

FRIDAY KHUTBA OF TOKYO MOSQUE

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Envy and Jealousy in Islam

Dear Mumins

Humans are created superior and more capable compared to other creatures in this world, however, there are some undesirable elements that humans have, and they are jealousy and envying others in a bad way. Envying someone badly because he/she has better things such as higher position or higher authority can be considered as jealousy. Islam prohibits us to get jealous and envy others in a bad way.

Envying in a good way is encouraged in Islam. For example: If someone has good qualities then it is acceptable for us to envy that person for his/her good qualities, and ask Almighty Allah (swt) to grant us the same good qualities. Our beloved prophet (pbuh) stated that "envy only two kinds of people. One is the rich who spends his/her money the way Allah (swt) would approve of, and the other one is who was given knowledge and would teach his/her knowledge to others." [1]

Envying someone in a bad way is definitely goes against Allah's (swt) discretion, because all the blessings such as position, authority and so on are given to us by Allah (swt), so envying someone in a bad way means going against Allah (swt). We are told in Quran "And wish not for the things in which Allah has made some of you to excel others..." [2] Our prophet (pbuh) stated that "avoid bad envy. Like the way fire burns wood, the envy destroys the well-being." [3] Allah (swt) blesses us with different things. It is wrong to be jealous over what others have. We must always appreciate what we already have and always value what Allah (swt) has given to us.

Islamic scholars accept the fact that jealousy and envying in a bad way is a mental illness. Jealousy can be seen more among neighbors, siblings, friends,

and colleagues. If someone feels that they may have this mental illness they should turn towards Allah (swt) and read this verse from the Holy Quran "And from the evil of the envier when he envies." [4]



kindness, Most Merciful." [6]

In order to get rid of jealous attitudes we must be happy with what we already have. Our beloved prophet stated that "confining oneself is an inexhaustible treasure." [5] I will finish my khutba with a verse from the Holy Quran "And those who came after them say: Our Lord! Forgive us and our brothers who have preceded us in Faith, and put not in our hearts any hatred against those who have believed. Our Lord! You are indeed full of

[1] Buhari Temenni 5

[2] An-Nisa 4/32

[3] Ebu Dawud, Ada44.

[4] Al-Falaq 113/5

[5] Deylemi, Mus4699,

[6] Al-Hashr, 59/10.