

The National Amīr/ President  
Jamā‘at Aḥmadiyya,

Dear Brother,

السلام علیکم ورحمة اللہ وبرکاتہ

## **Summary of the Friday Sermon delivered by Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V (May Allāh be his Helper) on 07 February 2025 at Mubārak Mosque Islāmabād, Tilford, UK**

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: I will continue with the accounts related to the Battle of Khaybar. Under the command of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him), an army of 1,600 Ṣaḥāba set off from Madinah. They included 200 cavalymen. Prior to his departure, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) sent ahead a reconnaissance party to secure the army's passage and gather information. This party was led by Ḥaḍrat ‘Abād bin Bishr Anṣārī (May Allāh be pleased with him). In order to gain information about the routes leading to Khaybar, two guides were hired for a payment of 50 kilograms of dates. Their names were Hasīl bin Kharejah and ‘Abdullah bin Nu‘aim, both from the Ashja‘ tribe.

Several incidents occurred during the journey that highlight how, even in perilous times, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) was concerned about the training of the Ṣaḥāba and inculcating in them the qualities of discipline and obedience. For example, one night, a shiny object was seen moving ahead of the army. It turned out that a Ṣaḥābī named Abu ‘Abs was walking ahead wearing a silver helmet. He was brought to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him), who advised him to always remain with the troops.

Ḥaḍrat Abu ‘Abs was one of the poorer Ṣaḥāba. He had come to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) and said, “I have nothing for the journey, nor do I have food or necessities for my family at home.” The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) gave him one of his own cloaks. He took the cloak to the market and sold it for eight dirhams. He used two dirhams to buy food for his family, two dirhams for provisions, and with the remaining four dirhams, he bought a new cloak for himself before joining the campaign. Later, when the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) asked him about the cloak, he told him what he had done with it. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) smiled and said, “O Abu ‘Abs! You are in great need now, but I swear by the One in whose hand is my soul, if you live and are granted a long life, you will soon see your provisions increase greatly. Your family will have an abundance of food, your wealth in dirhams and dinars will multiply, and your household will be filled with many servants. But all this will not be good for you.” Ḥaḍrat Abu ‘Abs witnessed the Holy Prophet's prophecy come true and would often say, “By Allāh, everything happened just as the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) had said.”

Hasīl, one of the guides, directed the army and stopped at a spot where several routes led to the valley of Khaybar. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) asked him the names of these routes. Hasīl mentioned names like Ḥazn, Shāsh, Ḥāṭīb, etc., which implied difficulty, hardship, and sorrow. However, he also mentioned one route called Marḥab, which symbolised openness and spaciousness. Taking this as a good omen, and being guided by divine inspiration, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) chose the Marḥab route for the attack.

The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) had received news that the Banu Ghaṭfān had promised to help the people of Khaybar and had set out with an additional four thousand soldiers to attack the Muslim army before it could reach Khaybar. The Banu Ghaṭfān had already sent an army of about one thousand under the command of their renowned warrior chiefs. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) sent a letter to the Banu Ghaṭfān and urged them to remain neutral in the battle with Khaybar. He made it clear that it was Allāh's promise to him that he would be granted victory. According to some historians, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) also wrote that if

they refrained from supporting the Jews and embraced Islām, Khaybar would be given to them after its conquest. Other reports say that he did not make the acceptance of Islām a condition. However, the Banu Ghatfān were full of arrogance because of their 15,000 men as opposed to the 1,600 Muslims, and they rejected the Holy Prophet's offer.

At this point, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) sent Ḥaḍrat Sa'd bin 'Ubāda (May Allāh be pleased with him), a sincere Ṣaḥābī and the chief of the Khazraj tribe, to meet with 'Uyaina bin Ḥiṣn, the military leader of Banu Ghatfān. 'Uyaina was leading a 1,000-strong force of Banu Ghatfān and was at the time in the fortress of Marḥab, the Jewish chief of Khaybar. When 'Uyaina learned that Ḥaḍrat Sa'd had come as a representative of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him), he wanted to invite him within the fortress. However, Marḥab objected, fearing that the Muslim representative might see the entrances and inner pathways. 'Uyaina had wanted to bring the Muslim representative inside to show him their strength and military preparedness, but Marḥab refused. As a result, 'Uyaina met Ḥaḍrat Sa'd outside the fortress.

Ḥaḍrat Sa'd delivered the Holy Prophet's message to 'Uyaina, but he responded arrogantly and said that they would not abandon their allies under any circumstances and that they were aware of the limited strength of the Muslims. He threatened that if the Muslims fought, they would all be destroyed, and that his forces were not like those of the Quraish whom the Muslims had previously defeated. He also asked Ḥaḍrat Sa'd to convey this message to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him).

In response, Ḥaḍrat Sa'd swore that the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) would come to the fortress and that the offer he was making at that time would no longer stand. He reminded 'Uyaina that the Muslims had descended into the courtyards of the Jews of Madinah and destroyed them.

