

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

The National Amīr/ President
Jamā‘at Aḥmadīyya,

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Dear Brother,

السلام علیکم ورحمة اللہ وبرکاتہ

Summary of the Friday Sermon delivered by *Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V* (May Allāh be his Helper) on 09th June 2023 at *Mubārak Mosque Islāmabād, Tilford, UK.*

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: I previously spoke about the events following the Holy Prophet’s (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) migration to Madinah, the causes that led to the Battle of *Badr*, and the schemes of the disbelievers of Makkah and the countermeasures taken by the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him). Today, I will speak about some of the expeditions that took place before the Battle of *Badr* and the disbelievers’ preparation for fighting.

The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) sent first expedition in *Ramaḍān* of the first *Hijrī* year. It was called *Sariyyah Ḥaḍrat Ḥamza*, or *Sariyyah Sifūl Baḥr*. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) appointed his uncle, *Ḥaḍrat Ḥamza* (May Allāh be pleased with him), as its commander. He was accompanied by thirty *Muhājirīn* on horseback. At *Īṣ*, they encountered a caravan coming from Syria headed by *Abu Jahl*. Both parties prepared for battle, but a chief from the *Banu Sulaim* tribe intervened and mediated a settlement.

The Expedition of ‘*Ubaidah bin Harith* (May Allāh be pleased with him) took place in the month of *Shawāl* in the first *Hijrī* year when the Messenger of Allāh entrusted *Ḥaḍrat ‘Ubaidah bin Harith* (May Allāh be pleased with him) with the command of sixty *Muhājirīn* and sent them towards *Thaniyatul Marrah*. There, they encountered *Abu Sufyān* and his two hundred horsemen. Although arrows were exchanged from both sides, no formal battle took place. This marked the first instance of arrows being exchanged between Muslims and the disbelievers. Notably, it was *Ḥaḍrat Sa‘ad bin Abi Waqas* (May Allāh be pleased with him) who shot the first arrow, thus becoming the first to do so in Islamic history. *Ḥaḍrat Sa‘ad* used to take great pride in this.

Then, in the first or second year after migration, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) appointed *Ḥaḍrat Sa‘ad bin Abi Waqas* (May Allāh be pleased with him) to lead a group of twenty men to intercept a trade caravan of the *Quraish*. They were instructed not to proceed beyond *Kharār* Valley. When they reached *Kharār*, they found that the caravan had already departed. Therefore, they returned without any confrontation.

The expedition of *Buwāt*, took place in the month of *Rabi‘ al Awal* of the 2nd *Hijrah*. The Messenger of Allāh appointed *Ḥaḍrat Sa‘ad bin Mu‘āz* (May Allāh be pleased with him) as the *Amīr* of Madinah and set out with his two companions to intercept the *Quraish* caravan. The caravan of *Quraish* consisted of one hundred *Quraish* men and 2500 camels. Upon reaching *Buwāt*, the Messenger of Allāh did not encounter anyone and returned to Madinah. The flag they carried was white and was held by *Ḥaḍrat Sa‘ad bin Abi Waqas* (May Allāh be pleased with him).

The Battle of *Badrul Ūlā*: Scarcely ten days had elapsed since the return from ‘*Ushairah* when *Kurz bin Jābir* launched an attack on the grazing fields of Madinah. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) set out in pursuit after appointing *Ḥaḍrat Zaid bin Harith* (May Allāh be pleased with him) as the leader of Madinah in his place. He reached the valley of *Safwān*, but *Kurz bin Jābir* had advanced at great speed, eluding the Muslims’ pursuit. Consequently, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) returned to Madinah. It earned the name *Badrul Ūlā* because the Muslim army had reached *Safwān* close to *Badr*.

The Expedition of ‘*Abdullah bin Jaḥsh* took place in the valley of *Nakhla* in the vicinity of Makkah. In the month of *Rajab*, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) dispatched

Ḥaḍrat ‘Abdullah bin Jahsh (May Allāh be pleased with him) with eight *Muhājirīn*. Ḥaḍrat Sa‘ad bin Abi Waqas and Ḥaḍrat ‘Utbah bin Ghazwān (May Allāh be pleased with them) lost their camel during the journey and stayed behind to search for it while the rest reached *Nakhla*. When the *Quraish* of Makkah saw the Muslims, they were frightened. It was the last day of the sacred month of *Rajab*. The Muslims consulted among themselves and decided that if they let the opportunity pass, it would be seen as weakness. Therefore, they attacked the *Quraish* and killed one of their leaders, ‘Amr bin Ḥaḍarmi. Ḥaḍrat ‘Abdullah bin Jahsh (May Allāh be pleased with him) took two prisoners and some camels and presented them to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) in Madinah. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) said that he had not commanded him to engage in fight during the sacred month. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) did not accept these offerings.

