

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 Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V* (May Allāh be his Helper) on 26th August 2022 at Mubarak Mosque Islamabad, Tilford, UK

Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul Masīḥ V (May Allāh be his Helper) continued with the series of sermons regarding *Ḥaḍrat Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him).

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: In the last sermon, I mentioned the three armies sent by *Ḥaḍrat Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) to Syria. At the behest of *Ḥaḍrat Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him), the fourth army was sent to Syria under the command of *Ḥaḍrat ‘Amr bin ‘Ās* (May Allāh be pleased with him). At the time of his departure, *Ḥaḍrat Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) said to *Ḥaḍrat ‘Amr bin ‘Ās*, “You are a man of solid opinions and experience and have great insight into warfare. You have with you noblemen as well as godly people among the Muslims, and you will meet your brothers, so do not be neglectful in doing good to them and do not reject their good advice.” *Ḥaḍrat ‘Amr bin ‘Ās* replied, “It would be great to live up to your expectations.”

The army under *Ḥaḍrat ‘Amr bin ‘Ās* numbered between six and seven thousand and their destination was Palestine. *Ḥaḍrat ‘Amr bin ‘Ās* sent an army of one thousand under the command of *Ḥaḍrat Abdullāh bin ‘Umar* towards the Roman territory, and it vanquished the Romans and attained victory. When *Ḥaḍrat ‘Amr bin ‘Ās* questioned the prisoners captured in this battle, he learned that the Romans were preparing to launch a surprise attack on the Muslims. *Ḥaḍrat ‘Amr bin ‘Ās* then organized his army and, when the Romans attacked, forced them to retreat. Later, he launched a counterattack on the Romans and destroyed their forces. The Romans escaped from the battlefield and were pursued by the Muslims. Thousands of enemy soldiers were killed, and the battle came to an end.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: These armies included more than a thousand *Muhājirīn* and *Ansār* companions who had fought alongside the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) in the earlier battles of Islam. Among them were the fighters of Badr for whom the Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) had pleaded with Allāh, “Today, if You allow this small group to be destroyed, You will never be worshiped on earth again.” This is why *Ḥaḍrat Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) had full faith that the armies he had sent would be victorious over the Romans.

When Heraclius, the Roman Emperor, present in Palestine, received the news of the victory of the Muslims, he gathered the chiefs of the region and persuaded them to fight the Muslims and assured them of victory through emotional speeches. Likewise, he urged

the people of Damascus, Homs, and Antioch to fight against the Muslims. He made Antioch his headquarters and started preparing for battle.

According to one account, when Heraclius was informed of the arrival of the Muslim armies, he advised his people to refrain from war and instead make peace with the Muslims on the condition of receiving half of the produce of Syria; in this way they would retain the Roman territory as well as half of the produce, rather than the Muslims taking over the whole region. The Romans disagreed with Heraclius, So Heraclius started preparing his armies in Homs and Antioch. Since Heraclius had a large number of troops, he sent large contingents to fight Ḥaḍrat 'Amr bin 'Ās, Ḥaḍrat Yazīd bin Abu Sufyān, Ḥaḍrat Abu 'Ubaidah, and Ḥaḍrat Shurahbīl bin Ḥasanah (May Allāh be pleased with them) separately. Ḥaḍrat Abu 'Ubaidah, Ḥaḍrat 'Amr bin 'Ās, and Ḥaḍrat Yazīd bin Abu Sufyān, in their respective letters, informed Ḥaḍrat Abu Bakr (May Allāh be pleased with him) about Heraclius and the state of his armies and sought help. In response, Ḥaḍrat Abu Bakr (May Allāh be pleased with him) said, "Heraclius's stay in Antioch is a defeat for him and his people, and a victory for you and the Muslims from Allāh. Obey Allāh and tell your companions to obey Allāh. Allāh will not disgrace you."

Ḥaḍrat Abu Bakr (May Allāh be pleased with him) organized an army of 1000 under the command of Ḥaḍrat Hāshim bin 'Utbah (May Allāh be pleased with him) and sent them to help Ḥaḍrat Abu 'Ubaidah (May Allāh be pleased with him). At their departure, Ḥaḍrat Abu Bakr (May Allāh be pleased with him) addressed Ḥaḍrat Hāshim and said, "We used to benefit from the opinion and experience of the elders while we relied on the patience, strength, and courage of the youth. Allāh has combined all these merits within you. When faced with the enemy, stand firm and persevere. Each step that you take in the path of Allāh will be recorded by Allāh as a good deed. Allāh does not waste the reward of those who do good." Ḥaḍrat Hāshim's uncle Ḥaḍrat Sa'd bin Abī Waqās (May Allāh be pleased with him) said to him, "Whatever spears you throw and whatever blows you strike, the purpose should be to win the pleasure of Allāh." Ḥaḍrat Hāshim replied, "Be assured that my every action will only be for the sake of Allāh."

