

The National Amīr/ President
Jamā‘at Aḥmadīyya,

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Dear Brother,

السلام علیکم ورحمة اللہ وبرکاتہ

Summary of the Friday Sermon delivered by Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V (May Allāh be his Helper) on 20th September 2024 at Mubārak Mosque Islāmabād, Tilford, UK

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Last Friday, I spoke about the Battle of the Trench and mentioned the incident whereby food was miraculously increased. A similar incident regarding a miraculous increase in dates is also reported.

Ḥaḍrat Bashīr bin Sa‘d's daughter narrates that her mother gave her a few dates and instructed her to give them to her father and uncle, telling them it was their morning meal. As she was looking for her father and uncle, she passed by the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him), who asked, "O girl! What do you have with you?" She replied, "These are dates." The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) said, "Bring them to me." She placed the dates in the hands of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him). He covered the dates with two cloths and then asked someone to call all the people to eat. The people came and began eating, and the dates increased in number until, after everyone had eaten, the dates were falling off the edges of the cloth.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) then discussed the status of the Sālik and the station of Liqā in the words of the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him). The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says that a person can achieve such a profound closeness to Allāh that, just as fire envelops iron, nothing remains visible but the fire itself. At this level of Liqā, sometimes a person demonstrates actions that seem beyond human capacity, revealing divine power within them. For example, during the Battle of Badr, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) threw a handful of pebbles at the disbelievers. This was not done through supplication but through his spiritual power. The handful of pebbles exhibited divine power and had such a profound effect on the enemy that none escaped unscathed. Many other miracles like this were performed by the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) solely through his personal authority, without any accompanying supplication.

During the digging of the trench, some hypocrites were negligent, doing little work and sneaking away without informing or seeking permission from the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him). In contrast, when believers had a need, they would ask the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) for permission, and he would grant it.

According to narrations, the trench was completed three days before Abu Sufyān's army arrived. As per the plan, children and youth were sent to the forts where the women had been relocated for safety.

Historians differ regarding the number of Muslims involved, with estimates ranging from 700 to 3,000. Ḥaḍrat Muṣleḥ Mau‘ūd (May Allāh be pleased with him) reconciled these accounts by explaining that the Battle of the Trench had three phases. The first phase was before the enemy arrived, while the trench was being dug. At that time, even children could help by carrying dirt, and some women could assist as well. Therefore, during the trench-digging phase, the Muslim army numbered around 3,000. However, when the enemy arrived and the battle began, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) ordered all boys under the age of fifteen to leave, allowing those aged fifteen and above to either stay or leave. This indicates that the Muslim numbers were larger during the trench-digging phase but smaller when the battle commenced. The figure of 1,200 refers to the time when the battle began.

When the Banu Quraiza joined the disbelievers during the battle and planned to attack Madinah, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) deemed it necessary to protect the side of Madinah where the Banu Quraiza resided. History records that the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon

him) sent two contingents to protect the women. One consisted of 200 soldiers, and the other had 300. Thus, when 500 soldiers left to protect the women, the 1,200-strong army was reduced to 700.

Ḥaḍrat Mirza Bashīr Aḥmad (May Allāh be pleased with him) writes that when the disbelievers' army approached Madinah and encountered the trench, they were astonished. They laid siege and began looking for weak points to attack. Failing to cross the trench, they resorted to other tactics. The polytheists decided to bring the Banu Quraiza into their alliance, convincing them to break their pact with the Muslims and attack from within. Ḥuyyāi bin Akḥṭāb went to Ka'ab ibn Asad, the leader of the Banu Quraiza. Initially, Ka'ab refused to open the door for Ḥuyyāi and rejected his request, saying, "I have made a pact with Muḥammad, and he has always been true to his promises." However, after Ḥuyyāi's persistent pleading, Ka'ab not only opened the door but also joined the conspiracy and broke his covenant with the Muslims. At this point, a few righteous individuals from the Banu Quraiza went to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) and accepted Islām.

When Ḥaḍrat 'Umar bin Khattāb (May Allāh be pleased with him) informed the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) of the Banu Quraiza's betrayal, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) sent Ḥaḍrat Sa'd bin Mu'adh and Ḥaḍrat Sa'd bin 'Ubadah (May Allāh be pleased with them), along with some other Ṣaḥāba, to confirm the situation. He instructed them to convey the information subtly if it turned out to be true. When the Ṣaḥāba reached the Banu Quraiza, Ka'ab bin Asad treated them with arrogance and openly denied the covenant. Ḥaḍrat Mirza Bashīr Aḥmad (May Allāh be pleased with him) says that Ka'ab, full of pride, responded dismissively to the Ṣaḥāba, saying, "Go away! We have no agreement with you." The delegation returned and subtly informed the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) of the betrayal. In those intense and overwhelming moments, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) remained calm and silent for a while, unaffected by the news. An ordinary person would have been crushed under the pressure. After a brief pause, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) said, "O believers! Rejoice with the help and support of Allāh. I am certain that a time will come when I will be circumambulating the Ka'ba, with its keys in my hands, and Caesar and Khosrow will surely be destroyed."

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said the details of the Battle of the Trench will continue in the future.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) also announced that the Ijtimā' of Khuddām al-Ḥamadīyya is commencing today. Khuddām should make the most of this opportunity to enhance their spiritual and intellectual standards. Despite the forecast of rain, may Allāh's grace allow all the programs to proceed smoothly. Khuddām should focus on prayers and Durood Sharīf, which I have urged them to repeat frequently.

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) spoke about the following recently deceased members of the Jamā'at and announced to lead their funeral prayer in absentia after the Friday prayer. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) also prayed for their lofty station in Jannah:

- Ḥabībūr Raḥmān Zairvī Ṣāḥib, a life devotee from Rabwah, who passed away at the age of 73. He was serving as Nā'ib Nāẓir Dīwān at the time of his demise.
- Dr. Sheikh Riazul Ḥassan Ṣāḥib, son of the late Brigadier Dr. Ziaul Ḥassan Ṣāḥib, who had served in Africa and Pakistan for over twenty years.
- Professor 'Abdul Jalīl Ṣādiq Ṣāḥib of Rabwah, who passed away at the age of 80 and was serving as Incharge of Tartīb and Record at the time of his passing.
- Master Munīr Aḥmad Ṣāḥib of Jhang passed away at the age of 82. He rendered valuable services to the Jamā'at, particularly in assisting the imprisoned.

Wassalām,

Abdul Majid Tahir
Additional Wakīlut Tabshīr
ISLĀMABAD (UK)
Dated: 25 September 2024