

Summary Friday Sermon 11 March 2022

Delivered by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V (aba)

After reciting *Tashahhud*, *Ta'awwuz* and *Surah al-Fatihah*, His Holiness, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba) said that he would continue mentioning the hardships which presented themselves after Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) became the Caliph.

His Holiness (aba) said that the first difficulty was the grief resulting from the demise of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) was perhaps his closest companion and knew him from his childhood. He was extremely loyal and faithful and loved the Holy Prophet (PBUH) a great deal, thus he truly experienced this grief as well. Yet despite this grief, he stood strong, and even when many were unwilling to accept that the Holy Prophet (PBUH) had passed away, he gave them solace and helped them realise the reality.

His Holiness (aba) said that Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) quoted the Qur'anic verse:

'And Muhammad is only a Messenger. Verily, *all* Messengers have passed away before him. If then he die or be slain, will you turn back on your heels? And he who turns back on his heels shall not harm Allah at all. And Allah will certainly reward the grateful.' (The Holy Qur'an, 3:145)

In this way, Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) not only helped give solace to the Muslims, but he also reaffirmed the unity of God.

His Holiness (aba) said that the second difficulty was uniting the Muslims with regards to the Caliphate. Initially, it seemed that the *Ansar* [natives of Madinah] were unwilling to accept a Caliph from the *Muhajireen* [migrants to Madinah], nor were the *Muhajireen* willing to accept a Caliph from the *Ansar*. However it was through the eloquence of Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) that the Muslims became united upon the matter of Caliphate.

His Holiness (aba) said that the third difficulty was regarding the departure of Hazrat Usama's (ra) army. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) had sent this army to Syria in preparation to battle the Romans, for fear that they may attack the Arabs. Thus, Hazrat Usama (ra) was sent along with his army two days before the demise of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). His Holiness (aba) said that when the Holy Prophet (PBUH) passed away, this army returned from just outside of

Madinah where they had been preparing. Then, After Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) was elected as the Caliph, he said that the mission of this army should continue as planned. However, after the demise of the Holy Prophet (PBUH), people were becoming apostates and the Jews and Christians perceived the Muslims to be weak and fewer in numbers. People said to Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) that this was due to the fact that they thought the army of Hazrat Usama (ra) was all that was left of the Muslims, who numbered around 3,000. Thus, it would be better not to send this army forward. However, Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) remained resolute in his decision. He said that his first act as Caliph could not be to call back the army which had been commissioned and sent by the Holy Prophet (PBUH) himself. He said that even if he faced grave danger, he would stand by this decision. Thus, he upheld the decision made by the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and said that all those who had been instructed by the Holy Prophet (PBUH) to be part of this army should return to the army.

His Holiness (aba) once again drew attention to prayers for the current state of affairs in the world. His Holiness (aba) prayed that may governments see reason and avoid bloodshed. His Holiness (aba) said that Muslims should learn from the current state of the world and how, in light of recent events, the world has become united, yet Muslims are still unable to unite despite declaring the same creed. Countries such as Iraq, Syria and Yemen are facing destruction at the hands of others, yet the Muslims are unable to unite. His Holiness (aba) prayed that the Muslim world may be able to unite, which can only happen when they accept the Imam of the Age.