

The National Amīr/ President
Jamā‘at Aḥmadiyya,

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Dear Brother,

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

Summary of the Friday Sermon delivered by Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V (May Allāh be his Helper) on 15th August 2025 at Mubārak Mosque Islāmabād, Tilford, UK

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Last Friday, I mentioned the demolition of three major idols. The details are as follows:

One expedition involved Ḥaḍrat Sa‘d bin Zaid (May Allāh be pleased with him), who was sent to destroy Manāt in Ramaḍān 8 AH which stood at Mushallal near Qudaid on the Red Sea coast, hence the expedition’s name, Sariyyah Mushallal.

Ḥaḍrat Sa‘d bin Zaid set out with a contingent of horsemen. Upon arrival, he encountered a caretaker (Mujāwir) of the idol, who demanded, “What do you seek?” Ḥaḍrat Sa‘d replied, “To demolish Manāt.” The caretaker retorted, “You and this task?”—implying it was beyond his capability. As Ḥaḍrat Sa‘d advanced toward the idol, a strange incident occurred (though its authenticity is uncertain and may contain embellishments): a naked, dark-skinned woman with dishevelled hair emerged from a chamber. The caretaker cried out, “O Manāt! Unleash your wrath!”, whereupon Ḥaḍrat Sa‘d struck and killed the caretaker.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that if this account is correct, the caretaker likely resisted, leading to his death in the confrontation. Killing someone merely for cursing would contradict Islāmic teachings and the Holy Prophet’s general guidance, which emphasised restraint.

Expedition of Ḥaḍrat Khālīd bin Walīd (May Allāh be pleased with him) to Nakhlah occurred on the 25th of Ramaḍān, 8 AH (January 629 CE). The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) dispatched thirty men under Ḥaḍrat Khālīd bin Walīd’s leadership to Nakhlah to dismantle the Quraish’s revered idol, ‘Uzzā. Nakhlah, a valley a day’s journey east of Makkah between Makkah and Ṭā’if, housed the idol in a structure guarded by Banu Shaibān, allies of Banu Hāshim. ‘Uzzā was the Quraish’s most prominent idol. Ibn Ishāq narrates that upon learning of Ḥaḍrat Khālīd’s approach, the idol’s caretaker hung a sword around ‘Uzzā and climbed a mountain, reciting defiant verses: “O ‘Uzzā! Smite Khālīd with a blow that leaves nothing behind! Don your war veil and bare your arms! O ‘Uzzā! If you cannot slay Khālīd, then burden him with sin or strip him of command!” Upon reaching Nakhlah, Ḥaḍrat Khālīd cut down the acacia trees surrounding the idol and demolished its shrine.

He then returned to Makkah and reported to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him), who asked, “Did you observe anything unusual there?” When Ḥaḍrat Khālīd replied in the negative, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) said, “Then you have not truly destroyed ‘Uzzā. Return and complete the task.” Ḥaḍrat Khālīd immediately turned back. The guardians, seeing him again, climbed the mountain and cried, “O ‘Uzzā! Destroy them!” Suddenly, a black-skinned woman with wild hair emerged from the ruins. Ḥaḍrat Khālīd declared, “O ‘Uzzā! I reject you! I will not glorify you. I have witnessed Allāh humiliating you!” When he recounted this to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him), he confirmed, “Yes, that was ‘Uzzā. She has despaired of ever being worshipped in your land again.”

The expedition of Ḥaḍrat ‘Amr bin ‘Āṣ (May Allāh be pleased with him) to Suwā‘ took place in Ramaḍān 8 AH, simultaneously with the campaign against Manāt. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) sent Ḥaḍrat ‘Amr bin ‘Āṣ to eradicate Suwā‘, the idol of Banu Hudhail. Suwā‘ was shaped like a woman and venerated through circumambulation. The Banu Liḥyān served as its custodians.

The Holy Qur’ān mentions Suwā‘ among the idols of Noah’s people:

وَقَالُوا لَا تَذَرُنَّ آلِهَتَكُمْ وَلَا تَذَرُنَّ وَدًّا وَلَا سُوَاعًا ۖ وَلَا يَغُوثَ وَيَعُوقَ وَنَسْرًا ۚ

“And they say to one another, ‘Forsake not your gods under any circumstances. And forsake neither Wadd nor Suwā‘ nor Yaghuth and Ya‘uq and Naṣr.’” (71:24)

These were originally names of righteous men from Noah’s era. After their deaths, Satan deceived their followers into erecting statues in their likeness, which later became objects of worship.

