

The National Amīr/ President
Jamā‘at Aḥmadiyya,

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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 15th December 2023 at *Mubārak Mosque Islāmabād, Tilford, UK*

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) continued with the accounts regarding the Battle of Uhud and said: When the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) camped at the battlefield of Uhud, the mountain of Uhud stood behind the Muslim army on one side and provided protection from potential attacks from that end. However, there was a mountain pass that could be open to enemy assault. Sensing this vulnerability, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) appointed Ḥaḍrat ‘Abdullah bin Jubair (May Allāh be pleased with him) as a leader over a group of fifty archers to guard this pass. He instructed them even if you see that birds are clawing at our heads, or we have vanquished the enemy completely, do not abandon your post under any circumstances until I send you a message. He said to them, “Keep the enemy cavalry at bay so that they cannot attack us from the rear. We shall no doubt remain dominant as long as you remain in position.” He then said, "O Allāh, I hold Your witness over them.”

A writer commented, “This superb and superlative battle strategy shows the extraordinary military leadership of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him). It proves that however intelligent a commander, he could not have devised a better and more insightful battle plan.”

After assigning the archers to Uhud Mountain, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) was satisfied and started inspecting the ranks. In terms of their apparent numbers and equipment, the Muslims were in a much weaker position. The army of the polytheists had ten rows, while the Islāmic army had only two, aside from the fifty archers on the mountain pass. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) continued to supplicate to Allāh with great humility. Ḥaḍrat Anas (May Allāh be pleased with him) relates that on the day of Uhud, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) prayed, "O Allāh, if You will, You will not be worshipped on Earth," implying that if Allāh did not help the Muslims, this would be the result. According to some accounts, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) made the same supplication on the day of Badr as well. Allāh knows best.

Ḥaḍrat Sa‘d bin Abi Waqas (May Allāh be pleased with him) narrates that prior to the battle, Ḥaḍrat ‘Abdullah bin Jaḥsh (May Allāh be pleased with him) said, "Let us come together and pray." Ḥaḍrat Sa‘d then prayed, "O my Lord! Tomorrow, when we encounter our enemies, let me face a fierce, powerful combatant whom I can fight and kill." Then Ḥaḍrat ‘Abdullah bin Jaḥsh prayed, "O Allāh! Tomorrow, let me confront someone strong who would cut off my nose and ears. And when I meet You, I can say that I suffered this for Your sake and for the sake of Your Messenger." Subsequently, both their prayers were answered according to their supplications.

Ḥaḍrat Mirza Bashir Aḥmad (May Allāh be pleased with him) writes that the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) organised the ranks of the Islāmic army and appointed commanders for different groups. At this point, it was conveyed to him that the Quraish's flag was in the hands of Ṭalḥa, who belonged to a family that held the right to lead the Quraish in battles under the established system of their great ancestor Quṣai bin Kilāb. Upon this, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) said, “We are even more worthy of displaying national loyalty.” Consequently, he took the flag from Ḥaḍrat ‘Ali (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) and handed it to Ḥaḍrat Muṣ‘ab bin ‘Umair (May Allāh be pleased with him) who was from the same family as Ṭalḥa. Abu Sufyān was the commander of the Quraish army, which was followed by women beating drums and reciting poetry to incite the men.

Abu ‘Āmir initiated the battle. He was from the tribe of Aus, a resident of Madinah, and was known by the name of Rāhib. He had fled to Makkah out of spite and envy against the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) and was under the misconception that when he entered the battlefield, people from his tribe would abandon the Muslims and join him. So, he loudly proclaimed, "O army of the Aus, I am Abu ‘Āmir!" The Ansār responded, "O evil one!

May you never find peace," and they pelted stones at him, causing him and his companions to flee. After this, Ṭalḥa, filled with great zeal, came forward and arrogantly challenged anyone to come forward to fight him one-on-one. Ḥaḍrat ‘Ali stepped forward and swiftly struck him and killed him. Subsequently, nine people from the Quraish picked up the flag one by one but were all killed at the hands of the Muslims.

Renowned English historian Sir William Muir writes: *“Pressed by the fierce ardour of the Mussulmans [Muslims], the Meccan began to waver. Their horse sought repeatedly to turn the left flank of Mahomet; but they were each time forced back by the galling archery of the little band posted on the neighbouring height. The same daring contempt of danger was displayed as at Badr. The Meccan ranks might be seen to quiver as Abu Dujanah, distinguished by the red kerchief wound round his helmet, swept along, and, with a sword given to him by Mahomet, dealt death on every side. Hamza, conspicuous from his waving ostrich feather; Ali, marked by his long white plume; and Zobeir, known by his bright yellow turban – like heroes in the battles of the Iliad – carried confusion wherever they appeared. Such were the scenes in which were reared the great leaders of the Muslim conquests.”*

Ḥaḍrat Muṣṣleḥ Mau‘ūd (May Allāh be pleased with him) says that the fighting ensued and, with the help and grace of Allāh, over 3,000 experienced Meccan troops quickly retreated in the face of 650 Muslims. At that point, the Muslims stationed at the mountain pass thought that what the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) had stated was only for emphasis and that he would not want them to stand their ground even after the enemy had fled. Therefore, they abandoned it and entered the battlefield. The consequences of their insubordination will be described later.

Regarding Ḥaḍrat Abu Dujānah's sword, Ḥaḍrat Anas (May Allāh be pleased with him) narrates that, on the day of Uhud, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) picked up a sword and asked, "Who will take this from me?" Ḥaḍrat Abu Dujānah inquired about its obligations, and the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) said, "Do not use it against a Muslim, nor run away from a disbeliever, but face them and fight valiantly." Abu Dujānah took the sword, fought, and killed many of the idolaters.

Ḥaḍrat Mirza Bashir Aḥmad (May Allāh be pleased with him) writes that among those most eager to receive the blessed sword of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) was Ḥaḍrat Zubair. However, when the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) handed the sword to Ḥaḍrat Abu Dujānah, Ḥaḍrat Zubair vowed to observe how he would wield it. Subsequently, it is narrated that, taking the sword, Ḥaḍrat Abu Dujānah spread death among the disbelievers, reaching the Quraish women at the other end of the enemy lines. Hind, the wife of Abu Sufyān, came forward, screaming and calling the men for help, but no one came to her aid. Ḥaḍrat Abu Dujānah lowered his sword and withdrew. Later, when Zubair asked him about the incident, Ḥaḍrat Abu Dujānah explained that he was not inclined to strike a defenceless woman with the Prophet's sword. Ḥaḍrat Muṣṣleḥ Mau‘ūd (May Allāh be pleased with him) says that the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) taught respect for women, which sometimes caused their women to harm the Muslims with greater temerity, but the Muslims showed patience regardless. Such are the principles observed in Islāmic warfare.

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor once again appealed for prayers for the people of Palestine and said: The cruelties are exceeding all bounds and increasing by the day. May Allāh bring the oppressors to task and create ease for the oppressed Palestinians. May He grant the Muslim countries reason and understanding that they must unite as one voice so that they may be those who strive to uphold the rights of their Muslim brethren.

Wassalām,

Abdul Majid Tahir
Additional Wakīlut Tabshīr
ISLĀMĀBĀD (UK)
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