

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

The Amīr/National President
Jamā‘at Aḥmadīyya,

Dear Brother,

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

Summary of the Friday Sermon delivered by *Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīh V* (May Allāh be his Helper) on 20th January 2023 at *Mubārak Mosque Islāmabād, Tilford, UK*

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) in the beginning of his sermon recited the following verses:

وَلَا تَقُولُوا لِمَنْ يُقْتَلُ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ أَمْوَاتٌ بَلْ أَحْيَاءٌ وَلَكِنْ لَا تَشْعُرُونَ () وَلَتَبْلُوَنَّكُمْ بِشَيْءٍ مِنَ الْخَوْفِ وَالْجُوعِ وَنَقْصٍ مِنَ الْأَمْوَالِ وَالْأَنْفُسِ
وَالْقَمَرَاتِ وَبَشِيرِ الصَّابِرِينَ () الَّذِينَ إِذَا أَصَابَتْهُمُ مُصِيبَةٌ قَالُوا إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ ()

And say not of those who are killed in the cause of Allāh that they are dead; nay, they are living; only you perceive not. And We will try you with something of fear and hunger, and loss of wealth and lives, and fruits; but give glad tidings to the patient, who, when a misfortune overtakes them, say, 'Surely, to Allāh we belong and to Him shall we return. (2:155-157)

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Members of Jamā‘at Aḥmadīyya have been sacrificing their lives in the way of Allāh for more than a century. However, these sacrifices have never been in vain. Allāh not only elevates the status of the martyrs, but He also blesses the Jamā‘at with greater progress. While the martyrs attain a station where they are exalted forever, their names also continue to shine bright in this world. Sacrificing their lives for the sake of Allāh brings them eternal life and also breathes new life into the Jamā‘at.

In Jamā‘at Aḥmadīyya, these sacrifices of lives started with the martyrdom of *Ḥaḍrat Sahibzada Syed Abdul Latif Sāhib* during the time of the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him). For a long time, such sacrifices were confined to Afghanistan and the Indian subcontinent. In 2005, an Ahmadī in the African country of Congo sacrificed his life purely for the sake of the Jamā‘at. However, the example of love, faith and conviction demonstrated by African Ahmadīs in Burkina Faso a few days ago is unparalleled.

They were given a chance that their lives would be spared if they denied the truth of the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him), but these men—whose faith seems to be stronger than mountains—said, “We cannot barter our faith for our lives. We cannot abandon the truth that we have accepted.” Thus, one after one, they gave up their lives. Their women and children were watching but none of them cried or wailed.

These people fulfilled their pledge of giving preference to faith over their lives, wealth and time in such a way that they surpassed the ones before them. May Allāh grant each of them the blessings that He has promised to those who make sacrifices in His path.

According to the details, eight armed men on four motorcycles came to the Aḥmadīyya mosque in *Mahdiabad* Dori Burkina Faso at the time of *Isha* prayer. The terrorists first asked questions about the beliefs of Ahmadīs and declared that Ahmadīs were infidels. They then separated the able-bodied men from the women and children and first said to the *Imām* that his life would be spared if he rejected *Aḥmadīyyat*. The *Imām* replied, “You may cut off my head but I will not abandon *Aḥmadīyyat*.” Thereupon, they martyred him.

The terrorists thought that they had now instilled fear in the hearts of the rest of the Ahmadīs and that they would succumb easily. They next called an elderly man and asked if he preferred to leave *Aḥmadiyyat* or die. The man said that he would not leave *Aḥmadiyyat*, upon which they shot him in the head and martyred him as well. Likewise they called all one by one and martyred them. Not a single one of the Ahmadīs showed any weakness nor hesitation nor denied *Aḥmadiyyat*. This whole incident took an hour-and-a-half and one can only imagine the agony of those who witnessed their loved ones being thus brutally martyred.

While describing the martyrdom of *Hadrat Sahibzada Abdul Latif Sāhib* in his book *Tadhkiratush-Shahādatain*, the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) said that Allāh will create many who will succeed this martyr. Today we are witnessing that the people of Africa have made this come true. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) then introduced the martyrs one by one.

Imam Alhaj Ibrahim Boureima Bidiga: He was once the most eminent *Wahabi* Imam of this area. After accepting *Aḥmadiyyat*, he became a passionate preacher. He was a very knowledgeable man. I named this village "*Mahdiabad*" at his request. He was 68 years old. He had earlier studied in Saudi Arabia. Before accepting *Aḥmadiyyat*, he was the chief of many villages and scholars felt honoured to be in his presence. He pledged Bai'at after much research and set the highest standard of sacrifice. Through his efforts, *Aḥmadiyyat* spread throughout the region and many Jama'ats were established. He did not give up preaching despite death threats. He was also extremely loyal to Khilāfat. He was very kind and compassionate and was respected by the people of the area. He was foremost in making financial sacrifices and partaking in Jamā'at activities.

