

The National Amīr/ President
Jamā‘at Aḥmadīyya,

.....

Dear Brother,

السلام علیکم ورحمة اللہ وبرکاتہ

Summary of the Friday Sermon delivered by *Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V* (May Allāh be his Helper) on 12th July 2024 at *Mubārak Mosque Islāmabād, Tilford, UK*

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Today, I will discuss the Battle of Banu Muṣṭaliq, also known as the Battle of Muraiysī‘. There is some disagreement among historians about when this battle took place. Some believe it was in 6 AH, while others suggest it was in 5 AH or 4 AH. However, according to the research of Ḥaḍrat Mirza Bashir Aḥmad (May Allāh be pleased with him), the battle took place in Sha‘bān 5 AH. This battle was fought against Banu Muṣṭaliq, a branch of Banu Khuḏā‘ah tribe, hence name Battle of Banu Muṣṭaliq. The tribe lived near a well named Muraiysī‘, which is why the conflict is also known as the Battle of Muraiysī‘.

Banu Muṣṭaliq were allies of Quraish and had pledged to stand by them. For this reason, Banu Muṣṭaliq participated in the Battle of Uhud alongside Quraish. One reason for this battle was the increasing hostility of Banu Muṣṭaliq towards Islām. They had full support and backing of Quraish. Having fought against the Muslims in the Battle of Uhud, they now openly opposed the Muslims and grew even more hostiles. Another reason was that the Banu Muṣṭaliq controlled the main route to Makkah and posed a significant obstacle to Muslims travelling there. Additionally, their leader, Ḥārith bin Abi Ḍirār, had mobilized his tribe and other Arab tribes to prepare to fight with the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) and had begun assembling an army 96 miles from Madinah.

Ḥaḍrat Mirza Bashir Aḥmad (May Allāh be pleased with him) writes that the opposition from the Quraish was becoming increasingly dangerous. They had already incited many Arab tribes against Islām and its founder. However, their hostility had now created a new threat: tribes in Ḥijāz region, that had previously maintained good relations with the Muslims, were also being incited by the Quraish to rise against the Muslims. The Banu Muṣṭaliq, a branch of Banu Khuḏā‘ah tribe, took the lead in this and began preparing to attack Madinah. Their leader, Ḥārith bin Abi Ḍirār, rallied other tribes in the area to join him.

When the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) heard of this, he sent a Ṣaḥābī, Ḥaḍrat Buraidah bin Ḥuṣayb (May Allāh be pleased with him), to gather information about Banu Muṣṭaliq and report back without delay. Ḥaḍrat Buraidah confirmed that preparations for an attack on Madinah were in full swing. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) informed the Muslims about the enemy and called for immediate preparation. The Muslim army, consisting of 700 men, quickly got ready and set out. According to one narration, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) appointed Ḥaḍrat Zaid bin Ḥārithah (May Allāh be pleased with him) as his deputy in Madinah. Ibn Hishām names Ḥaḍrat Abu Dhar Ghifārī as appointed deputy, while another narration mentions Ḥaḍrat Numailah bin ‘Abdullah.

The Muslim army, led by the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him), set out from Madinah on Monday, 2 Sha‘bān, 5 AH. Ḥaḍrat Mas‘ud bin Ḥunaidah (May Allāh be pleased with him) served as their guide. The Muslims had thirty horses, with ten belonging to the Muhājirīn and two to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him). The Ṣaḥāba with horses included Ḥaḍrat Abu Bakr, Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar Fārūq, Ḥaḍrat ‘Uthmān, Ḥaḍrat ‘Ali, Ḥaḍrat Zubair, Ḥaḍrat ‘Abdur Raḥmān bin ‘Auf, Ḥaḍrat Ṭalḥa bin ‘Ubaidullah, and Ḥaḍrat Miqdād bin ‘Amr (May Allāh be pleased with them).

It is further detailed that many hypocrites joined the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) in this expedition, not for Jihād but in hopes of gaining the spoils of war.

On their way, the Muslims encountered a spy from the disbelievers. They captured him and brought him to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) who questioned him about the enemy.

