

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 October 2023 at *Mubārak Mosque Islāmabād, Tilford, UK.*

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: In my last sermon, I recounted some of the events that took place after the Battle of *Badr*. In this context, we also find about the marriage of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) to Ḥaḍrat ‘*Aisha* (May Allāh be pleased with her).

One day, after the demise of *Ummul Mominīn* Ḥaḍrat *Khadījah* (May Allāh be pleased with her), Ḥaḍrat *Khawlah bint Ḥakīm* (May Allāh be pleased with her), the wife of *Uthmān bin Maz‘ūn*, came to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) and said, 'O Messenger of Allāh, will you not consider marrying again?' The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) asked, 'Whom shall I marry?' Ḥaḍrat *Khawlah* replied, 'If you desire, there is a young girl, and if you prefer, there is a widow.' The young girl was ‘*Aisha*, the daughter of Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him); and the widow was Ḥaḍrat *Saudah bint Zam‘ah* (May Allāh be pleased with her). The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) said, 'Go and speak to their families for me.'

Ḥaḍrat *Khawlah* first went to the family of Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh be pleased with him) with the proposal, and, with their consent, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) entered into marriage with Ḥaḍrat ‘*Aisha*. Ḥaḍrat ‘*Aisha* later recounted that the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) said to her, 'Before marrying you, I saw you in a dream on two occasions.'

It is narrated in a Ḥadīth, Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* asked Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) why he had not brought his bride home yet. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) explained that it was due to the dowry. Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* then offered the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) a sum of twelve *Oqiyah*, one *Oqiyah* is equivalent to forty dirhams. This served as the dowry that the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) sent to the home of Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* (May Allāh's blessings be upon him), and the marriage was formalised.

At the time of this marriage, no objections were raised by hypocrites or troublemakers regarding Ḥaḍrat ‘*Aisha*'s young age. If there had been any concerns about this, these individuals would undoubtedly have voiced objections. The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says that the assertion that Ḥaḍrat ‘*Aisha* was nine years old at the time of her marriage is entirely groundless.

Discussing the attributes of Ḥaḍrat ‘*Aisha*, Ḥaḍrat *Mirza Bashīr Aḥmad* (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) writes that, despite her young age, she was exceptionally intelligent and made tremendous progress under the tutelage of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him). The purpose behind the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) bringing her into his home at a young age was that she might be able to spend some extended time in his blessed company, thus preparing her for the elevated status and responsibilities required of a wife of a law-bearing prophet. Ḥaḍrat ‘*Aisha*'s pivotal role in educating and nurturing Muslim women remains unparalleled in world history. A significant portion of *Aḥādīth* are attributed to her, numbering more than two thousand. Her profound understanding of Islāmīc jurisprudence and theology was such that even prominent Companions of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) sought her counsel.

The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) once said that only a few women had achieved a level of perfection, and he named Ḥaḍrat ‘*Aisha* (May Allāh be pleased with her)

alongside other eminent women like Ḥaḍrat *Āsiyah* (May Allāh be pleased with her), the wife of Pharaoh, and Ḥaḍrat *Maryam* (May Allāh be pleased with her), the daughter of *‘Imrān*.

Ḥaḍrat *‘Aisha* lived for approximately 48 years following the demise of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) and eventually passed away in *Ramaḍān*, 58 AH, at the age of 68.

Ḥaḍrat *Abul ‘Āṣ*, the husband of the Holy Prophet's daughter Ḥaḍrat *Zainab* (May Allāh be pleased with her), was one of the prisoners captured during the Battle of *Badr*. To secure his release, Ḥaḍrat *Zainab*, who resided in Makkah at the time, sent the necklace that her mother, Ḥaḍrat *Khadijah* (May Allāh be pleased with her), had given her on her wedding day. Upon seeing the necklace, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) was deeply moved. He addressed the Companions, saying, "If you see fit, release Zainab's husband and return this necklace to her." The Companions responded, "Certainly, O Messenger of Allāh." The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) released Ḥaḍrat *Abul ‘Āṣ* on the condition that, upon reaching Makkah, he would permit Ḥaḍrat *Zainab* to migrate to Madinah. After arriving in Makkah, he gave his consent for *Zainab's* migration.

