

FRIDAY KHUTBA OF TOKYO CAMIİ

January 8th, 2010

THE BASIC PRINSIPLE OF EDUCATION IS COMPASSION

Dear Mumins!

Sûrat Ar-Rahmân is the sole surah which starts with one of Allah's names. It has a miraculous voice order. The question of **'Then which of the Blessings of your Lord do you deny?'** is passing thirtyone times at this sûrah. **'Ar-Rahman: the most gracious, He has taught the Quran. He created man. He taught him eloquent speech.'**¹

The polytheists (mushriks) of Makka were fiercely denying the name Rahmân, the name of Allah. Yet there would not be any logical explanation for denying this name. Because it means the endless source of mercy... Who does not like the mercy?... Who does not wish to be treated with mercy? Ar-Rahmân means by its form the one who gets full and overflows with all kind of mercy and compassion, all kind of love and tenderness... But, please remember the manner of Suhayl bin Amr who was the chairman of the diplomatic delegation of Makka in Hudaybiyah pact... The Messenger of Allah (s.a.w.) was saying to Ali (r.a.): Write... Bismillahirrahmanirrahim.... Suhayl was objecting to it: *What is ar-Rahmân? Write Bismikallahumme: With your name O Allah...* So he was meaning by his remark: Don't write Ar-Rahman but write whatever you write... Why? He objected to the truth that Allah interferes to the life, namely he claimed that Allah should be far away from human's life. Because Allah interferes human's life through the revelation, through the prophethood. But they like the imagining of a deity who does not interfere to their deed or work. There was no any objection to that if Allah would be the god of sky. Yet Allah has announced by this definite expression in

His revelation: *He is ilâh (God) both in the earth and in the sky.*²

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Why was the part related to teaching of Allah (s.w.t.) started with the word ar-Rahmân? The short answer to this question might be as follows: The basic principle of education and training is mercy and compassion. The sûrah, started with the name ar-Rahmân says: **'He has taught the Quran.'** before it says: **'He created man.'** Only after this expression it says **'He created man.'** it says: **'He taught him eloquent speech'.** What does this mean? It means indirectly: If Allah had not given the ability of learning, the human being

would not be real human. Because, he becomes real human only with the ability of learning. And Allah has bestowed it upon him/her for He (s.w.t.) is the source of mercy. In other words, because of His love, compassion and mercy upon the human. He did not let the human do as he/she likes. If He had let him do as he likes, He would make him a living-thing like animals. Then it would not be any reward, any punishment.

As you see at the last analysis the reward and the punishment, jannat and jahannam are the signs of Allah's love, compassion and mercy, who is Ar-Rahman. If the divine justice did not exist, what could we say? What would be the state of this world?

So, since the mercy is basic principle of education and learning the thing that should be done is that both the parents and the teachers must integrate compassion and mercy into the education and any other learning activity. Furthermore they should know that it is sunnatullah, namely Allah's method.

¹ Ar-Rahmân, 55/1-4.

² Al-Zuhuf, 39/84.