

The National Amīr/ President  
Jamā‘at Aḥmadīyya,

Dear Brother,

السلام علیکم ورحمة اللہ وبرکاتہ

### **Summary of the Friday Sermon delivered by *Hadrat Khalīfatul-Masīh V* (May Allāh be his Helper) on 07<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at *Mubārak Mosque Islāmābād, Tilford, UK***

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The Sariyyah about which I will speak today is known as Sariyyah Ḥaḍrat Mundhir bin ‘Amr or Bi’r Ma‘ūnah. This tragic event also took place in 4 AH. It is a horrific example of the treachery and brutality of the enemy.

In Banu Sulaim territory, along the road to Makkah, there was a well and also some land named Bi’r Ma‘ūnah; this is why this expedition came to be known as Sariyyah Bi’r Ma‘ūnah. The leader of this expedition was Ḥaḍrat Mundhir bin ‘Amr; hence, it is also called Sariyyah Mundhir bin ‘Amr.

Explaining the background to this expedition, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Bashīr Aḥmad (May Allāh be pleased with him) writes that the tribes of Sulaim and Ghaṭafān that were settled on the elevated plateau of Najd in central Arabia had made alliances with the Quraish of Makkah against the Muslims. A chief of the Banu ‘Āmir tribe, Abu Bara’ ‘Āmirī, visited the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him), who graciously invited him to Islām. He listened to the Holy Prophet's words with apparent interest but did not convert to Islām. However, he requested that the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) send some of his Ṣaḥāba with him to preach Islām to the people of Najd and expressed confidence that they would not reject the Holy Prophet's invitation. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) expressed his distrust of the people of Najd, but Abu Bara’ ‘Āmirī guaranteed the safety of the Ṣaḥāba. Since Abu Bara’ was a chief and a man of influence, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) sent a group of Ṣaḥāba towards Najd.

According to Bukhārī, some men from the tribes of R‘il and Dhakwān and others professed Islām and requested the Holy Prophet's assistance against their adversaries. It is possible that Abu Bara’ accompanied these people. In any case, in Ṣafar 4 AH, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) dispatched a group of seventy Ṣaḥāba led by Ḥaḍrat Mundhir bin ‘Amr (May Allāh be pleased with him). Most of these Ṣaḥāba were Ḥuffāz and scholars of the Holy Qur’ān.

In this context, we also find mention of a letter written by the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) to ‘Āmir bin Ṭufail. ‘Āmir bin Ṭufail was one of the arrogant leaders of the Banu ‘Āmir tribe. Deep down, he acknowledged the truth of the Holy Prophet and envisioned his eventual triumph across Arabia, but he also harboured personal ambitions. Seeking to negotiate with the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) pre-emptively, he proposed, "Perhaps you could govern the Bedouins while I oversee the city dwellers. Alternatively, I could serve as your successor once you're no longer here. If not, I will engage you in battle with a force of 1,000 horsemen." The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) declined all these offers, but sent him an invitation to Islām.

Ḥaḍrat Ḥarām bin Milḥān (May Allāh's blessings be upon him), along with two Ṣaḥāba, Ḥaḍrat Zaid bin Ka‘b and Ḥaḍrat Mundhir bin Muḥammad (May Allāh be pleased with them), took the Holy Prophet's letter to ‘Āmir bin Ṭufail. Initially, he pretended to welcome them, but when Ḥaḍrat Ḥarām bin Milḥān (May Allāh be pleased with him) began preaching Islām, the people present treacherously attacked the innocent messenger from behind with a spear, killing him. As he was being martyred, he exclaimed:

اللّٰهُ اَكْبَرُ فُرْتُ وَرَبِّ الْكَعْبَةِ

"Allahu Akbar! By the Lord of the Ka’ba, I have succeeded!"

‘Āmir bin Ṭufail did not stop at this; he even tried to incite the people of the Banu ‘Āmir tribe to attack the remaining group of Muslims, but they refused to do so. Consequently, ‘Āmir, along with the Banu R‘il, Dhakwān, and ‘Uṣayyah tribes from the Banu Sulaim, attacked the small and helpless group of Muslims. The Muslims told these savage attackers that they had no quarrel with them and had come only on a mission from the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him), but their words fell on deaf ears and they were all brutally slain.

When the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) learned of these events, he said to his Ṣaḥāba, "Your companions have been martyred, and they prayed to their Lord, 'O our Lord! Inform our brothers about us that we are pleased with You, and You are pleased with us.'"

Scholars agree that, with the exception of Ḥaḍrat ‘Amr bin Umayyah Ḍimari and Hazrat Ka'b bin Zaid, all other Ṣaḥāba met martyrdom in this expedition. While the names of all participants are not documented in historical texts, approximately 29 martyrs are recorded. It is reported that Ḥaḍrat ‘Amr bin Umayyah Ḍimari and Ḥaḍrat Mundhir bin Muḥammad (May Allāh be pleased with them) were among those who survived. Ḥaḍrat Mundhir (May Allāh be pleased with him) was later martyred while fighting, whereas ‘Āmir bin Ṭufail spared Ḥaḍrat ‘Amr (May Allāh be pleased with him) due to a vow he had made to free a slave on his mother's behalf. Because Ḥaḍrat ‘Amr belonged to the Muḍar tribe, ‘Āmir bin Ṭufail followed the Arab custom of cutting a few hairs from his forehead and setting him free. After leaving, Ḥaḍrat ‘Amr killed two men from either the Banu ‘Āmir or Banu Sulaim tribe, not knowing that the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) had granted them protection under a treaty. Therefore, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) paid their blood money.

The news of the events of Rajī‘ and Bi‘r Ma‘ūnah reached the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) and his Ṣaḥāba around the same time. It caused the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) great distress. He had never before, nor after, felt such sorrow. The sudden and deceitful killing of approximately 80 Ṣaḥāba, many of whom were Ḥuffāz, was akin to hearing the news of the deaths of 80 sons. However, Islām teaches patience in all circumstances. Upon hearing the news, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) recited:

إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

And then said, "These are the acts of Abu Barā’; otherwise, I never wanted to send these people."

After the incidents of Rajī‘ and Bi‘r Ma‘ūnah, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) offered anguished supplications during the Fajr prayers for an entire month. He mentioned the tribes of R‘il, Dhakwān, ‘Uṣayyah, and Banu Liḥyān by name, beseeching Allāh's mercy to restrain the enemies who were mercilessly spilling the blood of innocent Muslims in their effort to obliterate His religion.

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) again appealed for prayers for the oppressed people of Palestine, for Aḥmadīs in Pakistan, and for the general state of the world.

*Wassalām,*

Abdul Majid Tahir  
Additional Wakīlut Tabshīr  
ISLĀMABAD (UK)  
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