Friday Sermon 18 September 2020

Delivered by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih Al-Khamis (a.b.a.)

After Tashahhud, Ta’awwaz and the recitation of Surah Al-Fateha, Huzur-e-Anwar said:

We were talking about Hazrat Bilal (ra), the companion of the Holy Prophet (PBUH), who took part in the Battle of Badr. Once while returning from the Battle of Khyber, during a stay, the Holy Prophet (PBUH) asked Hazrat Bilal (ra) to stand guard till the time of night time prayers (In other words, to wake them for the prayers). Hazrat Bilal (ra) kept praying in the night to stay awake but incidentally fell asleep before Salat-ul-Fajr. So, on that day nobody woke till the sun came up. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) got up before anyone else and when he called Hazrat Bilal (ra) to inquire, he came to the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and explained the urge to sleep as his reason for not getting up. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) then instructed to move from that place. After some distance, The Holy Prophet (PBUH) asked everyone to prepare for prayers. Hazrat Bilal (ra) said the *iqaama* and after the prayers, the Holy Prophet (PBUH) said: “If somebody forgets a prayer, he should then offer that prayer whenever he remembers to”.

When Mecca was conquered, the Holy Prophet (PBUH) instructed Hazrat Bilal (ra) to get on the roof of the Khana-e-Qa’ba and offer azaan. Later on when the Holy Prophet (PBUH) entered the Qa’ba and offered his prayers between the two pillars, he was accompanied by Hazrat Bilal (ra).

The King of Habsha “Najashi” had sent three spears to the Holy Prophet (PBUH) as gifts. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) had kept one of them for himself. On the occasion of both Eid days, Hazrat Bilal (ra) used to carry that spear and walk in front of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). He then used to stick it into the ground at a certain point and the Holy Prophet (PBUH) used to offer prayers in that same direction. After the Holy Prophet (PBUH), Hazrat Bilal (ra) used to walk in front of Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) the same way.

After the passing of the Holy Prophet (PBUH), when Hazrat Bilal (ra) asked Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) for his permission to go and take part in jihad, Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) told him “for the sake of Allah and all the right that I have on you, I am now old and weak and my time of passing is nearby, stay with me instead for these reasons”. Hazrat Bilal (ra) agreed to stay in Mecca but with the condition that he would never offer azaan after the demise of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). After Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) passed away, Hazrat Umar (ra) also insisted that Hazrat Bilal (ra) stay with him but Hazrat Bilal (ra) kept asking for his permission to go and partake in jihad and eventually, Amir ul Momineen Hazrat Umar (ra) gave him the permission.

Hazrat Musleh-Maoud (ra) states the details of the latter days of Hazrat Bilal (ra) and says “Hazrat Bilal (ra) had moved to Syria (Sham) during his old age. While living there, he requested for the hand of a lady somewhere and said “I am Habshi, so if you don’t wish to then don’t accept my proposal but I’d be obliged if you do accept it, considering me as a companion of the Holy Prophet”. His proposal was accepted and he decided to stay on in Syria ”. When Hazrat Umar (ra) established the office of pension in Syria, he asked Hazrat Bilal (ra) who he would appoint to take care of his bookkeeping. Hazrat Bilal (ra) replied, “I choose Abu Ruwiha whom the Holy Prophet (PBUH) had made my brother. I would never leave him”.

At the end of the sermon Huzur-e-Anwar said that we reach to a certain level only after sacrificing. It is the beauty of Islam that those who sacrifice and stay loyal are blessed with a high status, regardless of the fact that they are Habshi slaves. The discussion regarding Hazrat Bilal (ra) will continue and the rest will be told next time InshaAllah.