

Summary Friday Sermon 28 January 2022

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 Abu Bakr (ra).

His Holiness (aba) said that after the Battle of Uhud, the Holy Prophet (sa) learned about the Quraish contemplating another attack on the Muslims in order to strike a final blow to them. The Holy Prophet (sa) consulted with Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) and Hazrat Umar (ra), both of whom suggested that the Muslims should go towards the enemy so that they did not come and attack their families. The Holy Prophet (sa) asked Hazrat Bilal (ra) to announce amongst the Muslims that they should accompany the Holy Prophet (sa) to battle, and those should go along with him who had taken part in the Battle of Uhud. When the Muslims reached a place called Hamraa' al-Asad, the disbelievers grew worried, and thus abandoned their intention of attacking Madinah.

His Holiness (aba) said that when the Holy Prophet (sa) learned that the Banu Mustaliq were planning an attack on the Muslims, the Holy Prophet (sa) set out towards them accompanied by 700 companions. According to some narrations, the banner of the *Muhajireen* (migrants to Madinah) was given to Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra).

His Holiness (aba) said while returning from Banu Mustaliq, a great calumny was levelled against Hazrat A'ishah (ra). When the Muslims were returning to Madinah, one night, the Holy Prophet (sa) instructed them to continue forth on the journey from where they had stopped to rest. Just before this, Hazrat A'ishah (ra) realised that she had lost her necklace and went looking for it. When she returned, the Muslims had already left. They had placed her carriage upon the camel, without realising that she was not sitting in it. While waiting for the Muslims to realise and return, she fell asleep, and the next morning, Hazrat Safwan (ra) who had been travelling behind the army, found her. She rode on his camel while he led it, until they rejoined the Muslim army. From this incident, a great calumny came about which was initiated by the Chief of the Hypocrites, Abdullah bin Ubayy bin Sulool.

His Holiness (aba) said that when Hazrat A'ishah (ra) learned about this calumny, she sought permission from the Holy Prophet (sa) to visit her parents, so that she could confirm that this rumour had spread. The Holy Prophet (sa) consulted with some companions regarding the matter, and also asked Barirah, who served Hazrat A'ishah (ra), and she attested to her pristine character.

During this time, Hazrat A'ishah (ra) was in a state of sleepless distress for two nights and a day. Her parents sat with her and attempted to console her. The Holy Prophet (sa) visited her and said that if she was innocent, God would surely speak in her favour. Hazrat A'ishah (ra) expressed that at that time, she had no choice but to remain patient, as she knew she was innocent. At that moment, as the Holy Prophet (sa) was sitting there, God revealed the following verses, proving the innocence of Hazrat A'ishah (ra):

‘Verily, those who brought forth the lie are a party from among you. ’

(The Holy Qur’an, 24:12)

His Holiness (aba) said that upon this, Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra), father of Hazrat A'ishah (ra) vowed that he would never again provide financial support to Mistah, who had been one of the people to spread this false rumor. Then, God revealed to the Holy Prophet (sa):

‘And let not those who possess wealth and plenty among you swear not to give *aught* to the kindred and to the needy and to those who have left their homes in the cause of Allah. Let them forgive and pass over *the offence*. Do you not desire that Allah should forgive you? And Allah is Most Forgiving, Merciful.’ (The Holy Qur’an, 24:23)

His Holiness (aba) said that upon this, Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) said surely he wished to be forgiven by God, and thus began supporting Mistah again.