

FRIDAY KHUTBA OF TOKYO CAMII

June 26, 2009

CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS AND ISLAM

Dear Mumins!

If we look at the problems facing humanity today, we recognize that many problems take root in ethics. For example, tremendous accumulation of wealth on one side and starvation and wretchedness on the other; the continuance of wars despite vain peace talks; spending of billions of dollars of military expenses every year for terrible arms, invasions, and massacres; military, economic, and political hegemony of strong nations despite orations on so-called independence and freedom; insecurity of life and possessions; terror and violence; mafias and gangs; human trafficking; sexual exploitation and perversion; alcohol and drug addiction; family calamities; and many others are caused by misalignment of ethics.

Dear Mumins!

These are only a few horrible examples of the calamities that result from the disappearance of real love and fear of Allah from the hearts of men. Once the fear of Allah vanishes from the hearts of men, then, as Ibn Hazm, one of greatest scholars of Andalusia said, "pains caused by human to his fellows are deeper than of those the wild or predacious beasts cause." Therefore, Muhammad Mustafa, Prophet of mercy (s.a.w.), decreed the following: "Fear Allah wherever you are." ¹ That's why, in our religion, "fear of Allah," meaning respect, which is expressed within the concept of "taqwa, hashyat," is of great importance.

Starting with the age of Rasullullah (s.a.w.), which is also described as "asr saadah" (era of happiness), in ages when these Quranic terms gained placement in the

hearts of Mumins, fundamentals of Islamic faith and ethics resulted in a deep love of humans and other beings. While people in other places of the world were being oppressed or tormented under feudal lords, aristocrats, and the church, Mumins who absorbed the Qur'anic ethics evolved a real ethics mentality and implementation, formed on the values of justice, equality, and tolerance for people of every faith and race under their administration.

Esteemed Mumins!

The Prophet (s.a.w.) did not neglect even to return needle and yarn to his neighbor while in preparation of emigration (hijrah), which could affect the destiny of all humanity. The examples of Umar (r.a.), who showed his humbleness and nobility by carrying the sack of an elderly widow with orphans, Sultan Muhammad Al Fatih who sat on the

chair of accused by the order of the judge upon complaint of a Roum craft master, and the ordinary tradesman who sent the second customer to his neighbor who did not make even his first sale that day show prophetic ethics that the pure soul of Islam dominated. With such examples, an embraced and living ethic comprehension has become part of the tradition and culture of daily life. Today, humanity needs to remember the light, mercy, and abundance (barakah) of this culture.

On these days when we have just entered into the holy three months, I invoke Allah (s.w.t.) those months to bring goodness (khayr) that can solve all of humans' troubles.



¹ Tirmidhî, Kitab al-birr wa as-silah" 55.