



Summary Friday Sermon 9 December 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 presenting quotations of the Promised Messiah (as) about Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra).

His Holiness (aba) quoted the Promised Messiah (as) who said that Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) and Hazrat Umar (ra) were leaders of the caravan which climbed great heights for the sake of God and they invited people far and wide to Islam. Both their eras of Caliphate saw great victories and feats. Both faced dissension and threats, however it was due to the truthfulness of Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) that God helped Islam through such turbulent times. The same God who helped the Holy Prophet (sa) helped Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra). The qualities of Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) shine bright like a star. Those who deny the greatness of Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) are liars.

His Holiness (aba) further quoted the Promised Messiah (as) who said that the person of Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) was a cumulation of fear of God, love and complete devotion to God. He was at the pinnacle of truthfulness and piety. He sacrificed all he had, without focusing on leaving great wealth for his progeny. He only took of the world as much as was necessary and devoted the rest to the Holy Prophet (sa) and his faith.

His Holiness (aba) further quoted the Promised Messiah (as) that Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) was so closely attached to the Holy Prophet (sa) and emulated him so closely that no swords could separate them. Truth, loyalty, steadfastness and piety were ingrained within his being. Even if the entire world were to become apostate, he would not care for them nor would he waver, rather he would continue treading forward. It is thus that after prophets, God mentions the truthful, as He states in the Holy Qur'an:

'...those on whom Allah has bestowed His blessings, namely, the Prophets, the Truthful, the Martyrs, and the Righteous. And excellent companions are these.' (4:70)

His Holiness (aba) further quoted the Promised Messiah (as) who said that there was no Companion other than Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) who was given the title of *Siddiq* – the Truthful.

His Holiness (aba) continued quoting the Promised Messiah (as) who said that during his illness, the Holy Prophet (sa) appointed Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) to lead prayers. He also said that aside from the door of Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra), all other doors into the mosque should be closed, for there was no one with greater favours upon him than Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra). Ibn Khuldun relates that later, Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) went to the Holy Prophet (sa), kissed his forehead and said that God would never cause him to die two deaths. It is recorded that upon the demise of Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra), he was carried on the same cot as the Holy Prophet (sa), and he was buried beside the Holy Prophet (sa), such that his head was aligned with the Holy Prophet's (sa) shoulders. The last words of Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) before his demise were 'Oh Allah, take me from this earth as a Muslim and let me join those who are 'Saleheen'.

His Holiness (aba) continued to quote the Promised Messiah (as) who said that people should always bear the example of Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) in mind. The world has never seen an example of true friendship, the like of which was displayed by Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra), who remained by the Holy Prophet's (sa) side no matter the excruciating opposition and torment he endured. It is people with true faith who remain by one's side during hardships. It is during tough times that the true fabric of people possessing faith comes to be known.

His Holiness (aba) further quoted the Promised Messiah (as) who said that Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) was like the shadow of the Holy Prophet (sa) in his morals and he had a perpetual connection with the Holy Prophet (sa). It was thus that he attained such heights which others cannot attain in an entire lifetime, and it was through Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) that God ensured that Islam remained and in a way was re-established and affirmed in the world. This challenge was faced by none other than Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra). His Holiness (aba) said that this was Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra), who had completely devoted himself to God and His Messenger (sa).

His Holiness (aba) said that this brings an end to his series of sermons on the Companions who took part in the Battle of Badr. May Allah enable us to follow in their footsteps and to achieve the levels of spirituality that the followers of the Holy Prophet (pbuh) achieved.