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## Summary Friday Sermon 29 Jul 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:

- I am narrating about different expeditions during the era of Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra). Many of these wars were fought in command of Hazrat Khalid bin Waleed (ra). One of these major wars was the battle of Hera which took place in the 12th year of Hijrah. Hera was the headquarters of Arab Christians and was ruled by an Iranian.
- When the ruler of Hera realized that Hazrat Khalid bin Waleed would come to attack Hera through ships, he ordered his son to block the water of the Euphrates River. When this was done, Muslim ships were not able to travel towards Hera. Seeing this, Hazrat Khalid bin Waleed took a few riders and attacked the people working to blockade the river and finished them off. When the water blockade was destroyed, Muslims were able to travel to Hera on their ships.
- Upon the arrival of Muslims, the chief of Hera ran away. However, the people of Hera were ready to fight. They locked themselves inside four castles and started preparations of war. Muslims surrounded the castles. Hazrat Khalid bin Waleed instructed that the people should first be invited towards Islam. If they become Muslims, accept their Islam from them. If they do not accept, prepare for war with them. At last, when the war took place, Muslims were able to conquer the city of Hera. The war ended when the people agreed to make a peace treaty and pay taxes to the Muslim state.
- Since the people of Iraq were Arabs, Hazrat Khalid bin Waleed was expecting them to accept Islam. However, they chose to remain upon Christianity. An agreement was made with them wherein it was written that this is an agreement between Khalid bin Waleed and the chiefs of Hera. The people of Hera are satisfied at this agreement. Every year, in return for their safety, a tax of 190000 Dirham will be collected from them. If Muslims cannot protect

them, there will be no Jizya tax. If the people of Hera rebel, either through words or actions, this agreement would be considered void.

➤ When Hazrat Khalid (ra) gained victory in Hera, people sent gifts to congratulate him on his victory, but he sent all these gifts to Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) along with the good news of their victory. Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) said that he would only accept these gifts as Jizyah as that would be the just thing to do. Muslims treated the people of Hera mercifully which resulted in people around Hera accepting to surrender to the Islamic state and pay Jizya.

➤ The victory at Hera was extremely important and this became the headquarters for Muslims to fight the Persian Empire. Muslims were able to have good relations with the people of Iraq and did peace agreements with them. At the same time, internal conflict and power struggles arose within Persian Empire. Seeing this, Hazrat Khalid bin Waleed wrote letters to different leaders of Persians. It was written in this letter that this is a letter from Khalid bin Waleed to the Persian Kings. All praise is for Allah who has weakened you and destroyed your system of governance. When you receive my letter, accept Islam, or agree to pay Jizya. You will remain secure. If you do not do this, by Allah, I will bring such an army against you who loves death as much as you love life.

➤ Hazrat Khalifatul Masih (aba) then narrated about various other wars fought against the Persian and wars of Hazrat Khalid bin Waleed. At the end, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih (aba) announced that next Friday marks the commencement of Jalsa Salana UK. He asked everyone to pray that this Jalsa is blessed in every way; those attending may have safe travel and that those performing duty may have the ability to carry out their responsibilities in the best manner.