In the second part of the sermon, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) made an appeal for prayers regarding the current global situation. In recent days, the continuing conflict between *Ḥamās* and Israel has resulted in the tragic loss of innocent lives, including women and children on both sides. In Islām, it is strictly prohibited to harm women, children, and non-combatants during times of war, a principle greatly emphasized by the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him).

It is being reported, that *Ḥamās* initiated this conflict. Muslims must adhere to Islāmic teachings. The actions of the Israel's army should be addressed through legitimate means, and not inflicting harm upon women, children, or innocent civilians.

From this perspective, the actions taken by *Ḥamās* were misguided and led to more harm. Conversely, the retaliation for what *Ḥamās* has done should have been confined to *Ḥamās*. The actions of the government of Israel are highly perilous, and it appears that this cycle of violence may persist. The government of Israel has stated its intention to entirely eradicate Gaza, and in pursuit of this goal, they have launched relentless bombardments, leaving the entire city in ruins.

Now, a new situation has emerged where Israel is demanding that more than a million people should leave Gaza. Thankfully, as feeble as it may be, the UN has raised its voice, saying that this would be a violation of human rights. Innocent civilians who are not involved in the war are not at fault. If the world considers Israeli women and children innocent, then Palestinian women and children are also innocent. The People of the Book are prohibited by their own scriptures from indiscriminate killing. While they accuse Muslims of wrongdoing, they should also look at their own actions.

In any event, our sincere prayers are essential. The Palestinian ambassador here in UK has made it clear that *Ḥamās* is a militant group, not a government. He has also posed a pertinent point: had genuine justice been upheld, these issues might not have arisen. If world powers did not maintain double standards, many of these atrocities and conflicts might have been averted. Presently, several major Western powers are aligning to support injustice against Palestine, and there is even talk of deploying their troops.

Following the First World War, the League of Nations was founded, but its failure to ensure justice led to the Second World War, claiming the lives of seventy million people. Subsequently, the United Nations was established, but it, too, faces a similar fate, failing in its mission. It was originally conceived to promote justice, assist the oppressed, and strive for global peace, but these goals continue to elude realization. Instead, self-interest prevails, leading to conflicts with dire consequences that often elude the comprehension of the average individual.

In these circumstances, Muslim nations must act prudently, setting aside their differences and uniting as one. They ought to follow the Holy Prophet's guidance that we should help both the oppressor and the oppressed. May Allāh grant Muslim governments the wisdom to unite for the

cause of justice. Furthermore, may Allāh bestow wisdom upon world powers so that they work toward global peace instead of pushing it toward conflict. They need to realize that their safety is far from guaranteed in the event of a large-scale conflict.

Our sole weapon is prayer, and we should pray in this matter more fervently than ever. Some Aḥmadī families are also stranded in Gaza. May Allāh safeguard all innocent people. May Allāh bestow wisdom upon *Ḥamās* and deter them from being complicit in the suffering of their own people. The Holy Qur'ān commands that enmity with any nation should not obstruct the pursuit of justice. May Allāh grant us the opportunity to witness global peace and prosperity. *Āmīn*

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) spoke about the following recently deceased members of the Jamā'at and announced to lead their funeral prayer after the Friday prayer. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) also prayed for their lofty station in *Jannah*.

- Dr. *Bashīr Aḥmad Khan Ṣāhib* of London, UK, passed away at the age of 92. He was a devout individual, punctual in prayers and fasting, and had a deep connection with *Khilāfat*. He is survived by his wife, a son, and six daughters.
- *Wasima Begum Ṣāhibā*, the wife of Dr. *Shafīque Sahgal Ṣāhib*, former *Amīr* of Multan District, Pakistan and former *Nā'ib Wakīlut Taṣnīf*, passed away recently. She leaves behind her husband and three sons. She was well regarded, committed to humanitarian work, a supporter of the less fortunate, and deeply knowledgeable about *Ruḥānī Khazā'in*.

Wassalām,

Abdul Majid Tahir
Additional Wakīlut Tabshīr
ISLĀMABAD (UK)
Dated: 18 October 2023