Allāh revealed following verse of *Surah Al-Baqarah* as a source of consolation for the Muslims regarding this expedition during the sacred month:

يَسْأَلُونَكَ عَنِ الشَّهْرِ الْحَرَامِ قِتَالٍ فِيهِ قُلْ قِتَالٌ فِيهِ كَبِيرٌ وَصَدُّ عَنْ سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَكَفْرٌ بِهِ وَالسُّجْدِ الْحَرَامِ وَإِخْرَاجُ أَهْلِهِ مِنْهُ أَكْبَرُ
عِنْدَ اللَّهِ وَالْفِتْنَةُ أَكْبَرُ مِنَ الْقَتْلِ وَلَا يَزَالُونَ يُقَاتِلُونَكَ حَتَّى يَرُدُّوكُمْ عَنْ دِينِكُمْ إِنِ اسْتَطَاعُوا

“They ask thee about fighting in the Sacred Month. Say: ‘Fighting therein is a great transgression, but to hinder men from the way of Allah, and to be ungrateful to Him and to hinder men from the Sacred Mosque, and to turn out its people therefrom, is a greater sin with Allah; and persecution is worse than killing.’ And they will not cease fighting you until they turn you back from your faith, if they can.” (2:218)

Afterwards, upon the safe return of Hazrat Sa‘ad bin Abi Waqas and Ḥaḍrat ‘Utbah bin Ghazwān, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) released the two *Quraish* prisoners.

The Greater Battle of *Badr* has been referred to by the Holy Qur’ān as the "Day of *Furqān*" Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul Masīh I (May Allāh be pleased with him) states that the Battle of *Badr* was the Day of *Furqān* as it was a day when the powerful opponents were defeated, and the Muslims achieved victory and triumph. This battle is also known as *Badrus Thānīyah*, *Badrul Kubrā*, *Badrul ‘Uzmā*, and *Badrul Qitāl*.

The Messenger of Allāh received information that *Abu Sufyān* of the *Quraish* was returning with a caravan consisting of a thousand camels, carrying a significant amount of the *Quraish's* wealth. The caravan comprised approximately thirty-five to seventy individuals. This was the same caravan that the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) had previously pursued. In order to intercept it, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) set out in the month of *Jumadal Ūlā* or *Jumadas Thānī* 2nd *Hijrah*.

Some people naively think that the Muslims carried out this expedition for plunder. However, Ḥaḍrat *Mirzā Bashīr Aḥmad* (May Allāh be pleased with him) writes in the book *Sīrat Khatamun-Nabīyyīn* that it was not objectionable at all to intercept this caravan, for this was an extraordinary caravan whose profits were intended to be used solely against the Muslims. In fact, historical evidence shows that the proceeds from this caravan were utilised in preparations for the Battle of *Uḥud*.

The Messenger of Allāh sent Ḥaḍrat *Talḥa bin ‘Ubaidullah* and Ḥaḍrat *Sa‘īd bin Zaid* (May Allāh be pleased with them) ahead to seek the news of this caravan. When *Abu Sufyān* learned that the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) had set out with his companions to attack the caravan, he became fearful and urgently sent a messenger to inform Makkah.

In this context, it is pertinent to mention a dream of Ḥaḍrat *‘Ātikah bint ‘Abdul Muṭalib* (May Allāh be pleased with her), the paternal aunt of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him), which later came true. Three nights before the arrival of *Abu Sufyān's* messenger in Makkah, she had a dream in which she saw a man riding a camel and calling people to gather for a battle within three days. He made this announcement from the field of *Abṭah*, from the roof of the *Ka‘aba*, and finally from the top of *Abu Qubais* mountain. She shared this dream with her brother. Eventually, word of this dream spread among the Makkans. When *Abu Jahl* heard of this, he began chastising the family of *‘Abdul Muṭalib* and suggested waiting for three days, and if the events unfolded as described in the dream, it would be considered true. Otherwise, they would hang a letter in the *Ka‘aba* proclaiming the family of *‘Abdul Muṭalib* as the greatest liars in Arab.

Later, upon the insistence of the women, Hazrat *‘Abbas bin ‘Abdul Muṭalib* (May Allāh be pleased with him) went to the *Ka‘aba* with the intention of killing *Abu Jahl*. However, their attention was diverted towards the distressed state of *Abu Sufyān's* messenger who was warning *Quraish* to save their caravan and claimed that the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) along with his companions had attacked the caravan.

The *Quraish*, who were already seeking a pretext for fighting, began making preparations upon hearing the news. The five leaders of the *Quraish* drew lots with arrows, and although the drawn arrow indicated not to go for fight, *Abu Jahl* still convinced them to do so.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said he would continue with this subject in future, *inshā’Allāh*.

Wassalām,

Abdul Majid Tahir
Additional Wakīlut Tabshīr
ISLĀMABAD (UK)
Dated: 13 June 2023