

FRIDAY SERMON

12th August 2022

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We will continue with the speech that Hazrat Masih Maood (as) delivered at Jalsa Salana in 1900. As we have said before, he spoke about the meaning of the name Muhammad and Ahmad, about the power of the Holy Prophet's (saw) prayers which melted the harshness of Hazrat Umar's heart and made him one of his most sincere devotees. Last time, we talked about the necessity to take the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) as a model for our own lives and the need to be mindful of death always. After speaking about how the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw) trained his companions to reflect divine attributes, the Promised Messiah (as) said:

“However, there is a point here that is worthy of great attention. Do not consider the companions to be a community limited to a people who have now passed on. There is another party that Allah Almighty has mentioned in the Holy Quran. The followers of that man who is a spiritual reflection of Ahmad are also from among the companions. As such, Allah the Exalted states:

وَأَخْرَيْنَ مِنْهُمْ لَمَّا يَلْحَقُوا بِهِمْ

And among others from among them who have not yet joined them.

Meaning, do not consider the companions to be a community who came and went in the past. The followers of the Promised Messiah, who belong to his era, are also from among the companions.

The commentators accept in respect of this verse that the party referred to here is the community of the Promised Messiah. The *arabic* words *minhum* (from among them) establish that this community would be the recipient of the same spiritual influence and grace with which the companions were blessed. The companions were trained in the apparent sense, but now no one can see them physically.

However, this community of the latter days would also be trained, as it were, by the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. It is for this reason that all the scholars have referred to this latter-day community as ‘the companions.’ Just as the four divine attributes mentioned previously were manifested in the lives of the first companions, so too it is necessary for this manifestation to be shown in the lives of that community of the companions who is referred to in the words:

آخَرِينَ مِنْهُمْ لَمَّا يَلْحَقُوا بِهِمْ

Others from among them who have not yet joined them.

Observe how the companions were divinely supported at Badr; and Allah the Exalted states that this support was at a time when the Muslims were few. On the occasion of Badr, the back of the disbelievers was broken.

There was a prophecy for the future in the magnificent sign that was manifested at Badr. The full moon is also called *badr* and so, this is an allusion to the succour of Allah Almighty, which was to be manifested in the fourteenth century.

Even illiterate women would say that the fourteenth century is one that would bring good fortune and blessing. The words of God Almighty were fulfilled and in the fourteenth century, as per divine will, the spiritual reflection of the name Ahmad was manifested. I am the one about whom a prophecy was made in the incident of Badr, to whom the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, conveyed his greetings of peace. But alas! When that day arrived and the full moon emerged, I was called a deceiver, I was accused of being selfish. Pity on those who have seen the truth but yet do not see; those who saw the awaited era but failed to recognise it. Those who stood on pulpits and tearfully proclaimed that this prophecy would be fulfilled in the fourteenth century have died, and now those remain who stand on pulpits and announce that the one who has appeared is a liar! What has happened to these people? Why do they not see and why do they not reflect? Even in the previous era, it was at Badr that Allah the Exalted bestowed His support, and that divine support was for a people who were referred to as *adhillah* (weak). It was at a time when only 313 people entered the field of battle with a few wooden swords. Most of those 313 were small children.

What could be a greater state of weakness? On the opposing end was a large and elite force of experienced and powerful warriors. In terms of materialistic equipment, the Holy Prophet (saw) had nothing. In the face of these circumstances, the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, prayed:

Allahoumma in ahlakta hazehil isabata lan tou'bad fil arze abada

“O Allah! If, today, you allow this community to perish, there will remain no one to worship You on earth.”

Hearken! I proclaim with certainty that even in this age we are faced with a state of affairs that are akin to the time of Badr. In the same way, Allah the Exalted is preparing a community, and the very same words, *badr* and *adhillah* (the weak), have been used

in connection with them. Is it not false to state that Islam has suffered no weakness and disgrace? It possesses no stature in terms of worldly sovereignty either. Even when Europe confronts them, they flee and have no strength whatsoever to raise their heads. What is the state in this country? Are Muslims not suffering humiliation and weakness here? Even the Hindus are greater in power than Muslims. Is there only one form of indignity in which Muslims are greater than others? You will find Muslims in all of the lowest professions. Muslims are at the forefront in begging. If one visits the jails, one will find that among the imprisoned, criminals who are Muslim outnumber people of other Faiths. If one visits the taverns, one will find them abundantly full of Muslims. Even now Muslims suggest that they have not been disgraced?