The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) continued his journey towards Khaybar, and as the fortresses of Khaybar appeared in the light of dusk, he instructed his Ṣaḥāba to stop. They halted, and he prayed, "O Lord of the seven heavens and everything under their shade! O Lord of the seven earths and everything they carry! O Lord of the devils whom they have misled! O Lord of the winds and everything they carry! O Allāh! We ask for the goodness of this town and its people, and we seek Your protection from the evil of this town and its people."

Then the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) instructed, "Set out in the name of Allāh!" The Muslims moved forward until they reached their destination, the market of Khaybar. After the battle, this area was allotted to Ḥaḍrat Zaid bin Thābit. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) spent part of the night there. The Jews didn't believe that he would attack them, as they were confident in their fortresses, weapons, and large numbers. However, when they realised the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) was coming towards them, ten thousand warriors would line up each day and mockingly say, "Will Muḥammad attack us? That is impossible!" When the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) reached the fortress, they didn't realise it until sunrise. The next morning, as the Jews emerged from their fortresses carrying spades and baskets, they saw him and immediately fled back. Ḥaḍrat Anas (May Allāh be pleased with him) narrates that when they saw the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him), they said, "By Allāh, Muḥammad and his army!" The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) replied:

خربت خيبر إنا إذا نزلنا بساحة قوم فساء صباح المنذرين

"Khaybar is destroyed. When we come to people, it is an evil morning for those who have been warned."

Ḥaḍrat Ḥubāb bin Mundhir (May Allāh be pleased with him) approached the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) and said, "O Messenger of Allāh, if this decision is from Allāh, we have no objections. But if it is your personal opinion, we would like to offer a suggestion." The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) said that it was his own opinion, so Ḥaḍrat Ḥubāb said, "You are near their fortresses and gardens, and the ground is without vegetations. I know the people of Naṭāh—they are expert archers, and their arrows can reach us easily. We are also vulnerable to their nighttime attacks, as they can hide in the date palms. I suggest moving to another location." The Holy Prophet (May

Allāh's blessings be upon him) replied, “You have given good advice, but we will certainly fight them today.”

At the same time, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) summoned Ḥaḍrat Muḥammad bin Maslamah (May Allāh be pleased with him), who was in charge of the Holy Prophet's protective guard, and instructed him to find a place for the army some distance from the enemy's fortresses. Ḥaḍrat Muḥammad bin Maslamah went and reached Rajī', a location between the Khaybar and Ghatfān tribes, and then returned to report, “I have found a place for you.” The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) replied, “Proceed with Allāh's blessings!” Since the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) had already said that the battle would be fought on that very location, it was only after the end of the day's battle that the entire Muslim army moved to the new site.

The fortress of Nā'im was the strongest of the Jewish fortresses, and the bravest and most famous warrior of Khaybar, Marḥab, led its defence. It appears from the accounts that the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) fought relentlessly for ten days. Despite repeated setbacks, the morale of the Jews continued to rise as Ṣaḥāba continued to be wounded, and two of them were martyred. Finally, one night, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) said, “Tomorrow, I will give the flag to the one upon whose hands Allāh will grant victory. He loves Allāh and His Messenger.” Ḥaḍrat Buraidah (May Allāh be pleased with him) narrates that we spent that night in great anticipation, hoping for victory the next day. Everyone spent the night wondering who would be given the flag. Ḥaḍrat 'Umar said, “Before that day, I had never desired leadership.”

Ḥaḍrat Salma and Ḥaḍrat Jābir (May Allāh be pleased with him) narrate that Ḥaḍrat 'Ali (May Allāh be pleased with him) had fallen behind during the journey to Khaybar due to illness. He was suffering from severe pain in the eye. However, he later felt very restless and joined the army. Ḥaḍrat Muṣleh Mau'ūd (May Allāh be pleased with him) says that one day, Allāh informed the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) that the conquest of the city was destined to be at Ḥaḍrat Ali's hands. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) called Ḥaḍrat 'Ali and entrusted him with the flag. Ḥaḍrat 'Ali led the army of Ṣaḥāba and attacked the fortress. Despite the Jews being fortified, Allāh granted Ḥaḍrat 'Ali and the other Ṣaḥāba such strength that, by evening, the fortress was conquered.

In the account of the Muslim conquest of the Nā'im fortress, no historian has mentioned the spoils of war or how much weaponry was seized, despite it being the strongest fortress of Khaybar. It is possible that the Muslims found little of value, as the Jews had already moved their women and children to other fortresses. When the Jews were defeated and unable to stop the Muslim assault on Nā'im, they easily withdrew to the fortress of Sa'b bin Mu'adh. No Jew was captured during the battle for the Nā'im fortress. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that he would relate further accounts regarding this expedition in future, Inshā' Allāh.

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) appealed for prayers for the situation of the world and the Muslims.

*Wassalām,*

Abdul Majid Tahir  
Additional Wakīlut Tabshīr  
ISLĀMABAD (UK)  
Dated: 12 February 2025