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## Summary Friday Sermon 16 Sep 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 highlighting the life of Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra).

His Holiness (aba) said that Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) also tended to the rights of those known as *Zimmi* – those who had accepted Muslim rule and payed the *Jizyah* but maintained their own faith. These people were not expected to join the Muslims army nor were they expected to pay Zakat, however on account of their payment of *Jizyah*, they and their places of worship remained secure and protected. There were many people who accepted the Islamic rule in this way during the various conquests that took place in the time of Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra).

His Holiness (aba) said that an extraordinary achievement during the era of Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) was the compilation of the Holy Qur'an. The background of this taking place is linked to the Battle of Yamamah, in which around 700 Muslims were martyred who had memorised the Qur'an. In light of this, Hazrat Umar (ra) was divinely inspired with the idea of compiling the Holy Qur'an in one place. Hence, Hazrat Umar (ra) suggested this idea to Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra). In fact, Hazrat Umar (ra) suggested this to Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) so many times, that he too was eventually convinced that this was the best course of action. Hence, Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) instructed Hazrat Zaid (ra) to gather the various parts of the Holy Qur'an which had been written on branches and stones and which people had memorised. This compilation was known as 'Sahifa e Siddiqui' and it stayed in the possession of Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra), Hazrat Umar (ra) and Hazrat Hafza bint Umar (ra) after him.

His Holiness (aba) said that Hazrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmad (ra) responded to the allegation that all of the Holy Qur'an had not been written during the lifetime of the Holy Prophet (sa). He stated that it certainly was written in its entirety during the life of the Holy Prophet (sa). However, it was not compiled into a single book form as we have today. Hence, the Holy Qur'an was gathered during the era of Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) and it was he who brought it into a single book form for the first time.

His Holiness (aba) quoted the Promised Messiah (as) who said that the Holy Qur'an, down to every line and dot, is exactly as was brought down by the angels and has not changed. The Holy Prophet (sa) had made it his practice to ensure that each Qur'anic revelation was written down. He would also ensure that each verse was placed in the right order. It was according to this exact same order formed by the Holy Prophet (sa) that Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) compiled the Holy Qur'an.

Later on, a single dialect of reciting the Holy Qur'an was enacted during the lifetime of Hazrat Uthman (ra). During his time, Hazrat Uthman (ra) instructed that copies should be made of the copy of the Holy Qur'an and spread them across the Islamic state.

His Holiness (aba) said that when Hazrat Abu Bakr's (ra) demise drew near, he told Hazrat A'ishah (ra) that she was the dearest person to him. He said that he had gifted her a piece of land which she had never used or occupied. Hence, he requested that seeing as she had never used it, it should be distributed equally among his heirs as instructed by the Holy Qur'an.

His Holiness (aba) said that Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) used to have a business of selling clothes, which is how he used to provide for his family. Even after being bestowed the mantle of Caliphate, he was seen one day with clothes draped on his shoulder heading towards the market by Hazrat Umar (ra) and Hazrat Abu Ubaida (ra). Upon the suggestion of Hazrat Umar (ra) a stipend was stipulated for Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra), however it was only enough to cover the basic necessities. He would receive 2 sheets of cloth to use which he would return once they were old to get new ones. His other expenditures were also very nominal.

Hazrat Musleh Maud (ra) states that Although Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) was the leader of the whole muslim world, his stipend was next to nothing. He had control over all the wealths of the Ummah but did not own any of it.

While riding, if the bridle of the camel would fall down, he would come down from the camel to pick it up himself. Upon asking why he did so, he replied that it was the instructions of his beloved Holy Prophet (pbuh) not to ask others for help.

His Holiness (aba) said that once, the Holy Prophet (sa) heard people asking why it was that Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) had superiority over them, while they did the same things he did. The Holy Prophet (sa) went to them and said that Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) was not superior merely on account of his prayers or fasting, but

because of the virtue in his heart, his love for the Holy Prophet (sa) and the fear in his heart for Allah the Almighty.

With reference to the high state of piety and righteousness of Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra), while explaining a verse of the Holy Quran, the Promised Messiah (as) said that this is the 'second life' which is also called as subsistence by the Sufi belief. When a person's heart reaches this state, it starts to mirror the true essence of Allah's intent. It is the state when angels descend upon you. This was the secret being told by the Holy Prophet (pbuh) regarding Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra)' purity of heart. That his level of righteousness would not be measured by his actions, but what is in his heart.