

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-Masīh V (May Allāh be his Helper) on 2nd September 2022 at Mubarak Mosque Islamabad, Tilford, UK

Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul Masīh 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: I was speaking about the battles that were fought during the *Khilāfat* of Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him). In this context, I will relate some details of the conquest of Damascus in 13 AH. This was the last battle to be fought during the time of Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him). Damascus was the capital of Syria and a city of immense historical significance. It used to be the centre of idolatry but with the advent of Christianity, its temples were turned into churches. Many Arabs were settled here, and it was frequented by Muslim trade caravans. It was a highly protected and fortified city.

Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) put Ḥaḍrat *Abu ‘Ubaidah* (May Allāh be pleased with him) in command of an army and ordered him to reach Homs. On the instructions of Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him), Ḥaḍrat *Khālīd bin Walīd* (May Allāh be pleased with him), along with another Muslim contingent, besieged Damascus. However, after twenty days of the siege, there were still no results. The people of Damascus were greatly distressed by the siege. At the same time, the Muslims learned that Heraclius had gathered a large army of Romans at *Ajnādīn*. Ḥaḍrat *Khālīd* suggested to Ḥaḍrat *Abu ‘Ubaidah* that they should end the siege of Damascus and first deal with the Roman army in *Ajnādīn* and then return to the matter of Damascus. Ḥaḍrat *Abu ‘Ubaidah* disagreed with this suggestion saying that if the siege was lifted, the people of Damascus would be able to reorganize themselves. Ḥaḍrat *Khālīd*, agreeing with Ḥaḍrat *Abu ‘Ubaidah*, carried on the siege of Damascus and continued to attack it from various sides. In the meantime, Heraclius sent a contingent to help the people of Damascus. Ḥaḍrat *Khālīd* sent Ḥaḍrat *Ḍirār bin Azwar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) with five hundred soldiers to counter this contingent. Ḥaḍrat *Ḍirār's* soldiers were frightened by the large number of the enemy soldiers and suggested that they retreat. Ḥaḍrat *Ḍirār* said, “How many a small party has triumphed over a large party by Allah’s command; even now He will help us. Whoever wants to go back may do so, but I will fight to my last breath.” On this, all the Muslims rallied together and got ready for the battle.

Ḥaḍrat *Ḍirār* killed the chief of the enemy and his son, however, his spear penetrated the latter’s body and broke. Seeing this, the enemy soldiers surrounded Ḥaḍrat *Ḍirār* and

captured him. When Ḥaḍrat *Khālid* was informed of the capture of Ḥaḍrat *Dirār*, he made arrangements for the siege of Damascus to continue and proceeded to attack the enemy. A masked cavalier of Ḥaḍrat *Khālid's* army infiltrated the enemy ranks and piled up their bodies. Enemy soldiers avoided having to confront this brave warrior. Later, when the warrior was surrounded by the enemy, Ḥaḍrat *Khālid's* soldiers attacked the enemy and brought the warrior back to the Muslim ranks. When asked, the warrior said, “I am *Khāula bint Azwar* (May Allāh be pleased with her), *Dirār's* sister. When I found out about my brother's arrest, I did what you have seen.” Ḥaḍrat *Khālid* said, “We should launch a concerted attack. I hope from Allāh that He will enable us to have *Dirār* released.” Ḥaḍrat *Khālid* then launched a forceful attack on the Romans and forced them to disperse. Some enemy soldiers who were residents of Homs came to Ḥaḍrat *Khālid* for protection and told him that their chief had imprisoned Ḥaḍrat *Dirār* and sent him to Homs. Ḥaḍrat *Khālid* sent Ḥaḍrat *Rāfi'* (May Allāh be pleased with him) with a hundred young men to rescue Ḥaḍrat *Dirār*. They caught up with the enemy, killed all their soldiers and rescued Ḥaḍrat *Dirār*. Ḥaḍrat *Khālid* also vigorously attacked and defeated the army of *Wardān*, the leader of the Romans.

