

Summary Friday Sermon October 15, 2021

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

After reciting *Tashahhud*, *Ta'awwuz* and *Surah al-Fatihah*, His Holiness, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba) said that he would continue highlighting incidents from the life of Hazrat Umar (ra).

His Holiness (aba) said with regards to the martyrdom of Hazrat Umar (ra) that when he was attacked, it was time for the *Fajr* prayer [prayer offered right before dawn]. According to some narrations, he was taken home right away, and was in a state of unconsciousness. When he awoke, he asked whether everyone had offered their prayer. He then said that one's faith was not complete if they abandon prayer, and then he proceeded to offer the prayer himself.

His Holiness (aba) said that Hazrat Umar (ra) asked for an investigation into who it was that attacked him. It came to be known that Abu Lu'lu', the slave of Mughirah bin Sha'bah was the culprit, and he had attacked others as well. When he was apprehended, he used the same blade to take his own life.

His Holiness (aba) said that Hazrat Umar (ra) was not martyred due to any personal quarrel, rather this was done as a result of a plot. Historians have written that there had been a thought-out plot to martyr Hazrat Umar (ra). A renowned Persian soldier, Hormuzan, who had apparently become a Muslim and was living in Madinah was also a proponent of plotting this scheme.

His Holiness (aba) said that in a way, Abu Lu'lu' was also against Hazrat Umar (ra) because the Muslims had conquered his land.

His Holiness (aba) said that it is recorded by Hazrat Umar's (ra) son that when his father was attacked, he was beside him. The people asked Hazrat Umar (ra) to appoint a Khalifa after him. He replied saying that there was precedent of someone better than him, i.e. Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) who appointed his successor. However, he said there was also the precedent of someone even greater than him, i.e. the Holy Prophet (sa), who did not explicitly appoint his successor. Hazrat Umar's (ra) son knew after his father used this example, that he would not appoint his successor.

His Holiness (aba) said that when Hazrat Umar (ra) was attacked, the pain was excruciating. Hazrat Umar (ra) was assured that the Holy Prophet (sa) had been pleased with him, as had Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) and the companions of the Holy Prophet (sa). Hazrat Umar (ra) said that this was only by the grace of Allah. He

said that he was not fearful for himself, but instead feared only for the sake of Muslims. In fact, he was not afraid of martyrdom as he had prayed for it himself.

His Holiness (aba) said that before he passed away, Hazrat Umar (ra) asked his son about the amount which he owed in debt. This debt had not been incurred due to personal needs, rather it was as a result of tending and caring for the poor and spending on them. Hazrat Umar (ra) instructed his son on how to repay this debt, and very soon after his demise, his son repaid his father's debt.