AG Maniel Alhassane: He was 71 years old at the time of his martyrdom. He was a farmer by profession. He accepted *Aḥmadiyya* in 1999 and continued to grow in sincerity and faithfulness. He was regular in prayers and *Tahajjud*. His twin brother AG Maliel Ousseneni was also martyred in this incident.

AG Maliel Ousseneni: He was also 71 years old and pledged Bai'at in 1999. He was one of the first Ahmadīs of his village. He was currently serving as *Zaeem* of *Majlis Ansārullah*. He performed the five daily prayers regularly in the mosque. His twin brother was also martyred in this incident. Both brothers were thus born on the same day and passed away on the same day.

AG Hamidou Abdouramane: He was 67 years old. He was a farmer by profession. He too pledged Bai'at in 1999. He had a pure heart and a gentle nature. He was never absent from Jamā'at activities except for illness. He was the helper of the *Imam*. He would encourage his family to participate in the work of the Jamā'at. He listened to the Friday sermon attentively and regularly.

AG Ibbrahim Souley: He was a farmer by profession. He was regular in his prayers and paid his *Chanda* punctually. He was an active member of *Majlis Ansārullah*. He was knowledgeable and would hold religious and scholarly discourses. He was very gentle by nature and was kind to everyone. He would help the poorer members to travel to the *Jalsa Sālāna*.

AG Soudeye Ousmane: He was 59 years old. He actively participated in the construction of the *Mahdiabad* mosque. He was regular in *Tahajjud* and obligatory prayers. He was a shoe seller and would not let any customer go barefoot even if he did not have enough money. He would come to the mosque at *Maghrib* and stay until *Isha*. He was a very devoted Ahmadī and wrote to me regularly.

AG Maguel Agali: He was born in 1970 and accepted Aḥmadīyya in 1999 along with his father. He was a farmer by profession. He was a very sincere Ahmadī and actively participated in prayers and *Chanda*.

AG Idrahi Moussa: He was 53 years old at the time of martyrdom. He was a farmer by profession. He was regular in *Tahajjud* and obligatory prayers. He would also come to the mosque at *Maghrib* and stay until *Isha*. He was a very devoted Ahmadī and wrote to me regularly.

AG Adramane Agouma: He was 44 years old at the time of martyrdom. He was the youngest among the martyrs. In 1999, at the age of twenty, he accepted Aḥmadīyya and then steadily grew in sincerity and loyalty. He told the terrorists without any hesitation that he was the Deputy *Imam*. He was regular in *Tahajjud* and obligatory prayers and would bring his children to the mosque. He was an avid cyclist and travelled long distances for the work of the Jamā‘at. Being the youngest of the martyrs, he bravely said to the terrorists that he was ready to sacrifice his life in the same path as his elders had done.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: These are the shining stars of Aḥmadīyya. They have left behind a great example for us. May Allāh also make their progeny firm in faith and conviction. The opponents think that they can put an end to *Aḥmadīyyat* in this way, but *Aḥmadīyyat* is bound to grow and flourish, *Insha’Allāh*.

May Allāh grant patience and courage to the families of the martyrs and enable them to understand the purpose for which their elders have sacrificed their lives.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: In order to meet the needs of the families of Ahmadī martyrs and to help them become self-sufficient, the *Syedna Bilāl* Fund was established during the time of Ḥaḍrat *Khalīfatul-Masīh IV* (May Allāh shower His mercy upon him). Whoever wishes to help the families of the martyrs should contribute to this fund. This is not a favour we are doing to them but it is our duty to take care of their needs.

Citing a quote of the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him), Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: These martyrs have lived up to the test, and now it is the turn of those who are left behind. May Allāh grant us fortitude in our faith and conviction. May Allāh raise the spiritual status of the martyrs and reward them so that we may witness the teachings of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) spread in the whole world.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) then announced that, along with the martyrs’, he would also lead the funeral prayer in absentia of Doctor *Karīmullah Zairvi Sāhib* and his wife *Amatul Latif Zairvi Sāhiba* of the USA who passed away recently.

Wassalām,

Abdul Majid Tahir
Additional Wakīlut Tabshīr
ISLĀMABAD (UK)
Dated: 23 January 2023