**Friday Sermon 11 September 2020**

**Delivered by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih Al-Khamis (aba)**

After Tashahhud, Ta’awwaz and the recitation of Surah Al-Fatehah, Huzur-e-Anwar said:

Today I’m going to discuss the companion of Holy Prophet (PBUH), Hazrat Bilal bin Rabah (ra). Hazrat Bilal (ra) was a slave of Umayya bin Khalaf. Hazrat Bilal’s (ra) mother was from Habsha but his father was from the land of Arabia. According to a saying Hazrat Bilal (ra) was born in Mecca in a place called Surah. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) said of Hazrat Bilal (ra) that he was the first believer from Habsha.

Hazrat Bilal (ra) was punished and tortured severely because of accepting Islam. But he would always withstand it all and would keep announcing the Oneness of God Almighty. It is said that once Hazrat Bilal’s (ra) owners lay him on the ground and covered him with stones and cowhide and forced him to accept that laat and uzza were his gods but he kept announcing the uniqueness of Allah. When Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) saw this he bought Hazrat Bilal (ra) from his owners for 7 ooqia (280 dirham) and he freed Hazrat Bilal (ra). Some people said that, we would have sold Bilal for just one ooqua to which Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) replied, that had you sold him for even 100 ooqia’s, I would have bought him. It is said that Hazrat Umar (ra) used to say that, Abu Bakr is our leader and he freed our leader Bilal.

During the migration towards Medina Hazrat Bilal (ra) stayed at the house of Sa’ad bin Khaisma. Hazrat Bilal (ra) entered into brotherhood with Hazrat Ubaida bin Harris (ra) or Hazrat Abu Ruwiha Khaismi (ra).

We Ahmadi’s were advised by our Caliph of the time that our migration was for the sake of Allah and Islam but those people who were against the creation of Pakistan have now become its sole owners. They are depriving Ahmadis of their basic civil rights. We migrated for the sake and service of the religion. But now the so-called parliament of Pakistan has deprived us from even taking the name of that religion for political reasons. We do not need any authentication from them. We just feel sorrow at the fact that these so-called rulers of the country have not only cruelly treated Ahmadis but also Pakistan itself. These people are the reason of stopping the growth and excellence of the country. They have become like termites, eating at the very foundations of the country. Pray that may Allah rid the country of these cruel people.

Huzur-e-Anwar said, I will now share some more details regarding Hazrat Bilal (ra). He took part in all battles with the Holy Prophet (PBUH). During the battle of Badr. He killed Umayya bin Khalaf with the help of a group of Ansaar. Hazrat Bilal (ra) was also the secretary/treasurer of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). Once when the Holy Prophet (PBUH) drew the muslim women's attention towards paying sadqa (charity), the women would come to Hazrat Bilal (ra) to drop off the rings from their fingers.

Hazrat Bilal (ra) was the first Muezzin (the caller for prayers). He remained so throughout the life of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) as well his travels. Huzur-e-Anwar said there are some more details regarding Hazrat Bilal (ra) which I will give next time InshaAllah.

 In the second part of the khutba Juma Huzur-e-Anwar spoke of four deceased and announced their prayer absentia. The first one was Rauf bin Maqsood junior esq. from Belgium who was studying at Jmaiyah Ahmadiyya UK. He passed away on the 4th of September this year to brain tumor*. Inna lillahe wa inna alehi rajioon*. He entered Jamiyah in 2018. He was a person with a lot of good attributes such as decency, being sharp-minded, with extraordinary abilities, who completely understood the meaning of sacrifice (waqf) and had immense love for Khilafat. He was already an excellent preacher even before completing Jamiyah. After him Huzur-e-Anwar spoke of Mukkaram Zafar Iqbal Qureshi Sahib, previous Naib Amir, district Islamabad. Honorable Qabne-Qabaja-Kate Sahib of Senegal. Mukkaram Mubashir Latif Sahib, advocate Supreme court.