

Summary Friday Sermon November 19, 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 there was a vast difference in the condition of the Companions (ra) before they accepted Islam and after they accepted Islam.

His Holiness (aba) quoted the Second Caliph (ra) who said that these were people who were once staunch opponents of the Holy Prophet (sa). Hazrat Umar (ra), for example, set out one day to kill the Holy Prophet (sa). While on his way, he was informed that his sister and her husband had accepted the Holy Prophet (sa), so he detoured and went to his sister's home first. He reached there and heard the verses of the Holy Qur'an being recited. He confronted his sister and her husband. He then asked to listen to the same verses that were being recited, upon which he was drawn to tears. He then went to the Holy Prophet (sa) and rather than attacking him, pledged allegiance to him.

His Holiness (aba) continued quoting the Second Caliph (ra) who said that such was the condition of companions before accepting Islam. Then, after accepting the Holy Prophet (sa), they underwent a spiritual revolution, not only for themselves, but became a means for others to experience the same spiritual revolution. If one truly has the desire, then they can undergo the same spiritual revolution today.

His Holiness (aba) said that Hazrat Umar (ra) truly feared God. Once, someone heard him saying to himself, 'You are the leader of the believers, you must fear God'. On another occasion, someone heard Hazrat Umar (ra) reciting fervently during his prayer, **'I only complain of my sorrow and grief to Allah' (12:87)**. He could be heard reciting this prayer, by someone who was standing in the last row of the mosque.

His Holiness (aba) said that Hazrat Umar (ra) also used to tend to the elderly. Once, someone saw Hazrat Umar (ra) entering a home during the night. When he left, that person went into the home and found a blind elderly lady. He asked her why Hazrat Umar (ra) used to come to her home. She replied, saying that for quite some time, he had been helping her with her various needs and tasks.

His Holiness (aba) said that Hazrat Umar (ra) had a profound sense of care for the people. For example, one night, he inquired why a young child was crying. He was informed that the infant did not have any food, as rations had not been stipulated for suckling children. At that moment, Hazrat Umar (ra) granted the child's mother rations for her child and announced that from then on, rations

would be stipulated for new born children. This was the same person whom other great leaders were in awe of and feared, yet he did not rest until the child of a bedouin woman was satiated and soundly asleep.

His Holiness (aba) said that Hazrat Umar (ra) greatly cared and feared for people's lives during the outbreak of an epidemic. There was a valley named Amwas, from where a pandemic began and spread through Syria, causing many casualties. According to some, there were about 25,000 deaths. Once, Hazrat Umar (ra) set out for Syria, and along the way, he was informed of the outbreak, and consequently returned to Madinah. Hazrat Umar (ra) called the migrants (*Muhajireen*) for consultation. There were varying opinions, with some saying that they should not fear and move forward, while others were of the opinion that they should return. Hazrat Umar (ra) consulted with the residents of Madinah (*Ansar*) as well as the elders of the Quraish, and ultimately decided that everyone should go back. Someone asked Hazrat Umar (ra) whether it was possible to divert from the decree of God. Hazrat Umar (ra) said that they were diverting from one decree of God towards another decree of God. This decision was supported by a statement of the Holy Prophet (sa), who said that if an epidemic broke out, people should not go to that area, and those already residing in that area should not leave.

His Holiness (aba) said that Hazrat Umar (ra) also experienced the acceptance of his prayers. Once there was a famine, and so Hazrat Umar (ra) went out to pray for rain. As he was praying, it started raining and the people rejoiced. It is also related that after the conquest of Egypt, Hazrat Amr bin al-Aas (ra) was informed that the Egyptians had a tradition in order to keep the Nile River flowing. The tradition was that they would take a young girl, adorn her in clothes and ornaments, and then throw her into the river. Hazrat Amr bin al-Aas (ra) said that such innovations would not continue within Islam. Hazrat Umar (ra) was informed and he said that this was the correct response. Hazrat Umar (ra) sent a small note, written from himself to the River Nile, and instructed that it should be thrown into the Nile River. The note addressed the Nile River, saying that if it flowed of its own accord, then it should remain still, but if it was flowing according to the decree of God, then he prayed for God to keep it flowing. It is recorded that the next day, the amount of water flowing in the Nile River significantly increased.

His Holiness (aba) said that he would continue highlighting incidents from the life of Hazrat Umar (ra) in future sermons.