

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 11<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at Mubārak Mosque Islāmabād, Tilford, UK**

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: In the context of the Battle of the Trench, I previously mentioned that the disbelievers abandoned the battlefield due to a strong dust-storm at night. When Allāh thus caused the enemy to retreat, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) said that from now on we will march against the Quraish, but they will no longer have the courage to attack us. And that is exactly what happened.

The Battle of the Trench lasted for about fifteen days, or according to other accounts, twenty days, or close to a month. In this battle, nine Muslims were martyred, in addition to the two who were martyred earlier when they had gone to scout Abu Sufyān’s army. Thus, a total of eleven Ṣaḥāba were martyred, while three of the disbelievers were killed. The Battle of Aḥzāb ended miraculously.

Ḥaḍrat Mirza Bashīr Aḥmad Ṣāḥib (May Allāh be pleased with him) writes that after nearly twenty days of siege, the army of the disbelievers turned back empty-handed, and Banu Quraiza, who had set out to help them, also retreated to their fortress. The chief of the Aus tribe, Ḥaḍrat Sa‘d bin Mu‘adh (May Allāh be pleased with him) was fatally wounded in the battle. This battle dealt such a blow to the Quraish that they never again gathered an army or had the courage to attack Madinah, thus fulfilling the prophecy of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him).

After the enemy retreated, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) instructed the Ṣaḥāba to return to Madinah. The abrupt and unforeseen end of the battle was extraordinary, as the Muslims had not faced such a great catastrophe up to that point, nor did they face anything like it during the life of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him). This battle severely tested the foundation of Islām, and the faint-hearted thought it marked the end. The betrayal by Banu Quraiza only intensified the severity of this ordeal.

The root of this conflict lay with the treacherous Jews of Banu Naḍīr, whom the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) had shown mercy by allowing them to leave Madinah safely. It was their incitement that caused all the prominent tribes of Arabia, intoxicated with hatred for Islām, to gather in Madinah to annihilate the Muslims. If these savage forces had managed to breach the city, not a single Muslim would have survived, and no righteous Muslim woman would have been safe from their vile attacks. But it was only by Allāh’s grace and His unseen power that this massive army was forced to leave empty-handed, and the Muslims breathed a sigh of relief as they returned to their homes in peace and security.

However, the threat from Banu Quraiza still loomed, and it was essential to eliminate this danger, as their presence in Madinah posed a serious risk to the Muslims. Thus, action was taken against Banu Quraiza, which is known as the Battle of Banu Quraiza, fought in Dhul Qa‘dah of the fifth Ḥijrī year, corresponding to March and April of 627 CE.

After returning from the Battle of the Trench, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) and his Ṣaḥāba put down their weapons. Ḥaḍrat ‘Aisha (May Allāh be pleased with her) narrates that they were at home when a man called out to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) and said, “O Messenger of Allāh, you have removed your weapons, but by Allāh, we have not yet put ours down. We are still returning from pursuing the Aḥzāb, all the way to Ḥamrā’ul Asad, and Allāh gave them defeat.” The man signalled that the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) should now turn his attention to Banu Quraiza. Ḥaḍrat ‘Aisha (May Allāh be pleased with her) said that this man resembled Ḥaḍrat Dihya Kalbi (May Allāh be pleased with him) but the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's

blessings be upon him) told her that he was actually the angel Jibrīl appearing in the form of Ḥaḍrat Dihya Kalbi.

The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) immediately ordered the Ṣaḥāba to march toward Banu Quraiza and to offer their 'Aṣr prayer there. The Ṣaḥāba immediately set out. Some of them, fearing the time for 'Aṣr would pass, prayed along the way, while others waited until they reached Banu Quraiza to pray. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) did not condemn either group. He called Ḥaḍrat 'Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him), handed him the army's black banner, known as 'Iqāb, and sent him ahead with a vanguard. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) followed closely behind.

As the Muslims laid siege to Banu Quraiza, their leader, Ka'b bin Asad, presented three options to his people. First, they should accept Islām since the truth of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) was evident, and doing so would stop the battle. Second, they should kill their women and children and fight without concern for the consequences. Third, since it was the Sabbath, they should attack the Muslims that night when the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) and his Ṣaḥāba would not expect it. The Banu Quraiza rejected all three options.

Another Jewish leader, 'Amr bin S'auda, then suggested they adhere to the covenant they had made with the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) and surrender to him. This suggestion was also rejected, and he left the fortress that night. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) allowed him to leave, saying that Allāh had saved him because of his loyalty. Hearing this, three more men came out that night, embraced Islām, and saved themselves and their families.

The account of Ḥaḍrat Abu Lubabah (May Allāh be pleased with him) is also mentioned. It is written that at the request of Banu Quraiza, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) sent Ḥaḍrat Abu Lubabah to their fortress for discussions. Banu Quraiza played a trick, and as soon as Ḥaḍrat Abu Lubabah entered the fortress, the women and children started crying before him. Ḥaḍrat Abu Lubabah softened towards them. They said that the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) would not accept anything other than his own judgement, and whether they should accept it. Ḥaḍrat Abu Lubabah responded, "Yes." However, at the same time, he made a hand gesture indicating slaughter, meaning that the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) would order their killing; even though this was completely wrong and the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) had never given any such indication.

Ḥaḍrat Abu Lubabah says he then realised that he had betrayed Allāh and His Messenger and became deeply remorseful. Upon returning to Madinah, he did not go to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) but instead went to the mosque, tied himself to a pillar, and said he would not leave until Allāh accepted his repentance. He also vowed never to set foot in the land of Banu Quraiza or look at the place where he had betrayed Allāh and His Messenger. According to Ibn Hishām, he remained tied for six nights until Allāh accepted his repentance. The news of his forgiveness was revealed to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) at dawn and Ḥaḍrat Umme Salamah (May Allāh be pleased with her) delivered the good news to Ḥaḍrat Abu Lubabah with the Holy Prophet's permission. Ḥaḍrat Abu Lubabah said he would only be untied by the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him), and when the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) came for the Fajr prayer, he released him. Ḥaḍrat Abu Lubabah then said, "O Messenger of Allāh, as part of my repentance, I will leave my people's homes where I sinned, and I will give away all my wealth in charity for the sake of Allāh and His Messenger." The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) replied, "A third of your wealth is enough." Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) clarified that this incident involving Ḥaḍrat Abu Lubabah is not found in the Ṣiḥāḥ Sitta (the six authentic books of Ḥaḍīth), but it is nevertheless mentioned in historical records.

Ḥaḍrat Mirza Bashir Aḥmad (May Allāh be pleased with him) writes that Ḥaḍrat Abu Lubabah's misguided sympathy for Banu Quraiza led to their ultimate ruin, as they stubbornly insisted on remaining in the fortress rather than surrendering to the Holy Prophet's judgment. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that the narrative will continue in the future, inshā' Allāh.

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) appealed for prayers for the Aḥmadīs in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Algeria, and Sudan, and for a stop to the oppression caused by the great powers.

*Wassalām,*

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Additional Wakīlut Tabshīr  
ISLĀMĀBAD (UK)  
Dated: 15 October 2024