

FRIDAY KHUTBA OF TOKYO CAMII

October 15, 2010

FRIDAY PRAYER

Dear Mumins!

As is known, Friday is the day of weekly prayer performed in congregation. Indeed, Friday is considered by Islam to be very important. A number of hadiths have been narrated from Rasulullah (s.a.w.) concerning the importance of Friday. For example, He (s.a.w.) said in a hadith like this: *"The best day on which the sun rises is Friday. On it Adam was created, on it He was admitted to Paradise and on it He was expelled therefrom."*¹ In another hadith, He (s.a.w.) has informed us that *whoever goes to masjid and listens to the khutba after he does the required cleaning, and then performs the prayer on Friday, this will serve as the expiation for his sins between that day and the previous Friday.*²

Friday prayer consists of two rak'ats that are performed in congregation. It contains the khutba as well. Its obligation (fard) is based on the Kitâb (the Qur'ân), sunnah and ijma' (consensus of ulama). Allah, the Exalted, has ordained as follows: **"O**

you who believe! When the call is proclaimed for the prayer on Friday, come to the remembrance of Allah and leave off business. That is better for you if you did but know! Then when the prayer is ended, you may disperse through the land, and seek the Bounty of Allah, and remember Allah much that you may be successful."³

Friday prayer has been obligated upon the Muslim men, who are sane, adolescent, healthy, free and non-travelers (muqîm). That the Friday prayer is not an obligation upon women is not forbidding; rather, it is a permission not to go. There are no religious obstacles that prevent them from attending the Friday prayer.

Our scholars have also set some conditions in order to accept the Friday

prayer as valid: **time, congregation, city, mosque, permission, and speech (khutba)**. In spite of some differences among the sects, it is clear that time means the time of the noon (Zuhr) prayer. Congregation means that there must be at least three people in addition to the imam. The city means that the place where the prayer will be held must be a settlement such as a city or a place with city status. The mosque means that the prayer must be performed in only one mosque. However, taking the larger scales of the cities into consideration, the ulama (scholars) have permitted the performance of the prayer in several mosques (masjids). And with such permission, it is meant that the president or his representative or someone authorized by them must be the imam during the prayer. As for the khutbah, its essential (ruk'n) is to remember Allah. Therefore, by saying "Alhamdulillah" or "Lailahillallah" with the intention of khutba, that condition will be satisfied.



Dear My Brothers and Sisters!

When we consider the diversity of our congregation, it is understandable that our khutba may not be understood by everybody simultaneously at the same level. Therefore, scripts of khutba are handed out to our jamaah before the prayer. But while the khutba is being read, even if it is not understood, speaking or even warning someone about speaking is regarded as tahrîman makrûh (prohibitively disliked). Similarly, looking around, taking or giving salam, and praying are accepted as makrûh for the audience.

Friday prayer has been accepted as a weekly festival for Muslims. Considering this tremendous importance, let's never neglect our Friday prayers. Let's listen carefully and quietly to the khutba, which bear the aim of informing us about religious matters and various fields.

May your Jumu'ah be blessed.

¹ Muslim, Jumu'ah, 18.

² Bukhârî, Jumu'ah, 6, 19; Muslim, Jumu'ah, 26.

³ Al-Jumu'ah, 9-10.