However, the spy refused to provide information, and due to his suspicious behaviour, Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with him) killed him under the prevailing rules of war. The Muslim army then continued their march.

When Banu Muṣṭaliq learned of the Muslims' approach and the killing of their spy, they became terrified. Their original plan was to launch a surprise attack on Madinah, but due to the Holy Prophet's vigilance, their plans were thwarted. The other tribes that had gathered to support Banu Muṣṭaliq were also frightened and quickly abandoned them. Despite this, Banu Muṣṭaliq, heavily influenced by the Quraish's enmity towards the Muslims, did not desist and remained ready to face the Muslim army.

When the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) arrived at Muraiysī‘, a leather tent was set up for him. Ḥaḍrat ‘Aisha Ṣiddiqah (May Allāh be pleased with her) was with him, and some historians also mention Ḥaḍrat Umme Salamah (May Allāh be pleased with her), though ‘Allama Ibn Ḥajar considers these narrations inauthentic. The codeword phrase of the Muslims in this battle was:

‘يامنصورامت’

‘O aided one, put to death.’

This codeword phrase helped Muslims distinguish each other from the disbelievers, especially during the night.

The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) arranged the ranks of Ṣaḥāba and gave the flag of Muhājirīn to Ḥaḍrat Abu Bakr, although some narrations say it was given to Ḥaḍrat ‘Ammār bin Yāsir (May Allāh be pleased with him). The flag of the Ansār was given to Ḥaḍrat Sa‘d bin ‘Ubādah (May Allāh be pleased with him). The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) instructed Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar to announce to the enemy's army, "O people, say there is no god but Allāh, and by this you will save your lives and possessions." Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar made the announcement, but the disbelievers remained adamant. There was an exchange of arrows for a while, the first arrow being shot by one of the disbelievers. After some time, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) ordered the Muslims to attack. The Muslims launched a unified assault and none of the disbelievers could flee. Ten of the disbelievers were killed and the rest were captured along with their women, children, and animals.

Ḥaḍrat Mirza Bashir Aḥmad (May Allāh be pleased with him) writes that upon reaching Muraiysī‘, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) ordered the camp to be set up and, after arranging the ranks and distributing flags, instructed Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar to announce to Banu Muṣṭaliq that if they ceased their enmity towards Islām and accepted the Holy Prophet's authority, they would be granted peace, and the Muslims would withdraw. However, they refused and prepared for battle, with the first arrow fired by one of their men. Seeing this, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) ordered the Muslims to fight. After a brief exchange of arrows, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) commanded a sudden attack, which overwhelmed the disbelievers, leading to their swift defeat with minimal casualties—ten disbelievers and one Muslim.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Today I have kept the sermon short because I have to speak about a martyr and other recently deceased members of the Jamā‘at. Additionally, I want to emphasize the significance of prayers during this month of Muḥarram. The tragic incident that took place in Muḥarram reflects profound injustice and brutality whereby the Holy Prophet's grandson and his family were martyred. Yet, the unfortunate reality is Muslims have failed to learn from this tragedy and continue to practice injustice even today. During Muḥarram, incidents of Shia-Sunni conflict or terrorism often escalate, resulting in loss of life on both sides. Allāh has promised to end these evils, but people are reluctant to accept it. During these days, it is crucial for Aḥmadīs to focus on reciting Durood and offering special prayers for Muslim unity. Moreover, we should strive to improve our own spiritual condition and draw closer to Allāh. May Allāh grant us all the ability to do so.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) then spoke about the services and good deeds of the martyr Bonja Maḥmūd Ṣāhib of Togo and the following members who passed away recently: Rashīd Ahmed Ṣāhib, Chaudhry Matī‘ur Raḥmān Ṣāhib, Manzūr Begum Ṣāhiba, and Master Sa‘ādat Ashraf Ṣāhib.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) announced to lead their funeral prayer in absentia after the Friday prayer.

Wassalām,

Abdul Majid Tahir
Additional Wakīlut Tabshīr
ISLĀMĀBAD (UK)
Dated: 18 July 2024