

The National Amīr/ President
Jamā‘at Aḥmadīyya,

Dear Brother,

السلام علیکم ورحمة اللہ وبرکاتہ

Summary of the Friday Sermon delivered by Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V (May Allāh be his Helper) on 20th October 2023 at Mubārak Mosque Islāmabād, Tilford, UK.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Today, I will continue to relate some of the incidents pertaining to the life of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) that occurred shortly after the Battle of *Badr*. One notable event is the conversion of Ḥaḍrat *Abul ‘Āṣ* (May Allāh be pleased with him), the Holy Prophet's son-in-law. During the third year of the *Hijri* calendar, in the month of *Jumadal Ūlā*, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) dispatched Ḥaḍrat *Zaid bin Haritha* (May Allāh be pleased with him) with seventy companions to intercept a *Quraish* caravan returning from Syria. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) had received information that the *Quraish* were going to use the profits from this caravan to wage war against Muslims. The Companions intercepted the caravan, seized its goods, and took some captives, Ḥaḍrat *Abul ‘Āṣ* being one of them.

Ḥaḍrat *Mirza Bashir Ahmad* (May Allāh be pleased with him) writes that among the captives taken during the expedition of was *Abul ‘Āṣ*, the Holy Prophet's son-in-law, who was still an idolater. *Abul ‘Āṣ* somehow managed to convey news of his capture to Ḥaḍrat *Zainab* (May Allāh be pleased with her). When the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) and his Companions were engaged in the morning prayer, Ḥaḍrat *Zainab* raised her voice and said, "O Muslims! I have given my protection to *Abul ‘Āṣ*." When the prayer was concluded, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) said to the Companions that they must have heard what she had said and that he did not have prior knowledge of it. He said that when a Muslim gives protection to a non-Muslim, it has to be respected. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) said to Ḥaḍrat *Zainab*, "We grant protection to *Abul ‘Āṣ* as you have done." He then directed that *Abul ‘Āṣ*'s property be returned to him. He told Ḥaḍrat *Zainab* to be hospitable to *Abul ‘Āṣ* but to refrain from meeting him in seclusion. A few days later, *Abul ‘Āṣ* returned to Makkah, settled his business affairs, and returned to Madinah to embrace Islām. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) returned Ḥaḍrat *Zainab* to him without a new Nikah.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that this provides us with the edict that if a woman separates from her husband due to his disbelief, there is no need for a new Nikah when the husband reembraces the faith.

Hazrat *Zainab* did not live long after her husband accepted Islām and passed away in 8th *Hijri*. Ḥaḍrat *Umme Ayman*, Ḥaḍrat *Saudah*, Ḥaḍrat *Umme Salamah*, and Ḥaḍrat *Umme ‘Atiyya* conducted her ritual bath as per the Holy Prophet's instructions. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) led her funeral prayer and personally laid her body to rest. Ḥaḍrat *Abul ‘Āṣ* also didn't live long after these events and passed away in the year 12th *Hijri*.

The Expedition of *Sawīq* took place in *Dhul Hijjah* in 2nd *Hijri*. It was initiated after the polytheists of Makkah returned to Makkah defeated and in a state of great anguish. *Abu Sufyān* had taken a vow that he would abstain from having relations with his wife and applying oil to his hair until he took revenge on the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) and his Companions for the defeat at the Battle of *Badr*. According to one account, *Abu Sufyān* departed with two hundred riders, whereas in another version, he embarked on his mission with forty riders. As he approached Madinah, he first approached the *Banu Naḍīr* tribe, but *Huyyae bin Akḥṭab* declined to offer his support. He then turned to *Salām bin Mishkam*, who disclosed secret information about the Muslims and provided information about the daily activities of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him).

Abu Sufyān sent some of his men to a valley three miles from Madinah, where they set fire to a grove of date palms and killed an *Anṣārī* Muslim. Declaring the operation a success, *Abu Sufyān* headed back towards Makkah. Upon learning of the incident, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) pursued *Abu Sufyān* with two hundred Companions, and they reached *Qarqaratul Kudr*. *Abu Sufyān* and his troops fled, discarding bags of *Sawīq* (a kind of flour) to lighten their load, which the Muslims picked up. Thus, this campaign came to be known as the Expedition of *Sawīq*. *Abu Sufyān* and his men retreated, and the Messenger of Allāh returned to Madinah.

Ḥaḍrat *Fāṭimah's* (May Allāh be pleased with her) marriage also took place in the second *Hijrī*. Ḥaḍrat *Anas* (May Allāh be pleased with him) narrates that both Ḥaḍrat *Abu Bakr* and Ḥaḍrat *Umar* proposed to marry Ḥaḍrat *Fāṭimah*, but the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) remained silent. Then Ḥaḍrat *Ali* (May Allāh be pleased with him) presented himself to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) and asked, "O Messenger of Allāh, will you marry *Fāṭimah* to me?" The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) inquired, "Do you have anything for a dowry?" Ḥaḍrat *Ali* replied, "I have a horse and a suit of armour." The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) said, "You need the horse, but you can sell the armour." So, Ḥaḍrat *Ali* sold the armour for 480 dirhams to arrange the dowry. He gave a portion of this sum to Ḥaḍrat *Bilāl* and said, "Buy me a scent with this." He directed others to prepare Ḥaḍrat *Fāṭimah's* dowry, which included a shawl and a leather pillow filled with date palm fibres.

According to one account, while solemnising this union, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) said, "This is what my Allāh has commanded me to do." The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) performed ablution in a vessel of water and then sprinkled the water over Ḥaḍrat *Fāṭimah* and Ḥaḍrat *Ali*, saying:

اللَّهُمَّ بَارِكْ فِيهِمَا وَبَارِكْ عَلَيْهِمَا وَبَارِكْ لَهُمَا تَسْلِيمًا

"O my Allāh! Bestow blessings upon their relationship, bless the relationships established through them with others, and grant blessings to their descendants."

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that the parents of married couples should also make this supplication. In the contemporary world, marital issues have surged due to worldly desires. Nevertheless, by giving precedence to faith, offering such prayers, and having parents play their roles, strong and enduring relationships can be established.

After their marriage, a Companion, Ḥaḍrat *Haritha bin Nu'man Anṣārī* (May Allāh be pleased with him), insisted on giving up his property to offer it to Ḥaḍrat *Ali* and Ḥaḍrat *Fāṭimah* for their dwelling.

Ḥaḍrat *Fāṭimah*, experiencing discomfort from grinding grain, approached the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) and asked if she could have a servant. In response, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) counselled Ḥaḍrat *Ali* and Ḥaḍrat *Fāṭimah*, saying, "When you retire to your bed, recite '*Allahu Akbar*' (Allah is the Greatest) thirty-four times, '*Subhan Allah*' (Glory be to Allāh) thirty-three times, and '*Alhamdulillah*' (Praise be to Allah) thirty-three times. This practice is more beneficial for both of you than having a servant."

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that it would not have been difficult for the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) to provide them with a servant, but it was possible that people could misconstrue the action, and rulers might consider the gifts of the state as their own. Therefore, as a precaution, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) chose not to provide a servant to his family.

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) once again appealed for prayers for the resolution of the Hamas-Israel conflict and prayed that may Allāh end this war and protect the innocent, oppressed Palestinians so that they are not subjected to further injustices, and may Allāh end all injustice in the world, wherever it is. *Āmīn*

Wassalām,

Abdul Majid Tahir
Additional Wakīlūt Tabshīr
ISLĀMABAD (UK)
Dated: 26 October 2023