themselves handed over the keys of the city to Ḥaḍrat *‘Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him). Ḥaḍrat *Khalīfatul Masīḥ I* (May Allāh be pleased with him) says that when the Christians saw the simplicity of Ḥaḍrat *‘Umar’s* (May Allāh be pleased with him) attire, they threw down the keys of the city and said that they could never compete with such a general. Ḥaḍrat *‘Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) first went to the *Al-Aqsa Mosque* and then visited a Christian church. While he was in the church, the time came for prayer and the Christians invited him to pray in the church if he wanted to, but Ḥaḍrat *‘Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) did not accept this offer lest people in future might use this as justification for interfering in other people’s places of worship. Therefore, he prayed outside.

During his stay in Jerusalem, all the Muslim elders invited Ḥaḍrat *‘Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) to dine with them, except Ḥaḍrat *Abu ‘Ubaidah*. When Ḥaḍrat *‘Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) asked Ḥaḍrat *Abu ‘Ubaidah* why he had not invited him, Ḥaḍrat *Abu ‘Ubaidah* said: “O Commander of the Faithful! I am afraid that if I invited you, you would not be able to control your tears.” Thereafter, when Ḥaḍrat *‘Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) came to his tent, there was nothing there except a horse's saddle and saddlecloth which Ḥaḍrat *Abu ‘Ubaidah* also used as his bed. In one corner there was dry bread which he offered to Ḥaḍrat *‘Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) with water. Seeing all this, Ḥaḍrat *‘Umar’s* (May Allāh be pleased with him) eyes welled up with tears and he embraced Ḥaḍrat *Abu ‘Ubaidah* and said: “O *Abu ‘Ubaidah*! You are my brother.” Then he came out of the tent and delivered a moving address.

One day, Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* complained that the Muslim officers ate expensive food while the common Muslims did not even get enough. Ḥaḍrat *‘Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) enquired into the matter and found that food was much cheaper there than in *Hijāz*. Therefore, he made a budget for the needs of ordinary Muslims and ensured the supply of goods from the treasury.

One day, Ḥaḍrat *‘Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him), at the insistence of the people, instructed Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* to call *Adhān*. When Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* called the *Adhān*, all the

Companions, including Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him), were reminded of the time of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) and their eyes welled up with tears.

In 17 AH, the Romans made their last attempt. After *Yazdegerd* escaped from *Ray*, the habitants of island were so disillusioned with him that they wrote to Heraclius and said that they would help him if he advanced by sea. Heraclius considered the matter and ordered the ships to reach Antioch from Alexandria. Hearing of this advance, Ḥaḍrat *Abu ‘Ubaidah* called Ḥaḍrat *Khalid* for advice. When Heraclius' ships arrived in Antioch, the gates of the city were opened for them. Seeing that the people of northern Syria were intent on revolt, Ḥaḍrat *Abu ‘Ubaidah* realized that he was under siege in *Hims* and informed Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) about the situation. Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) had been mindful of this danger and had set up cantonments in *Kūfa* and *Basrah* from the very start. When Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) received the petition of Ḥaḍrat *Abu ‘Ubaidah*, he realized that this great general of the Muslims was in grave danger. He wrote to Ḥaḍrat *Sa’ad bin Abi Waqās* to send *Qa’qā’ bin Amr* to *Hims*. He also wrote to the other generals fighting the Romans to send troops to the areas from which the armies were coming to help Heraclius. As a result of this strategy, the forces that were coming to Heraclius' aid turned back. When it was confirmed that the troops from island had retreated, an onslaught was planned against the Romans. Ḥaḍrat *Abu ‘Ubaidah* addressed the Muslim army with great passion. Allāh granted the Muslims victory in this battle. Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) had just reached *Jabiyah* on the way to Syria when the news of victory came and he returned to Madinah. He ordered that the bounty of war be shared with the people of *Kūfa*. Three years after this victory, Heraclius died in 20 AH.

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) spoke about the sad demise of the following members of the Jamā‘at and announced to lead their funeral prayer in absentia after the Friday prayer.

1. *Chaudhry Saeed Ahmed Lakhan*, Retired Station Master, passed away in Canada at the age of 86. He is survived by his wife, six sons and three daughters. One of his sons, *Faheem Ahmed Lakhan*, is a missionary serving in Kenya who could not attend his father's funeral because of his duties.
2. *Shahabuddin Sahib*, Deputy National Amīr of Bangladesh, passed away on 12th July. He is survived by four sons and three daughters.
3. *Raul Abdullah Sahib*, one of the first local Ahmadīs of Argentina, passed away on 6th September.

Jazākumullāh
Wassalām,

Abdul Majid Tahir
Additional Wakīlut Tabshīr
ISLĀMABAD (UK)
Dated: 29 September 2021