

Summary Friday Sermon 18 June 2021

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 Umar (ra). When the time of Hazrat Abu Bakr's (ra) demise approached, he called Hazrat Abdul Rahman bin Auf (ra) and told him to discuss (his thoughts on) Hazrat Umar (ra). He replied, whatever you are thinking is my thought as well. With one exception, that Hazrat Umar (ra) is very strict. Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) said, "He is strict because he sees my soft nature. If he becomes the Amir he will leave behind many of his habits, because when I am strict with someone, he attempts to convince me to act otherwise and when I am soft towards someone, he always tells me to be stricter towards him".

After this Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) took Hazrat Usman bin Affan's (ra) advice, who said of Hazrat Umar (ra), "His inner self is even better than his outer self". Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) asked both of them not to discuss this matter with anyone else. It is written that once Hazrat Talha bin Obaid (ra) came to Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) and asked him if he had nominated Hazrat Umar (ra) as caliph and said, "even though you see the way he treats people?" Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) replied, sit me up and he asked "Are you trying to invoke the fear of Allah in me? When I will be presented in front of Allah I will say, indeed I have made the best person the caliph from amongst all other human beings."

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I (ra) says, once people questioned Hazrat Umar (ra), that he was no longer as strict as he used to be before accepting Islam. To which Hazrat Umar (ra) replied, I am still strict but this strictness is now only shown to the non-believers. According to Hazrat Masih-e-Maoud (as), Hazrat Umar (ra) replied with the following, "Before my strictness was boundless but now it is tempered by a certain code". Hazrat Musle Maoud (ra) says that some people spoke to Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) with regards to the caliphate of Hazrat Umar (ra) and said to him that Hazrat Umar (ra) is a very strict person and that if he should be made caliph it would be a disaster. However Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) replied, when I am no longer amongst you he will become softer.

After Hazrat Abu Bakr's (ra) funeral Hazrat Umar (ra) addressed the people and he prayed to Allah Almighty that, "Oh God I am weak, make me stronger. I am

strict, make me soft. I am reserved with spending, make me generous in spending”. After that he spoke to the people, “Indeed Allah Almighty is trying you through me and trying me through you and He has kept me amongst you after the demise of my two companions. I swear upon Allah that whenever an issue of yours will be presented to me, no one else will see to it but me. If there is an issue far away, I will send honest people to deal with the matter. If people will behave decently, I will act decently towards them. If they committed mischief, I will punish them.”

In the end Huzur-e-Anwar spoke of some of the deceased and announced their funeral in absentia.