

## FRIDAY KHUTBA OF TOKYO CAMII

March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011

### THE EARTHQUAKE

#### O Allah's beloved slaves!

Every matter existing in the universe is an ayat (proof) of Allah (s.w.t.). Steep rocky mountains, vast seas, ebullient rivers, wild forests, animals which are at people's disposal, plants which are a source of nourishment and everything that we are not able to count one by one exhibits the omnipotence of Allah (s.w.t.). However, so many people rushing about in their daily lives are far from contemplating and admiring this omnipotence, and exalting Allah, the Possessor of Majesty.



Last week we lived through a fearsome earthquake, such a strong one, which perhaps most of us felt for the first time in our lives. In fact, this extraordinary event that all humanity is incapable of coping with also testifies to our Lord's omnipotence. When the earth roars with this testimony, the believer remembers his Lord immediately. And saying, "Yes, O My Lord! It is You who has the omnipotence and the magnificence.... It is You who is the origin of mercy and compassion." S/he never ceases repeating the expressions of *shahadah*, *kalima tawheed*, and *istighfar*.

#### Dear Brothers and Sisters in Islam!

The earthquake reminds us of another thing. It is that we are not so far from "Doomsday". In the sayings of the Qur'an, the day when "**the earth will be shaken with a terrible shake**"<sup>1</sup> "**the mountains will be like flakes of wool**,"<sup>2</sup> "**the earth is stretched forth, and has cast out all that was in it (perhaps as a volcano explodes) and became empty**"<sup>3</sup> "**the seas become as blazing fire or overflow (perhaps like tremendous tsunamis)**"<sup>4</sup> "**it shall not come upon you except all of a sudden.**"<sup>5</sup>

By remembering doomsday, we recall the fact that the dead shall be recreated just like in the first creation and shall give account according to their deeds. Please look at the context between the beginning and end of Surat al-Zalzalah: "**When the earth is shaken with its earthquake, and when the earth throws out its burdens, and many will say: "what is the matter with it?"; That day it will declare its information because your Lord will inspire it. That day mankind will proceed in scattered groups that they may be shown their deeds. So whosoever does good equal to the weight of an atom shall see it. And whosoever does evil equal to the weight of an atom shall see it.**"<sup>6</sup>

Briefly, let us revise our lifestyle once more on the occasion of the earthquake. Let us lead a life as if we are just about to meet death and appear in the presence of Allah (s.w.t.) tomorrow. And let us never forget that we are going to see a response for each of our deeds, be they good or evil.

#### Dear Mumins!

As taking precautions before and after the quake that would occur and complying with the instructions and recommendations of the competent authorities are the natural human conducts, they are also a religious necessity. Practicing *tadbîr* (taking precautions) is the duty of the slaves; *taqdîr* (creation, execution) is from Allah (s.w.t.).

Using this opportunity we will collect donations for the earthquake victims after prayer. Please don't withhold anything that you are able to help with, and be generous.

May our Lord (s.w.t.) protect all of us from the bigger disasters, inshaAllah.

<sup>1</sup> Al-Wâqi'ah, 56/4.

<sup>2</sup> Al-Ma'ârij, 70/9.

<sup>3</sup> Al-Inshiqâq, 84/3-4.

<sup>4</sup> At-Takwîr, 81/6.

<sup>5</sup> Al-A'râf, 7/187.

<sup>6</sup> Az-Zalzalah, 99/1-8.