**Friday Sermon 25 September 2020**

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

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

We were discussing Hazrat Bilal (ra). Once the Holy Prophet (pbuh) asked Hazrat Bilal (ra), “How come you were present ahead of me in Heaven? Yesterday when I entered Heaven, I heard you ahead of me.” Hazrat Bilal (ra) replied, “Whenever I say azaan, I pray two rakaat of Nafl. If my ablution breaks, I do it again. I think the most promising action that I take is that during either day or night, whenever I did ablution, I have always prayed after it as well”. Huzur-e-Anwar explained that this only means that due to the pious nature and worshiping in secret, Allah Almighty gave Hazrat Bilal (ra) the same place with the Holy Prophet (pbuh) as he had on the day of Eid when he was walking ahead of the Holy Prophet (pbuh) holding a spear.

There are 44 Hadith narrated by Hazrat Bilal (ra) and there are four oral traditions in *Sahiheen*. Once the Holy Prophet (pbuh) said that, “The Heaven is keen on meeting with three people which are, Ali, Ammaar and Bilal”. Once while discussing Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra), Hazrat Umar (ra) pointed towards Hazrat Bilal (ra) and said, “This is Bilal who is our leader and also one of the good deeds performed by Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) because he is the one who freed Hazrat Bilal (ra)”.

Hazrat Ali (ra) once said that, “The Holy Prophet (pbuh) counted Hazrat Bilal (ra) amongst his fourteen virtues”. Similarly, once the Holy Prophet (pbuh) said that, “Bilal is the leader of the martyrs and the ones who call to prayers and he is indeed a fine human being”. Hazrat Bilal (ra) will be with the longest of necks on the Day of Judgment (head will be held highest). The Holy Prophet (pbuh) said “Bilal will be given a she-camel in the Heavens and he will ride it”.

The Holy Prophet (pbuh) once told Hazrat Bilal’s (ra) wife, “whatever Bilal tells you with my reference will indeed be true. Do not be angry at Bilal otherwise none of your actions will be accepted while you kept Bilal angry. ”

The Holy Prophet (pbuh) once said to Hazrat Bilal (ra), “Oh Bilal, die a poor man and not a rich one, otherwise you will end up in fire”, meaning that he must not ever refuse a needy person by just accumulating wealth and not spending it. Whenever Hazrat Bilal (ra) used to lie down he would pray, “Oh Allah, forgive me and consider my weakness as being the cause of my faults”.

Hazrat Bilal (ra) passed away in 20 Hijri in either Damascus or Halab. He was more than sixty years of age at his demise.

Later on Huzur-e-Anwar spoke of Hazrat Bilal’s (ra) status in the words of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II (ra). Huzur-e-Anwar then said, this was the character of Hazrat Bilal (ra) who showed exemplary behavior towards expressing love and loyalty for the Holy Prophet (phub) and his belief in the uniqueness of Allah Almighty, which is an inspiration for us. We can reach salvation only by following in the footsteps of these examples of love for the Holy Prophet (pbuh) and belief in Allah Almighty. May Allah enable us to do so. This ends the discussion of Hazrat Bilal (ra) today.

In the second part of the Friday sermon, Huzur-e-Anwar spoke of the good deeds of five deceased and announced their prayers in absentia.