Upon arriving at Suwā‘, Ḥaḍrat ‘Amr bin ‘Āṣ confronted its caretaker and announced his mission to destroy the idol by the Holy Prophet’s command. The caretaker scoffed, “You will never succeed!” Ḥaḍrat ‘Amr retorted, “Woe to you! Can it hear or see?” He then demolished the idol and ordered his companions to dismantle its shrine. Turning to the caretaker, he asked, “What do you say now?” Witnessing his deity’s powerlessness, the man immediately embraced Islām.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that this account casts doubt on the earlier narrative of the caretaker’s killing, as it aligns more closely with the Holy Prophet’s teachings of inviting people to Islām rather than coercion.

The Expedition of Ḥaḍrat Khālīd bin Walīd to Banu Jadhīmah took place in Shawwāl 8 AH, after the conquest of Makkah and the destruction of ‘Uzzā. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) sent Ḥaḍrat Khālīd bin Walīd to Banu Jadhīmah, a branch of Banu Kinānah settled near the coast, with instructions to invite them to Islām peacefully. Ḥaḍrat Khālīd marched with 350 men from the Muhājirīn, Anṣār, and Banu Sulaim. Upon arrival, he found the tribe armed. He urged them, “Lay down your weapons, for people have embraced Islām.” A man named Juhdam warned his people, “O Banu Jadhīmah! Do not disarm. This is Khālīd! You will be seized and slain!” But others persuaded him for fear of bloodshed, and the tribe reluctantly surrendered.

A critical misunderstanding arose when Banu Jadhīmah, instead of saying “أَسْلَمْنَا” (We have submitted), said “صَبَّأْنَا” (We have apostatised). Ḥaḍrat Khālīd, misinterpreting this as rejection, ordered their execution. Some Ṣaḥāba complied, while veteran Muhājirīn and Anṣār like Ḥaḍrat ‘Abdullah bin ‘Umar and Ḥaḍrat Sulaim refused.

When a survivor reached Madinah and reported the incident, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) was deeply grieved. Raising his hands, he prayed:

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَبْرَأُ إِلَيْكَ مِمَّا صَنَعَ خَالِدٌ

“O Allāh! I disavow what Khālīd has done!”

Then, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) sent Ḥaḍrat ‘Ali to Banu Jadhīmah to pay blood money to the families of those killed and to investigate the entire matter. Ḥaḍrat ‘Ali went there and paid compensation to all the heirs of the deceased. He returned all the possessions that the Muslims had taken, even restoring a wooden bowl used by a dog for drinking water.

After paying all the blood money and compensation, some funds remained with Ḥaḍrat ‘Ali. He asked the people of Banu Jadhīmah: “Has anyone been left out whose loss has not been compensated?” They all replied: “No!” Ḥaḍrat ‘Ali then distributed the remaining funds among them, saying: “I am giving this remaining wealth as a precautionary measure on behalf of Allāh’s Messenger, so that any potential loss, which neither Allāh’s Messenger nor you are aware of, may also be compensated.”

Ḥaḍrat ‘Ali returned and presented a complete report to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him), informing him that even the smallest belongings had been returned and the remaining funds had been distributed. Hearing this, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) was extremely pleased and said to Ḥaḍrat ‘Ali: “You have done absolutely right and very well.”

Prior to this incident, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) had seen a dream. He said: “I saw in a dream that I took a morsel of Ḥais (a dish made of dates, cheese and ghee). While its taste was delicious, part of it got stuck in my throat. Then ‘Ali put his hand and removed it.” Ḥaḍrat Abu Bakr (May Allāh be pleased with him) interpreted the dream, saying: “O Messenger of Allāh, this refers to one of the expeditions you will send. Some aspects of it will please you while others may be

objectionable. Then you will send ‘Ali, and he will resolve the matter satisfactorily.” This interpretation was fulfilled by the events of this expedition.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) emphasised that Ḥaḍrat Khālīd’s decision, though an error of judgement, was not malicious. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) later forgave him and entrusted him with leading the vanguard at Ḥunain.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) mentioned two lesser-known expeditions: expedition of Ḥaḍrat Hishām bin ‘Āṣ to Yalamlam, led by with 200 men southeast of the Red Sea, and expedition of Ḥaḍrat Khālīd bin Sa‘īd bin ‘Āṣ to ‘Urah near ‘Arāfat, led by with 300 men, though their details remain uncertain.

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: This incident perfectly demonstrates the noble character of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him). He never employed harsh measures. The allegations spread by enemies of Islām that the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) commanded executions during battles are utterly baseless. Whenever any mistakes were made, even unintentionally, he expressed clear disapproval.

Wassalām,

Abdul Majid Tahir
Additional Wakīlūt Tabshīr
ISLĀMABAD (UK)
Dated: 20 August 2025