



Summary Firday Sermon 18 November 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 incidents from the life of Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra).

His Holiness (aba) said that based on the incidents which have been presented already pertaining to how the Holy Prophet (pbuh) viewed Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra), it becomes clear that the Holy Prophet (pbuh) wished for Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) to be his successor. Hazrat A'ishah (ra) relates that in his final illness, the Holy Prophet (pbuh) summoned Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) so that he may write something down. He said he feared that someone else may consider themselves to have a greater right to being his successor, whereas the believers would certainly reject anyone else aside from Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) being his successor.

His Holiness (aba) said that at the time of the incident of *Ifk* (the Great Calumny), Hazrat A'ishah's (ra) parents (i.e. Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra)) exhibited great love and respect for the Holy Prophet (pbuh). Over the course of this incident, they followed the Holy Prophet's (pbuh) lead in treatment and demeanour towards Hazrat A'ishah (ra).

His Holiness (aba) quoted Hazrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmad (ra), who said that by raising this calumny, the opponents wished to cause harm to her husband, the Holy Prophet (pbuh) and her father, Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) at the same time, otherwise there was no benefit for them in defaming Hazrat A'ishah (ra). It also cannot be said that the other wives of the Holy Prophet (pbuh) wished to join in defaming Hazrat A'ishah (ra) so that she fell out of favour with the Holy Prophet (pbuh). Similarly, when asked about Hazrat A'ishah (ra), other wives of the Holy Prophet (pbuh) had only positive things to say about her. Hence, there was no one with any vendetta against Hazrat A'ishah (ra), and raising this calumny was only an attempt against the Holy Prophet (pbuh), or to hinder Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) from becoming his successor.

God addressed this in the Holy Qur'an when He states:

‘Verily, those who brought forth the lie are a party from among you. Think it not to be an evil for you; nay, it is good for you.’ (24:12)

His Holiness (aba) quoted Hazrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmad (ra) who explained that in this verse, God assured that this calumny would not harm the Muslims as some thought, rather it would prove beneficial.

Hazrat Saeed bin Mosayyib (ra) narrates, that once the Holy Prophet (pbuh) was sitting amongst his Companions, when a person came and started fighting with Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra). He hurt him thrice but Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) remained quiet and only reacted after the third time. When he did so, the Holy Prophet (pbuh) stood and started to leave. Upon asking, the Holy Prophet (pbuh) said to Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra), "an angel was present to defend you, until the moment you retaliated, because then Satan entered this gathering. And I do not wish to sit in a place where Satan is present." The Holy Prophet (pbuh) said to Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra), "there are three things which are true. One, when a person ignores cruelty done to him, only for the sake of Allah, Allah Himself increases his honour. Secondly, a person who donates to the needy and shows mercy for the sake of Allah, his wealth shall be increased by Allah. Thirdly, a person who questions others for financial help, just for the sake of increasing his wealth, Allah will in fact decrease his wealth".

His Holiness (aba) quoted the Promised Messiah (as) who said that Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) had a deep understanding of God, he was very kind, humble, very forgiving and forbearing and had a strong relationship with the Holy Prophet (pbuh). He remained under the shade of the Holy Qur'an and was distinct in his understanding of the Holy Qur'an. He was the pride of the Holy Prophet (pbuh) and was unique from all others in the love that he received from him. He abandoned everything he had and devoted himself for the sake of God to the degree that the light of God was evident from his every step, to the point that he was given the title of *Siddiq* (the Truthful). The Promised Messiah (as) said that God had directly informed him of all these esteemed qualities possessed by Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra).

His Holiness (aba) said that according to Hazrat Ali (ra), the Holy Prophet (pbuh) said that every prophet is given seven companions, however he was given 14. When asked who they were, the Holy Prophet (pbuh) said: Hazrat Ali (ra) and his two sons, Hazrat Ja'far (ra), Hazrat Hamzah (ra), Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra), Hazrat Umar (ra), Hazrat Mus'ab bin Umair (ra), Hazrat Bilal (ra), Hazrat Sulaiman (ra), Hazrat Ammar (ra), Hazrat Miqdad (ra), Hazrat Hudhaifah (ra) and Hazrat Abdullah bin Mas'ud (ra).

His Holiness (aba) said that Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) was appointed by the Holy Prophet (pbuh) as the leader of the caravan going for Hajj in 9 AH. Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) departed Madinah with 300 Companions. The Holy Prophet (pbuh) sent with them 20 sacrificial animals around whose necks he himself placed collars demarking them as animals for sacrifice. Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) himself took 5 animals for sacrifice.

His Holiness (aba) said that he would lead the funeral prayers of a deceased member as well as prayers in absentia of two other deceased members. These were (1) Muhammad Dawood Zafar, a missionary from the UK who was serving in the Raqem Press, who passed away on 16 November. (2) Ruqayya Shamim Bushra, wife of Karam Ilahi Zafar (late) who was a missionary in Spain. (3) Tahira Hanif, daughter of Hazrat Zainul Abideen Waliullah Shah and wife of Mirza Hanif Ahmad, son of the Second Caliph (ra).

His Holiness (aba) spoke of the services performed by the deceased for the sake of Allah and prayed that may Allah grant them forgiveness and mercy.