

## **Summary Friday Sermon 1 October 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 are still discussing the era of the caliphate of Hazrat Umar (ra). Hazrat Musleh Maoud (ra) was once speaking of preaching in other countries and he said that after the passing of the Holy Prophet (saw), the Muslim armies would be much fewer in numbers comparing to their opponents, during the wars that took place during the time of Hazrat Umar (ra). At one such occasion Hazrat Abu Obaidah (ra) sent a message to Hazrat Umar (ra) from Shaam asking him for more soldiers. Hazrat Umar (ra) did not know of any more tribes that had men left that could be sent for war. So he called for a meeting to discuss this and during the meeting he was told that there was still a tribe where they could find some young men to be sent as soldiers. Hazrat Umar wrote a letter to Hazrat Abu Obaidah (ra) and said, "I am sending you 6000 soldiers and there are 3000 soldiers plus one Amr bin Madi Qarib who is equivalent to 3000".

Hazrat Musleh Maoud (ra) says that the belief and righteousness of those people was of such a level and they used to give such importance to whatever the Caliph would say, that they did not argue at all with the statement as to how a person could be equivalent to 3000. Perhaps common people would not consider this a normal statement but Muslims of that age accepted the statement at face value and did not complain about it. As to how he could be equivalent to 3000. When he arrived there they received him in such a manner that the enemy assumed that the Muslims had received aid of hundreds of thousands of soldiers. This resulted in a situation where the enemies became very fearful and eventually ran off during the war. Hazrat Musleh Maoud (ra) spoke of this event with reference to our preaching efforts in European countries and he said that we have to have the same conviction in our hearts.

Later on Huzur-e-Anwar spoke of the wars won by the Muslims in Egypt. During these wars the Muslims conquered the cities of Farhama, Bilbeis, Trippolli and Alexandria under the command of Hazrat Amr bin al-Aas (ra). During these wars, the daughter of the leader of the enemies, Maqooq, was captured by the Muslims. Hazrat Amr bin al-Aas (ra) knew that Maqooq had

once sent gifts to the Holy prophet (saw) during his life, so he sent his daughter back to him. In Egypt, all the enemy soldiers that were captured and taken prisoner were offered by Hazrat Umar (ra) to either accept Islam or keep their belief and pay their jiziyah. Hence some of them accepted Islam and others retained their belief in Christianity.

Some Christian scholars and opponents argue and complain that Muslims had burnt down a huge library in Alexandria during the wars of Egypt but this claim is completely false from a historical and intellectual point of view. Later on Huzur-e-Anwar gave a detailed reply to this complaint by the Christian scholars and writers.

Hazrat Musleh Maoud (ra) once said that, although the Muslim caliphs Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra), Hazrat Usman (ra) and Hazrat Umar (ra) could have stopped the wars once they were able to contain Cicero and Caesar then they could have forgiven the enemies. But they did not do so and continued on with the battles. If we pay attention we can uncover the reason behind it which was that they knew that once the external danger would be dealt with and finished there would be internal issue. They knew that these attacks by Cicero and Caesar, so Persia and Rome, were not really originating from them but were in fact sent upon the Muslims by Allah Almighty so the Muslims would bring change within themselves and excel spiritually and so that a new spirit and life would be put into them. These sorts of difficulties come in our lives so that we can excel in our spirituality.

Huzur-e-Anwar said that we should remember this even today and our hearts and spiritual status and connection with Allah should change and excel during hardships and times of difficulties.