

FRIDAY KHUTBA OF TOKYO CAMII

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FROM KNOWLEDGE TO MORALITY

Dear Mumins !

By the accelerated and rapid development of the communication technology, sharing of knowledge has extensively grown and knowledge has become an enormous power to reach desired targets and to solve a great deal of problems. Today the power of knowledge and our knowledge accumulation have increased incomparably with the past.

It is a fact that, international affairs, where countries' interests are the primary concerns, are becoming dirtier by sorrow and tear; the lack of peace in the individual and social life increases; the balance in the social life has been lost; and the world is becoming a difficult place to live day by day.

It is also a fact that, means for knowledge and communication have become tools for the entertainment sector and that knowledge pollution has started dominating our world.

Dear Mumins !

Today, one of the most important matters of the social life is the ethic dimension of human-knowledge relations. Knowledge-morality co-existence or moral integrity of the knowledge is still very important for the humanity.

The knowledge is a value that never becomes old. And it's an important moral virtue for an individual to transfer his or her knowledge to the life and to improve life standards based on that knowledge. Because mere knowledge is not enough without a following action. What is important is that knowledge should not remain as a verbal statement but should be transformed into good and positive actions. Because of this, knowledge-morality relation and the purpose of knowledge's use are as important as work and trade ethics.

Our exalted religion does not esteem the knowledge, which is useless and causes moral weakness, for neither the individual nor the society. Islam wants that the knowledge must guide it's owner to the wisdom and it condemns those who do not transform the knowledge into the moral life style as well. Our beloved Prophet (s.a.w.) has sought refuge in Allah from useless knowledge for the individual and the humanity. And because of this reason, Quran has emphasized that those who know and those who do not know are not equal.¹

Moreover, it has made resemble those who do not transform their knowledge into the moral life style to donkeys which carry huge tomes (big books).²

We see the materialism as the biggest obstacle in the transformation of knowledge into the ethic field. So the human who becomes

materialist changes his targets and tries to get maximum pleasure from the world. Then all of the values like morals, and virtue vanish. And all kind of principles, essentials and more important loyalty and connection to religious and ethic values come to naught.

My Dear Brothers and Sisters!

We, the members of the last divine religion, should increase our piousness from the point of view of knowledge, love and ethics. Since we are the followers of a Prophet (S.A.W.), who is the best envoy of moral integrity.

Knowledge, which is oriented to good deeds (khayr) with the guidance of morality, is a need for not only Muslims but all humanity. Let's not forget that the solution of many serious problems existing in the world depends on the knowledge-morality integration.

¹ Az-Zumar, 39/9.

² Al-Jumuah, 62/5.

