

FRIDAY KHUTBA OF TOKYO CAMII

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BID'AH AND SUPERSTITIONS

Dear Mumins!

Islam is the last and perfect religion in the sight and level of Allah (s.w.t.). A Muslim, who believes Islam and submits fully and tries to perform the orders of the Exalted Creator thoroughly should try to endeavor to be perfect in his/her worship and faith to the same extent. A Muslim is a person, who believes in Allah and His Prophet, knows that s/he is responsible of the deeds that s/he conducted in this world, and disciplines his/her behaviors and attitudes according to this faith. Furthermore s/he is a fellow whose faith and deeds are in integrity.

Nevertheless these features that are obligatory to be a mumin whom the Qur'ân and sunnah depict could not be in purity of the time of Muhammad (s.a.w.) always. As a result of the gradual expansion of the Islamic geography, pure and smooth manner of the belief and deeds that Muslims own started to appear in various styles owing to distinctive interpretation of faith and conducts. These differentiations that is contrary to the Islamic teaching are named as "bid'ah" in general.

My Dear Brothers and Sisters!

In dictionary, "bid'ah" means to make something without a precedent, to produce a completely new thing, to behave contrary to common opinion and to invent something never done before. Regarding the terminology, it means things that do not exist in the basis of the religion or are not based on the legal proofs (dalîl shar'î) and are invented contrary to the sunnah. In another expression, it is behavior, deed and condition, which appeared, after the religious orders were completed, completely contrary to the clear decree of the Qur'ân, sunnah of Muhammad (s.a.w.), common opinions of ashâb, tâbiûn and mujtahids (jurist). As it is understood from these two definitions, to consider an event or behavior as a "bid'ah" of, it must be contrary to the creed of the religion.

As for the superstition, it means baseless belief which is accepted as baleful or fortunate,

and which is contrary to rational thinking and the reality. Our Lord (s.w.t.) has banned this kind of beliefs very definitely through the following verse: "**O you who**

believe! Intoxicants (all kinds of alcoholig drinks) and gambling, and al-ansâb (animals sacrificed for the idols), and al-azlâm (arrows for seeking luck or decision) are an abomination of Shaitan's handiwork. So avoid that (abomination) in order that you may be successful."¹

Dear Mumins!

Some bid'ah and superstitions have been encountered in Muslim communities from time to time. For example, to tie rag for a wish onto so-called sacred places, to light a candle in tombs, to cast lead², not to conduct nikah (marriage) between two religious festivals, to regard singing of owl as unlucky, to vow to make an offering on tombs, to turn child around the mosque who does not walk by tying a string on his/her foot. However according to Islam, the one must be a worshipper, whose mind and actions are very clean, whose faith and deeds are far away from superstitions, and who has not mixed bid'ah and superstitions with the religion.

Let us not regard this kind of beliefs that come from the past and are opposite to the logic and the science as equivalent to the religion. Let us never forget that it damages Islamic teaching. Let us strictly follow the Qur'ân and Sunnah. I am finishing the khutbah with translation of a hadith: "*Every bid'ah is dalalah (going away from the right path)*"³

¹ Al-Maidah, 5/90.

² To melt lead and pour it into cold water over the head of a sick person in order to break an evil spell.

³ Muslim, Jumuah, 13.