Filthy and abusive books, which number in the tens of millions, have been written against Islam. Mughals and Syeds from among our people and others belonging to noble families have converted to Christianity and then they actively attack the Chief of the Sinless, the Seal of the Prophets, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. Take the example of Safdar Ali and Imad-ud-Din and others like them. Who was the writer of *Mothers of the Believers*,¹ a book that sparked great outrage and clamour; yet after everything, the Muslims managed to achieve nothing. Despite this, the Muslims assert that they have not been disgraced and weakened. Will such people continue in their denial until even the last shred of Islam's good name is tarnished? Is it then that they will finally concede that now Islam has been disgraced!

Alas! How shall I demonstrate to you the state of Islam in this day and age? Heed my words! I openly declare once again that the present age is the time of Badr. Islam is currently suffering from weakness and disgrace, but now God has willed to help Islam. As such, God Almighty has sent me so that I may demonstrate the superiority of Islam over all other religions and Faiths through evidence and conclusive argumentation. In this blessed era, Allah the Exalted has willed to manifest His glory, and there is no one who can stand in His way. Just as God's four attributes mentioned earlier were especially manifested previously in the age of the companions of the Holy Prophet (saw), this too is a similar age. The time has now come for God to manifest His providence. Foolish opponents seek to separate this child as it were, but the loving care of God shall not allow it. God is showering His mercy at present like a rain. These Muslim clerics who call themselves supporters of the religion of Islam desire to extinguish the light of Allah Almighty through their opposition, but this light shall be perfected, just as Allah the Exalted has willed. It pleases these people, it seems, and they accept it when Christian priests stand up and announce that the Prophet of the Muslims has died and the only Prophet who lives is the Messiah, and when they claim that only the Messiah was saved from the touch of Satan, and when they assert that the Messiah

revived the dead. And then, the Muslims further reinforce them by suggesting that indeed, the Messiah created and gave life to birds. A believer in the unity of God once visited me and I said to him: ‘The birds which the Messiah used to create, must have multiplied by now to a great number. How can one now distinguish them from the ones created by God?’ He said: ‘Yes, they have all become mixed with one another.’ In this way, such people have turned the Messiah into a partner of half of God’s divinity. Similarly, they also believe that the Antichrist will give life to the dead and that he would perform other miraculous feats.

The Muslim creed *laa Ilaha Illallah (there is none worthy of worship except Allah)* is a sword as it were, and with it, the Holy Quran slays all those beings to whom divine attributes are falsely attributed. Then from where has this Antichrist emerged? Surah Fatihah teaches us a prayer so that we may be saved from following in the footsteps of the Jews and Christians. Did God forget to mention this grave trial of the Antichrist? The fact of the matter is that these people have lost their senses and they are like the one who cuts off the branch they sit on.

When these people began to disgrace Islam, Allah the Exalted sent me at the head of the fourteenth century to establish the greatness of the Holy Quran in accordance with His promise:

إِنَّا نَحْنُ نَزَّلْنَا الذِّكْرَ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَحَافِظُونَ

*Verily, We Ourselves have sent down this Exhortation,
and most surely We will be its Guardian.*

Do the people not observe how His signs are being manifested? The lunar and solar eclipses have taken place in the month of Ramadan. Is it possible for this sign of the Mahdi to be fulfilled without the Mahdi actually being present? Was God mistaken? Then, even after camels have become obsolete as a means of transport, has the Messiah not arrived? The signs of heaven and earth have been fulfilled.

The state of the present age itself calls for the advent of the one who is awaited, but these people go on in their denial. The one awaited has appeared and the denial of his opponents, and their clamour and outrage can do no harm.

This has always been the way of such people. The words of God are true and they are always fulfilled. All that is required of you is that you ought to save yourselves from the

evil company of such people, remain engaged in prayer and develop within yourselves the true spirit of Islam.” (p. 86)

This *Jalsa Salana* speech of the Promised Messiah (as) ends here. There are many points relevant to our beliefs and practice that the Promised Messiah (as) touched upon in this speech. May Allah help each one among us to understand them and to act upon what we understand. Incha Allah. Ameen.