At the same time, the Islamic army continued to besiege Damascus. Ḥaḍrat *'Ibād bin Sa'īd* (May Allāh be pleased with him) informed Ḥaḍrat *Khālid* that a ninety-thousand-strong Roman army had gathered at *Ajnādīn*. Ḥaḍrat *Khālid*, after consulting Ḥaḍrat *Abu 'Ubaidah*, wrote letters ordering all the Muslim contingents engaged in different parts of Syria to regroup at *Ajnādīn*. The Islamic army abandoned the siege of Damascus also and left for *Ajnādīn*. Seeing this, the people of Damascus started clapping their hands in joy. They appointed *Būliṣ*, a confidante of Heraclius and a highly skilled archer, as their commander and urged him to attack the Muslims. *Būliṣ's* wife, based on a dream she had, pleaded with him not to fight the Muslims, but he did not listen to her and followed the Muslims with an army of 6,000 horsemen and 10,000-foot soldiers, vowing that he would turn the Muslims into shepherds. *Būliṣ's* brother *Batrus* attacked Ḥaḍrat *Abu Ubaidah's* army and captured some Muslim women and children, including Ḥaḍrat *Khāula*, and sent them to Damascus. When Ḥaḍrat *Sahl* (May Allāh be pleased with him) informed Ḥaḍrat *Khālid* about this, Ḥaḍrat *Khālid* sent Ḥaḍrat *Rāfi'*, Ḥaḍrat *'Abdur-Rahmān bin 'Auf*, and Ḥaḍrat *Dirār* (May Allāh be pleased with them) with an army of 1,000 men to help Ḥaḍrat *Abu 'Ubaidah*, and later joined them himself. The Muslims attacked the enemy and defeated them. Out of the 6,000 Romans, barely a hundred men survived. Ḥaḍrat *Dirār* captured *Būliṣ* alive. Ḥaḍrat *Khālid* with two thousand men went in pursuit of *Batrus* who had imprisoned Muslim women and children.

Batrus's prisoners included Muslim women who were experienced in warfare. Ḥaḍrat *Khāula* awakened their pride and motivated them so they attacked the Roman soldiers and killed thirty of them. Seeing the bravery of the Muslim women and his soldiers being killed, *Batrus* became very angry and prepared his army to fight them. Meanwhile, Ḥaḍrat *Khālid's* army arrived and surrounded the infidels from all sides. *Batrus* got scared and tried to flee but Ḥaḍrat *Dirār* struck him with a spear and he fell off his horse. Ḥaḍrat *Dirār* then finished him off with a second blow. The Muslims killed many Romans and those who survived fled to Damascus. Ḥaḍrat *Khālid* returned to Damascus and invited

Būliṣ to Islam. However, he had heard the news of his brother's death and wanted to join him, so Ḥaḍrat *Khālīd* killed him too.

Following the battle of *Ajnādīn*, Ḥaḍrat *Khālīd* ordered the Islamic army to march toward Damascus. The people of Damascus had received the news of the defeat of the Romans at *Ajnādīn* and had, therefore, gathered grain and other supplies and taken refuge in the fortress. They had also placed weapons on the walls of the fortress to attack the Muslims. The Islamic army set a siege to the fort. The people of Damascus asked their ruler *Tūma* to seek the help of Heraclius or reconcile with the Muslims, but *Tūma* ordered them to attack the Muslims. Both sides kept launching attacks and the siege was prolonged. Finally, taking advantage of an opportunity, the Muslims climbed over the fortress walls and succeeded in opening the gates, and the Islamic forces thus entered Damascus. Ḥaḍrat *Abu 'Ubaidah*, who occupied the western gate, accepted the people's request for amnesty. Since Ḥaḍrat *Abu 'Ubaidah* had given amnesty to the people of Damascus, the terms of the amnesty were applied to all the conquered lands.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: It is important to clarify here that the battle of Damascus started during the *Khilāfat* of Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him), however, when the news of the victory of Damascus reached Medina, Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) had already passed away. It was, therefore, the last battle fought in the time of Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him). Next time, I will speak about the other aspects of the life of Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him).

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) informed the *Jamā'at* of the sad demise of the following members: *'Umar Arqūb sahib*, former President of South Palestine *Jamā'at*; *Sheikh Nāsir Ahmad sahib* of *Mithi, Tharparkar*, Pakistan; *Malik Sultān Ahmad sahib*, former *Mu'allim Waqf-e-Jadīd*; and *Mahbūb Ahmad Rajiki sahib* of *Mandi Bahāuddīn*, Pakistan.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) spoke about their virtues and their services for the *Jamā'at* and announced to lead their funeral prayer in absentia after the Friday prayer.

Jazākumullāh

Wassalām,

Abdul Majid Tahir
Additional Wakīlut Tabshīr
ISLAMABAD (UK)
Dated: 08 September 2022