

The Amīr/National President
Jamā'at Aḥmadīyya,

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Dear Brother,

السلام علیکم ورحمة الله وبرکاته

Summary of the Friday Sermon delivered by Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V (May Allāh be his Helper) on 11th November 2022 at Mubārak Mosque Islāmabād, 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: According to the Traditions, Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was an expert in genealogy and was also well versed in poetry. He was the foremost among people in his knowledge of Arab genealogy and most knowledgeable about the positive and negative qualities of the *Quraish*. However, he did not speak of their negative qualities. This is why he was more popular among the *Quraish* than Ḥaḍrat *'Aqīl bin Abu Ṭālib* (May Allāh be pleased with him) who was second to Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) in his knowledge of the lineage of the *Quraish* but was disliked by them because he would relate their negative traits as well.

According to the people of Mecca, Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was one of their best people. Whenever they faced any difficulty, they would turn to him for help. Once *Quraish's* poets recited poems that were derogatory to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him), Ḥassān bin Thābit (May Allāh be pleased with him) was given the responsibility of answering their poems and the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) instructed him to seek Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr's* (May Allāh be pleased with him) advice about the genealogy of the *Quraish*. When Ḥaḍrat Ḥassān's poems reached Mecca, the people said that the verses had been written with the guidance and advice of Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him).

The biographers of Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) have debated whether or not Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) used to compose poetry. A manuscript containing twenty-five poems has been found in a library in Turkey and is said to be the work of Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him). According to one author, it was confirmed to him through revelation that these poems were indeed of Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him). It is also written in *Ṭabqāt ibn Sa'd* and *Sīrat ibn Hishām* that Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) did compose some poems.

The following verses are thought to have been composed by Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) after the burial of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him):

O eyes, by the right to cry for the master of both worlds!

Keep crying and may your tears never stop

O eyes! shed tears over the best son of the tribe of Quraish,

who was hidden in the tomb in the evening time

May the blessings of the King of kings, the Lord of servants,

and the Lord of worshipers be upon him

What is life after the beloved has departed?

The one who adorned all the worlds

If only death had taken us together,

just as we were together in life!

Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was a man of deep insight. Ḥaḍrat *Abu Sa'īd Khudrī* (May Allāh be pleased with him) relates that the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) once said, Allāh gave a servant of His the choice to have this world or to have that which is with Allāh, and he has chosen that which is with Allāh. Hearing this, Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) started crying, and I wondered why he was doing so. Thereupon, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) said, O, *Abu Bakr*! Do not cry. *Abu Bakr* is the one who has done good to me through his friendship and his wealth. If it was possible for me to take a bosom friend, I would take *Abu Bakr*.

In the same context, Ḥaḍrat *Muṣliḥ Ma'ūd* (May Allāh be pleased with him) says: One day, during the final days of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him), he stood up and addressed his Companions: O people! There is a servant of Allāh whom Allāh addressed and gave him the choice to stay in this world or to go to Him, and he chose to be with Allāh. Hearing this, Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) started crying uncontrollably. Upon this, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) said, I love *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) so much that if it were permissible for me to take a bosom friend, it would be *Abu Bakr*.

The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says that when the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) recited the verse:

الْيَوْمَ اكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ وَأَتِمَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي

“This day have I perfected your religion for you and completed My favour upon you.” [5:4]

Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) wept and said, from this verse, I sense the impending demise of the Messenger of Allāh. The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says: Prophets are like deputies who are assigned a task, and when their work is done, they depart. Therefore, when the words, الْيَوْمَ اكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ reached Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him), he understood that the demise of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) was close. This clearly shows that Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) possessed great wisdom. It has been mentioned that the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) ordered all the windows opening into the mosque to be closed except that of Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him). The secret behind this is that since a mosque is the manifestation of divine secrets, the door to the understanding to these secrets would not shut upon Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him). The wisdom of the mysteries and words of Allāh would always be open to Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him). Thus, Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) possessed the greatest understanding of the Holy Qur'ān.

The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says, ask the Muslim clerics whether *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was wise or not. Was he not called *Ṣiddīque*? Wasn't he the one who became the first *Khalīfa* of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) and served Islām diligently and put an end to the spread of apostasy? Therefore, when he recited the verse,

وَمَا مُحَمَّدٌ إِلَّا رَسُولٌ قَدْ خَلَتْ مِنْ قَبْلِهِ الرُّسُلُ

“And Muhammad is only a Messenger. Verily, all Messengers have passed away before him” [3:145]

he did so because it was a solid argument and not a flimsy one.

The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says, the verse has two aspects. One is that he has purified you. The second is that he has completed the book. And it is an established fact that the completion of the mission indicates the departure of the Messenger.

The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says that Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr Ṣiddīque* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was one of the most experienced and insightful of men. He faced many complex challenges and tribulations and participated in many battles and observed war tactics. He travelled through deserts and mountains. He entered many a perilous situation without hesitation and made many a crooked path straight. He took the lead in many wars and many were the insurrections that he overcame. He ascended through many stages until he became a master in experience and wisdom. He showed resilience in the face of hardship and practised austerity. Therefore, Allāh chose him for the companionship of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) and praised him for his truth and steadfastness. This was an indication that the Messenger of Allāh loved him more than anyone else. He was born of the leaven of freedom and loyalty was intrinsic in his nature; this is why he was chosen at a time of the greatest fear and peril. Allāh is All-Knowing and Wise; He places everything in its proper place. He paid special attention to *Ibn Abi Qaḥāfah* and made him a unique personality.

Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was also very proficient in the art of the interpretation of dreams. He used to interpret dreams during the life of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) as well. *Imām Muhammad bin Ṣīrīn* says that Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr Ṣiddīque* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was only second to the Messenger of Allāh in possessing the gift of the interpretation of dreams.

Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was one of the few Companions who had the honour of leading the prayers in the Prophet's Mosque when the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) was absent. He also had the special honour of being chosen by the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) to lead the prayer during his last illness. According to Ḥaḍrat *'Āishah* (May Allāh be pleased with her), the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) said that it was not appropriate for anyone else to lead the prayers when *Abu Bakr* was present.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that he would continue with these accounts in future, *inshā' Allāh*.

Jazākumullāh.

Wassalām,

Abdul Majid Tahir
Additional Wakīlut Tabshīr
ISLĀMABAD (UK)

Dated: 17 November 2022