

Summary Friday Sermon 17 December 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) continued highlighting incidents from the life of Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra).

His Holiness (aba) said that he had been mentioning how Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) freed slaves.

It is stated that Hazrat Abu Bakr's (ra) father said to him, that instead of freeing the weak, he should free the powerful so that they may protect him. Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) replied by saying that he only wished to achieve the pleasure of Allah.

His Holiness (aba) said that one of the slaves freed by Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) was Hazrat Khubaab bin Arad (ra). Once, someone saw the skin of Hazrat Khubaab's back and found it to be hard and rough, and inquired how long he had this skin condition? Hazrat Khubaab (ra) laughed and said that this was not a condition, rather his slave-master used to beat him because he had accepted Islam. He would tell him to renounce Islam, but in response, he would simply recite the Islamic creed. This would anger his master and so he would beat him even more and would also drag him across stones. Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) could not bear to see this any longer, and paid a large amount for his freedom.

Once Islam had become apparent, the Makkans caused the Muslims great harm in order to force them to leave Islam. The Holy Prophet (sa) advised some of the early Muslims to migrate to Abyssinia. Thus, 11 men and four women migrated to Abyssinia. Afterwards, Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) was also made to face great hardships, and so, he set off for Abyssinia. Along the way, he met someone who said that Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) would never leave his homeland on his own, nor could he ever be forced to leave, and then he enumerated the many great qualities of Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra). Then he said that he himself would render protection for Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra), and they both returned to Makkah. Upon learning of this, the Makkans said that Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) should pray in his own home, so that others would not be influenced by him. Therefore, Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) would only pray in his home. Later, he made a small mosque in his courtyard where he would pray and recite the Holy Qur'an. Seeing this, and hearing him recite the Holy Qur'an aloud had a profound effect on those around

him. The Makkans again said to the person who vowed to protect Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra), that his actions were influencing others and he should tell Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) to cease. As a result, Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) said that he no longer needed protection, as Allah Himself was enough as his Protector.

His Holiness (aba) said that Ahmadis in Pakistan face the a similar attitude from their enemies. They stop us from practicing Islam and keep telling others to refrain from watching Ahmadis pray or they would loose their faith.

His Holiness (aba) made an appeal for prayers for the Ahmadis residing in Afghanistan. They are going through a great deal of hardships, and some have even been arrested. Women and children at home are extremely worried, and the men who have not yet been arrested are living in fear that they will soon, or be evicted from their homes. His Holiness (aba) prayed that may Allah grant them ease and alleviate their hardships.

His Holiness (aba) also made an appeal for prayers for Ahmadis residing in Pakistan. They too are facing difficult conditions and new incidents continue to come about.

His Holiness (aba) urged to pray for the entire world, and that they may be able to recognise and accept the Promised Messiah (as). May Allah remove all evil, and may the world recognise its Creator.