

The Amīr/National President
Jamā'at Aḥmadīyya,

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Dear Brother,

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

Summary of the Friday Sermon delivered by Ḥaḍrat *Khalīfatul-Masīh V* (May Allāh be his Helper) on 25th November 2022 at Mubārak Mosque Islāmabād, 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: Many accounts speak of his service to humanity and feeding the poor. Even before he had accepted Islām, Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was considered the best among the *Quraish*. People would come to him for help with all kinds of problems. He used to host great feasts in Mecca and offer hospitality. Before the advent of Islām, he was considered the most eminent and distinguished of the *Quraish*. Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was extremely kind to the poor and needy. In winter, he would buy blankets and distribute them among the deserving.

Before becoming *Khalīfa*, Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) used to milk the goats for a destitute family. He continued to render this service for six months even after he became *Khalīfa* until he shifted residence to Medina. Ḥaḍrat *Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) used to take care of an old, blind woman living on the outskirts of Medina. He would bring her water and do her chores. One time, when he went to her house, he found that all the work had already been done. The next time he went and hid in the house and found that it was Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) who came to her house and performed the chores. Thereupon, Ḥaḍrat *Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) said, by Allāh, it could only have been you! That is to say, only you could have surpassed me in this good deed.

Ḥaḍrat *Abdur-Raḥmān bin Abi Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with them) relates: One day, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) said, whoever has food for two should take home three guests, and whoever has food for four should take home five guests. Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) took three guests with him, while the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) took ten guests. After Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) had served food to his guests, there was so much leftover that it seemed to be three times more than the original. Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) took the food to the house of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) and many people partook of it. This is how Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr's* (May Allāh be pleased with him) food was blessed by Allāh.

Ḥaḍrat *Musleh Maūd* (May Allāh be pleased with him) says: Ḥaḍrat *Abdur-Raḥmān* (May Allāh be pleased with him), the son of Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him), was also worthy of *Khilāfat*. People said that he was more compassionate than Ḥaḍrat *Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) and equally able, hence, he should become *Khalīfa* after Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him). Nonetheless, even though the two were very different in dispositions, Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) chose Ḥaḍrat *Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) to be *Khalīfa* after him. In this way, Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) did not gain any personal benefit from his *Khilāfat*. He saw greatness only in the service of others.

According to a *Sūfi* tradition, when Ḥaḍrat *Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) became *Khalīfa*, he asked one of Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr's* (May Allāh be pleased with him) servants about the good deeds that his master used to perform, so that he could continue them. The servant

told Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) that Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) used to go to such and such a place with food every day. Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) went to that place and he found a crippled and blind man sitting in a cave. When Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) put a morsel in his mouth, he started crying and said, may Allāh have mercy on Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him), what a man he was! Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) asked, how do you know that Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) is dead? He said, I don’t have teeth in my mouth, so Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) used to chew a morsel before putting it in my mouth. Today the food is hard and so I know that someone else has put it in my mouth. Also, Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) never missed a day. Thus I know that Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) is no longer with us.

Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was the epitome of courage and bravery. In the service of Islām and his love for the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him), he did not care even for the greatest danger. During his days in Mecca, whenever he saw the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) in any kind of peril, he would stand up to protect him. He remained steadfast during the three years of captivity at *Shi’b Abi Tālib*. Even during the migration, he had the honour of being with the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) despite the danger to his life. He not only participated in all the battles but performed the duty of protecting the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him). When asked who was the bravest among the Companions, Ḥaḍrat ‘Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him) said that Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was the bravest, because, in the battle of *Badr*, he had stood beside the Messenger of Allāh (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) with his sword so that he could kill any idolater before he reached the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him). Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) demonstrated such courage, perseverance, sagacity, and love for the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) on the occasion of the Treaty of *Hudaibiyah* that Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) never forgot it.

Ḥaḍrat *Musleh Maūd* (May Allāh be pleased with him) narrates that one day the infidels put a cloth around the neck of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) and started pulling it hard. Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) learnt of this and came running. He pushed away the infidels and said, O people! Do you not have any fear of Allāh that you beat a person just because he says, Allāh is my Lord? He does not ask for any property from you, so why do you beat him? The Companions say that Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was the bravest among them. The enemy thought that if they could kill Muhammad (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him), Islām would end, and we saw that Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) always stood beside the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) to counter anyone who tried to attack him.

Ḥaḍrat *Musleh Maūd* (May Allāh be pleased with him) says that just as Gabriel was with the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) on his journey to Jerusalem, so was Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) with him during the *Hijrah*. It would seem that he was as obedient to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) as Gabriel was to Allāh. Gabriel means the champion of Allāh. Likewise, Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was a special servant of Allāh and a fearless champion of the faith.

Before the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) passed away, he said to Ḥaḍrat ‘Aisha (May Allāh be pleased with her), I keep wishing to tell people to elect *Abu Bakr* as *Khalīfa* after me, but then I stop, because I know it in my heart that the believers will not elect as *Khalīfa* anyone other than *Abu Bakr*. This is what eventually happened.

The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says: Look at the Companions, in times of trials and tribulations, they gave whatever they had in the way of Allāh. Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May

Allāh be pleased with him) sacrificed all his possessions and Allāh rewarded him. Thus, only the wealth that is spent in the way of Allāh is helpful in achieving goodness and spiritual bliss.

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: 01 December 2022