Ḥaḍrat Abu Bakr (May Allāh be pleased with him) sent another army of seven hundred men under the command of Ḥaḍrat Sa'īd bin 'Āmir to Syria. When Ḥaḍrat Bilāl expressed his desire to join this army, Ḥaḍrat Abu Bakr (May Allāh be pleased with him) said: "O, Bilāl! What I want from you is that you deliver *Adhan*, and I feel terrible about being separated from you, but such a separation is necessary after which there will be no meeting until the Day of Resurrection. Continue to do righteous deeds and let this be the provision you take from this world. As long as you live, Allāh will keep your remembrance alive, and when you die, He will give you the best reward." Ḥaḍrat Bilāl said, "May Allāh give you a good reward. I do not wish to deliver *Adhān* for anyone after the Messenger of Allāh." Ḥaḍrat Bilāl then left with Ḥaḍrat Sa'īd bin 'Āmir.

Ḥaḍrat Abu Bakr (May Allāh be pleased with him) sent more men to Ḥaḍrat Yazīd bin Abu Sufyān under the command of Ḥaḍrat Mu'āwiah (May Allāh be pleased with him). Ḥaḍrat Hamza bin Abu Bakr Hamdāni (May Allāh be pleased with him) also came to Ḥaḍrat Abu Bakr (May Allāh be pleased with him) with his army of a thousand or more. Ḥaḍrat Abu Bakr

(May Allāh be pleased with him) was very pleased to see their numbers and their readiness and said, “All praise belongs to Allāh for His favour on the Muslims.” Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) allowed Ḥaḍrat *Hamza* to join any army he wanted. Knowing that, among the commanders of the Islamic armies, Ḥaḍrat *Abu ‘Ubaidah* was the closest to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him), Ḥaḍrat *Hamza* joined him. This was also a way of expressing his love for the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him).

Troops continued to arrive in Medina and Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) kept sending them on campaigns. Based on the letters from Ḥaḍrat *Abu ‘Ubaidah*, Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) decided to send Ḥaḍrat *Khālīd bin Walīd* (May Allāh be pleased with him) to Syria. Ḥaḍrat *Khālīd* was in Iraq when Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) ordered him to go to Syria and take over the command of the Islamic forces. Ḥaḍrat *Khālīd* stationed himself in Damascus. According to other accounts, he stayed at Qanāt Busra, whose people made peace with the Muslims on the condition of protection for their lives and properties and payment of *Jizyah*.

Ḥaḍrat *Khālīd bin Walīd*, along with Ḥaḍrat *Abu ‘Ubaidah* and Ḥaḍrat *Yazīd bin Abu Sufyān*, left for Palestine to help Ḥaḍrat ‘Amr bin ‘Ās. On hearing the arrival of the Muslim forces, the Romans moved towards *Ajnādīn* and the armies on both sides gathered there. Heraclius promised various gifts and presents to Ḥaḍrat *Khālīd bin Walīd* if he turned back, but Ḥaḍrat *Khālīd* rejected his offer with great disdain. Ḥaḍrat *Khālīd* encouraged his army to abide by taqwa and fight in the way of Allāh, and ordered the Muslim women to stay behind the army and to pray and supplicate to Allāh. A fierce battle ensued between both armies. Finally, the Roman commanders were killed and the Muslims were blessed with victory. Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was on his deathbed when the news of the victory was brought to him. He was very pleased with the news and said, “All praise is due to Allāh, who helped the Muslims and fulfilled my desire.”

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that there is some ambiguity about the battle of *Ajnādīn* and it is thought that it probably took place during the *Khilāfat* of Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him). However, according to our research, it is most likely that the battle of *Ajnādīn* took place twice, first during the *Khilāfat* of Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) and then during the *Khilāfat* of Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him). Allāh knows best.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that the details of the conquest of Damascus will be mentioned next time. In Shā Allāh.

Jazākumullāh

Wassalām,

Abdul Majid Tahir
Additional Wakīlut Tabshīr
ISLAMABAD (UK)
Dated: 31 August 2022