

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 *Hadrat Khalīfatul-Masīh V* (May Allāh be his Helper) on 05th July 2024 at *Mubārak Mosque Islāmabād, Tilford, UK*

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Today, I will talk about two battles. The first is the Battle of Badrul Maw‘id, which took place in the 4th year of Hijra. It is also known as Badrul Thānia and Badrul Sughra. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) set out towards Badr in the month of Sha‘ban, 4th Hijra. Some historians have disagreed about the exact month. Ḥaḍrat Mirza Bashīr Aḥmad (May Allāh be pleased with him) writes that the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) left Madinah with a group of 1500 Ṣaḥāba in the latter part of the month of Shawwal, 4 AH.

The cause of this battle dates back to when Abu Sufyān bin Ḥarb, upon turning back from the Battle of Uhud, declared that his people would meet the Muslims in battle at Badrul Ṣafrā’ the following year. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) instructed Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) to respond, "Yes, Inshā’ Allāh." According to another narration, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) himself responded with "Inshā’ Allāh."

Badr is a well-known well situated about 150 kilometres southwest of Madinah on the way to Makkah. In the pre-Islamic era, a large fair was held there annually from the 1st to the 8th of Dhul Qa‘dah. Although Abu Sufyān had challenged the Muslims to battle, as the time drew near, he hesitated but kept pretending that he was preparing to attack Madinah. To instil fear among the Muslims, he sent a man named Nu‘aim, promising him twenty camels. Nu‘aim exaggerated Abu Sufyān's war preparations to dissuade the Muslims from going to battle. However, the loyal Muslims did not heed his words and assured the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) of their loyalty and readiness for battle. Ḥaḍrat Mirza Bashīr Aḥmad (May Allāh be pleased with him) says that despite their victory at Uhud and having large numbers, Abu Sufyān was still fearful. He wanted to avoid facing the Muslims unless he had a significantly larger force.

When the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) learned of Abu Sufyān's preparations, he appointed Ḥaḍrat ‘Abdullah bin ‘Abdullah bin Ubai bin Salūl, the son of the leader of the hypocrites but a devout Muslim and loyal Ṣaḥābī, as the Amīr in Madinah. According to another narration, he appointed Ḥaḍrat ‘Abdullah bin Rawāḥa. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) handed his flag to Ḥaḍrat ‘Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him).

The Muslims, ostensibly heading towards Badr for a battle, also carried trade goods as an indication of their belief in Allāh's support. They were confident that either Abu Sufyān would not show up or, if he did, Allāh would grant them victory, and that they would be able to benefit from the fair by selling their goods. This happened as anticipated.

The Muslims arrived at the battlefield as promised. Abu Sufyān told the Quraish leaders that he had sent Nu‘aim to demoralize the Muslims before their departure. Abu Sufyān suggested that they march for a day or two and then return claiming that the Muslims had not come for battle and thus declaring themselves victors. If the Muslims did show up, they would say it was a year of drought that was not suitable for battle and propose that they wait for a more prosperous year. The Quraish accepted Abu Sufyān's plan and set out with a two-thousand-strong army. However, after covering only twenty-two kilometres, their courage failed. Abu Sufyān then announced their return, claiming it was not the right year for battle. The entire army retreated without opposition, exposing their fear of the Muslims.

The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) and his army stayed there for eight nights before returning to Madinah. They had been away for sixteen nights in total. The enemy could not muster the courage to confront them, which boosted the Muslims' morale. Some local disbelievers who leaned

towards the Quraish also withdrew in fear upon seeing the Holy Prophet's determination. Traders returning to Makkah informed Abu Sufyān of the Muslims' resolve and strong position, further embarrassing the Quraish for their cowardice and broken pledge.

The second battle is the Battle of Dumatul Jandal which took place on the 25th Rabi‘al Awwal, 5th Hijra. Dumatul Jandal is located 450 kilometres north of Madinah. It was a significant trade hub. This was the first Muslim expedition so far away from Madinah and close to the borders of the Roman province of Syria.

The background of this battle lies in the repeated defeats the enemies of Islām had faced and the growing influence of the Muslims. Enemies sought an opportunity to annihilate Muslims and Islam. Tribes near Dumatul Jandal, located on the northern edge of Madinah and near the Syrian border, started gathering a large force to challenge the Muslims. These tribes were causing disturbances and looting trade caravans. When the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) learned of these developments, he decided to disperse them to prevent any attack on Madinah and ensure safe passage for trade caravans to Syria. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) ordered the people to prepare and set out with an army of one thousand men. The army would travel during the night and lay low during the day.

According to Ḥaḍrat Mirza Bashīr Aḥmad (May Allāh be pleased with him), after a long journey of fifteen to sixteen days, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) and his army reached Dumatul Jandal, only to find that the tribes had scattered upon hearing of their approach. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) stayed there for a few days and sent out small parties, but they could not locate the dispersed tribes. After staying there for three days, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) and his army returned to Madinah on the 20th Rabi‘al Thāni.

This expedition proved to be very beneficial in terms of its consequences. The Muslims gained knowledge of the entire area, which was also one of the objectives. Another purpose was to remove the psychological barrier for the Arabs—that they could never fight the Roman empire.

Ḥaḍrat Mirza Bashīr Aḥmad (May Allāh be pleased with him) mentions that this expedition was primarily aimed at establishing peace in the region. The people of Dumatul Jandal had no direct conflict with the Muslims and were located far enough from Madinah to pose no immediate threat.

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said, I once again urge you to focus on prayers. Pray that Allāh establishes peace in the world—the kind of peace for which the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) strove and which is the purpose of his advent and the teachings of Islām. Achieving this peace can only happen through the special grace of Allāh, and there is a great need for prayers.

It seems that the world is bent on self-destruction, with no visible signs of peace. Moreover, in Western countries, the campaign against Muslims has intensified and is likely to escalate further. Muslims need to become unified and improve their conditions. May Allāh grant them understanding. Pray also for Muslim countries like Sudan, where Muslims are oppressing fellow Muslims, forgetting the true purpose of their faith, and causing non-Muslims to oppress them as well. May Allāh guide them to serve their nations and establish peace. Āmīn

Wassalām,

Abdul Majid Tahir
Additional Wakīlut Tabshīr
ISLĀMABAD (UK)
Dated: 09 July 2024