

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 13th September 2024 at Mubārak Mosque Islāmabād, Tilford, UK

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: In the previous sermon, I discussed the Battle of Aḥzāb and how the Jews of Khaybar, due to their betrayal and hostility, incited the disbelievers to form an army aimed at attacking and eliminating the Muslims. Historical accounts provide further details, explaining that the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) sent Sulayṭ and Sufyān bin ‘Auf to gather intelligence about the enemy forces. However, the enemy spotted them, and both were martyred in the ensuing fight. Their bodies were brought back to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) and were buried together in a single grave.

When the decision was made to dig the trench, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) mounted his horse and, accompanied by several Muhājirīn and Anṣār, searched for a suitable location for the army's encampment. The Muslims borrowed various digging tools—such as pickaxes, large axes, and shovels—from Banu Quraiza. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) then assigned different sections of the trench to various groups for digging.

The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) personally participated in the digging process, carrying dirt on his back until his entire body was covered in dust. Once certain Muslims had completed their designated portions of the trench, they would assist others. No Muslim fell behind in this effort. When Ḥaḍrat Abu Bakr and Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (May Allāh be pleased with them) could not find baskets to transport the dirt, they quickly used their clothing sheets instead.

Ḥaḍrat Mirza Bashīr Aḥmad (May Allāh be pleased with him), in detailing this episode, writes that it was difficult for the disbelievers to conceal the movements of such a large army. Furthermore, the Holy Prophet's intelligence network was very efficient. As soon as the Quraish army set out from Makkah, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) received information and consulted his Ṣaḥāba. Among them was a loyal Persian Ṣaḥābī, Ḥaḍrat Salmān (May Allāh be pleased with him), who was familiar with warfare strategies outside of the Arabian Peninsula. He suggested digging a long, deep trench to defend the unfortified side of Madinah, and the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) approved this suggestion.

Madinah was naturally secure on three sides, but the northern part remained vulnerable to an enemy attack. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) ordered the trench to be dug along this northern side and personally oversaw the entire process, marking the exact locations where groups of ten Ṣaḥāba would dig sections measuring fifteen feet.

A friendly debate arose regarding which group Ḥaḍrat Salmān (May Allāh be pleased with him) should join—whether he should be counted among the Muhājirīn or the Anṣār? Eventually, this matter was brought before the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him), who smiled and said, “Salmān is neither from the Muhājirīn nor the Anṣār, he is from my household.” From that moment, Ḥaḍrat Salmān was honoured as being a part of the Holy Prophet's family.

After finalizing the decision to dig the trench, the Ṣaḥāba, dressed as labourers, eagerly set to work. The task was arduous, and the cold weather added to their difficulties. As the Ṣaḥāba did not have servants or slaves, they had to work with their own hands. Many among them earned their livelihood on a daily basis, so during the days of digging the trench they became out of work and had to suffer from hunger and starvation as well. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) remained close to the trench, spending most of his time with the Ṣaḥāba, participating in the digging, lifting soil, and raising

their morale by reciting poetry while he worked. The Ṣaḥāba would sometimes respond with poetry of their own.

Ḥaḍrat Barā' bin 'Āzib (May Allāh be pleased with him) narrates that during the digging, he saw the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) carrying so much soil that the whiteness of his blessed stomach was entirely covered in dust. He also heard the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) reciting a verse of poetry: "O our Lord, if it were not for Thy grace, we would not have been guided, nor would we have been able to give charity or perform prayers. So, O Allāh, grant peace to our hearts in this time of trial and make our feet firm when we meet the enemy. You know that they have unjustly attacked us, intending to turn us away from our faith. Yet, by Thy grace, we reject their schemes from afar and refuse to fall into their traps."

Because of the Holy Prophet's presence and his prayers, the Ṣaḥāba forgot their exhaustion and sorrow. Alongside the recitation of verses, light-hearted humour also prevailed among them. Through their tireless efforts, working day and night, and with the blessings of the Holy Prophet's prayers, the trench was eventually completed.

Different narrations estimate that the trench took either fifteen days or a month to finish. The trench itself was approximately six thousand yards long, thirteen to fourteen feet wide, and ten to eleven feet deep. Over time, the trench gradually eroded due to the constant flow of water from the Valley of Bathan, and it was eventually filled in by those making paths across it.

