

FRIDAY KHUTBA OF TOKYO CAMII

July 24, 2009

SAVING ENERGY AND WASTING

Dear Mumins!

Everything in this world has been created for humans and has been assigned to their service. As humans, our duty is to meet our worldly needs by working through halal (permissible and clean) ways. Without a doubt, while our needs are being met, we should approach our necessity to satisfy those needs in a moderate and measured manner since excess consumption of any kind is waste. As all of you know, to waste is haram (forbidden) in our religion. Likewise, Allah (s.w.t.) has prohibited extravagance and stinginess by ordaining the following in a verse of the sūrat al-Furqân: "...Those who when they spend are neither extravagant nor niggardly, but hold a medium (way) between those (extremes)."¹

Dear Mumins!

As unnecessary spending in eating, drinking, clothes, finery, and many other areas represents waste, the excess consumption of energy—one of our indispensable needs in daily life—represents waste as well. The message in the hadith of "Do not waste the water, even if you perform ablution at the bank of a river," explains the point of view held by our culture and belief regarding frugality. Thus, every action contrary to this would represent opposition to the understanding of "do not waste" in our religion.

Dear Mumins!

Luxury, showing off, and wastage have indeed achieved unacceptable levels in our present societies. It has been mentioned that the volume of bread and

meals thrown into the garbage would be sufficient to feed millions of people who are hungry and homeless worldwide. Preferring to be a spendthrift rather than being helpful to those who are in need is clearly an inappropriate behavior for a mumin. Mumin live with the conscious thought that all his deeds will be interrogated. She or he pays utmost attention to staying away from everything Allah (s.w.t.) has prohibited.

My Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Spending for the sake of luxury and showing off are among the foremost reasons for the collapse or underdevelopment of societies. Islam, our religion, warns us as follows that boons should not be wasted: "O children of Adam! Wear your beautiful apparel at every time and place of prayer: eat and drink but waste not by excess, for God loves not the wasters."²

We should benefit from the boons in the best way that our Lord (s.w.t.) bestows upon us; however, we should not forget that these boons are bestowed on us as a trust. Thus, we should continue our lives being conscious of our responsibility by staying away from wastage and stinginess.

I will finish my khutba with the translation of a hadith: "Eat, drink, and wear modestly and without wasting, and give alms (sadaqah)..."³



¹ Al-Furqân, 67.

² Al-A'râf, 31.

³ Nasâi, Zakah, 66.