

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 02nd December 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: Ḥaḍrat *Ibn ‘Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) narrates: During the life of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him), we used to compare the Companions to see who was the best among them. We considered Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) to be the most superior, followed by Ḥaḍrat *‘Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him), and then Ḥaḍrat *‘Uthmān* (May Allāh be pleased with him). On one occasion, Ḥaḍrat *‘Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) said to Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him), after the Messenger of Allāh (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him), you are the best among the people. Hearing this, Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) responded, I have heard the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) say that the sun has not risen on a man who is better than *‘Umar*.

Ḥaḍrat *Salmān*, Ḥaḍrat *Ṣohaib* and Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* (May Allāh be pleased with them) were once sitting among the people when *Abu Sufiān* came by. Seeing him, they said: By Allāh! The swords of Allāh have not yet exacted their revenge on the neck of the enemy of Allāh. Hearing this, Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) said, are you speaking in this way about the elders of the *Quraish*? Later when he came to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him), the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) said, O, *Abu Bakr*! Perhaps you have offended *Salmān*, *Ṣohaib* and *Bilāl*. If you have, then you have offended your Lord. Hearing this, Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) went to the three gentlemen and said, dear brothers! Have I offended you? They said no, you have not. This incident shows Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr*’s (May Allāh be pleased with him) humility as he apologized to the very people whom he had freed from slavery.

The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says: One of the merits and special virtues of Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) is that he was chosen to accompany the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) at the time of the migration, he stood by the Best of Creation in times of great tribulations, he was with him from the very beginning so that his special bond with the Beloved of Allāh may be established. This was because Allāh knew that *Ṣiddīque-Akbar* was the bravest, most pious, and the most beloved of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him), and was lost in his love for the most honoured one among the creations.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) read out quotes from some contemporary orientalisks regarding Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) and said that these people often do not comprehend the truly exalted status of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) and, therefore, exaggerate the merits of Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) and Ḥaḍrat *‘Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with him) to such an extent as cannot be warranted. The fact is that Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* and Ḥaḍrat *‘Umar* (May Allāh be pleased with them) and the others were completely loyal to their master, the Holy Prophet Ḥaḍrat Muhammad (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him). They were like hands and feet at the service of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him).

Ḥaḍrat *Muṣleḥ Maūd* (May Allāh be pleased with him) says: Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was just an ordinary merchant of Mecca. Had the Messenger of Allāh (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) not been sent, a historian writing the history of Mecca would have said of Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) only that he was a respectable and honest Arab merchant. However, by following the Holy Prophet (May

Allāh's blessings be upon him), Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) attained such a status that today the whole world speaks of him with reverence.

Ḥaḍrat *Muṣleḥ Maūd* (May Allāh be pleased with him) says: One day, a son of Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him), who had accepted Islām after a long time, was sitting in the Prophet's Mosque when in the course of the conversation he said to Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him): Father! On the occasion of such and such a battle, I was hiding behind a rock when you passed right in front of me twice. Had I wanted, I would have killed you, but I did not do so as you were my father. Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) replied, I did not see you at that time but had I seen you, I would have killed you, for you had come to the battle as an enemy of Allāh.

The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says: Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) was like a candle that was ready to be lit. Therefore, the blessed teachings of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) immediately inspired and enlightened him. He did not argue with the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him), nor did he ask for any sign or miracle. After hearing his claim, he merely asked him whether he had made that claim. When the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) confirmed that he had, Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) said, be my witness that I am the first to believe. It is my experience that very few of those who argue find guidance. On the other hand, those who act with good faith and are patient partake of guidance to the fullest extent. Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) and *Abu Jahl* exemplified these two attitudes. Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) did not argue, nor did he ask for a sign, and yet he was blessed with far greater signs than anyone else; in fact, he himself became a great sign. *Abu Jahl*, on the other hand, argued and did not desist from persecution. He saw signs upon signs but could not comprehend. Finally, he became a sign for others and died in a state of antagonism.

The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says: My Lord has revealed to me that *Ṣiddīque*, *Farūq* and *'Uthmān* (May Allāh be pleased with them) were righteous believers and were among those whom Allāh had chosen. They were distinguished by Allāh's special grace and many men of insight testified to their virtues. They left their homes following the will of Allāh. They entered the furnace of every battle. They cared not for the heat of summer, nor the cold of winter nights, but went forth in the service of faith like valiant youth. They bade farewell to their near and dear ones for the sake of the Lord of the worlds. There is a fragrance in their actions that points to their lofty status.

The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) further says: Allāh has made Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr*, *'Umar* and *'Uthmān* (May Allāh be pleased with them) the gates of Islām and the vanguard of the army of Ḥaḍrat Muhammad, the Messenger of Allāh (May Allāh's blessings be upon him). Whoever denies their lofty status and is irreverent towards them and speaks ill of them, I fear that such a person will end up losing his faith.

The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says: The truth is that both Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr*, *Ṣiddīque* and *'Umar Farūq* (May Allāh be pleased with them) were among the most eminent Companions. They never failed in their duties. They held *Taqwa* to be their path and justice their goal. Such is their lofty status that they were buried in a place that would have made Moses and Jesus envious, had they been alive.

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor (May Allāh be his helper) said that he would present the remaining account in future, *inshā' Allāh*.

Jazākumullāh.

Wassalām,