Even during this critical time, the Holy Prophet's wives stood by his side. On occasion, Ḥaḍrat 'Ā'isha, Ḥaḍrat Umme Salamah, or Ḥaḍrat Zainab (May Allāh be pleased with them) would spend a few days with him at the trench.

One incident during the digging involved a large boulder that could not be broken. In one account, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) asked for water, mixed his blessed saliva with it, prayed, and sprinkled the water on the hard ground, which then became as soft as sand. In another account, when Ḥaḍrat Salmān struggled to break a particularly hard rock, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) took the pickaxe from him, struck the rock, and announced three glad tidings. Ḥaḍrat Mirza Bashīr Aḥmad (May Allāh be pleased with him) elaborates that when the Ṣaḥāba encountered this unbreakable rock, they went to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him), who immediately came to the site. Taking the pickaxe, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) invoked the name of Allāh and struck the rock, causing a spark to fly out. He exclaimed, "Allāh Akbar!" and said, "I have been given the keys to the Kingdom of Syria. By Allāh, at this moment, I can see its red palaces." The rock partially shattered. The second time the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) struck it, another spark flew out, and he said, "I have been given the keys to Persia, and I can see the white palaces of Madā'in." The rock shattered even further. The third time the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) struck it, another spark flew out, and he said, "I have been given the keys to Yemen, and I can see the gates of Ṣana'ā." Finally, the rock completely shattered and fell apart.

These visions of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) were revelations of the future Muslim victories. During this time of hardship, Allāh showed the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) glimpses of future triumphs, instilling hope and joy in the hearts of the Ṣaḥāba. The hypocrites of Madinah mocked at these promises, questioning how the Muslims, who could not even leave their homes, dared dream of conquering the empires of Caesar and Chosroes. However, Allāh's promises were fulfilled—some during the Holy Prophet's lifetime, and many during the time of his Caliphs—further strengthening the faith and gratitude of the Muslims. Ḥaḍrat Muṣleḥ Mau'ūd (May Allāh be pleased with him) says that when the Ṣaḥāba inquired, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) explained that Allāh had shown him the future advancements of Islām on all three occasions. He urged them to have faith in Allāh's promises, reassuring them that the enemy would not be able to harm them.

There is also a miracle related to food. Ḥaḍrat Mirza Bashīr Aḥmad (May Allāh be pleased with him) narrated an incident where Ḥaḍrat Jābir bin 'Abdullah (May Allāh be pleased with him) noticed signs of

weakness and fatigue on the face of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) due to hunger. Seeing this, he asked for permission to go home. Once there, he asked his wife if they had anything to eat. She replied that they had some barley flour and a goat. Ḥaḍrat Jābir (May Allāh be pleased with him) slaughtered the goat, kneaded the flour, and told his wife to prepare the food while he went to invite the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) to join them. His wife, concerned about the small amount of food, warned him not to bring too many people. Ḥaḍrat Jābir then quietly approached the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) and said, "I have some meat and barley flour that my wife is cooking. Please come with a few of your Ṣaḥāba to eat." The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) asked how much food there was, and Jābir explained the quantity. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) responded, "That is plenty." Then, raising his voice, he called out to the gathering of Anṣār and Muhājirīn, inviting them all to join the meal.

About a thousand hungry Ṣaḥāba followed the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him). The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) instructed Jābir to quickly go home and tell his wife not to remove the pot from the fire or begin baking the bread until he arrived. Jābir rushed back to his house and conveyed the message, which made his wife anxious, uncertain about what would happen next. When the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) arrived, he calmly prayed over the pot and the dough, then instructed them to start baking the bread. He personally began distributing the food. Ḥaḍrat Jābir later recalled that everyone ate until they were completely satisfied, and yet there was food to spare.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said he would continue with these accounts in future, Inshā' Allāh.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: I keep reminding you to focus on prayers. This needs greater attention. May Allāh strengthen our faith. May Allāh protect every Aḥmadī, in every place and country, including those in Bangladesh, Pakistan, and elsewhere, from all evils. May Allāh save the world from the fire it is heading towards with alarming speed. May Allāh have mercy. He is the Lord of all powers. Even now, if people turn towards reform, Allāh can deliver them from their troubles. May Allāh grant them wisdom and understanding. Āmīn

Wassalām,

Abdul Majid Tahir
Additional Wakīlut Tabshīr
ISLĀMABAD (UK)
Dated: 16 September 2024