

FRIDAY KHUTBA OF TOKYO CAMII

November 21, 2008

YOUTHFULNESS

Dear Mumins!

Although there are special beauties for every age, the place of youth in our life is very unique. Therefore, days of youth are always commemorated with longing. A poet expressed his sensations by saying: "Ah that youthfulness! If only it came back some day that I would mention to it what senescence made me."¹ Alas! What has passed in life never returns. Also, our Prophet (s.a.w.) warned about youth in a hadith as follows: "Take benefit of your youth before your old age."² It is indeed the clever man who recognizes that his youth melts away day by day, who realizes its worth, and who endeavors to pass his youth in a way that he will not regret.

Dear Mumins!

The youths are targets for all kinds of false and perverted thoughts and poisons offered by the lust traders. Our youths should wear the armor of the eiman (belief) in order that they are able to protect themselves from these threats. Likewise, the strong eiman is the first and biggest refuge against all kind of evil. Our Lord (s.w.t.) has ordained about this matter as follows: "**Surely he (devil) has no authority over those who believe and rely on their Lord.**"³ The need for a human being to believe is inborn. If the case where the desire for belief among our youths is left empty, someone will surely come and fill the void with false (bâtil) ideas.

Dear Congregation!

As is the case for everyone, youths must choose their friends carefully. Our beloved Prophet (s.a.w.) likened a companion to smell. "If it is good, good smell; if it is disgusting, bad smell does

permeate upon you."⁴ In another hadith He (s.a.w.) said: "Fellow is upon his companion's religion. So he should pay attention to whom he accompanies."⁵

One of the dangerous things that can also be misused is sexual sensations. A young man came to the Prophet one day and said, "O Prophet! Give me permission to commit adultery." Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w.) turned to him and started to talk with him. "Tell me, would you like for another to commit adultery with your mother?" The young man said, "O Prophet of Allah, I would never desire such a thing." He (s.a.w.) continued, and said, "Would you want someone to commit adultery with your daughter or sister or paternal aunt or maternal aunt?" The young man said, "O Prophet of Allah, I would not." The Prophet said, "No one would want such a thing" and prayed for him saying, "My Lord, forgive him his sin, clean his heart and

protect him from committing sins."⁶ The elders have significant responsibilities and duties to warn the young about these kinds of dangers. To order what is good and to forbid what is evil is fard (obligatory). To obey these is a real virtue. We all are in need of this assistance. As Omar (r.a.) said, "There is no khayr (goodness) in a society, those who don't advise and don't listen to advices."

Let's finish our khutba with good tidings of Rasulullah (s.a.w.) related to the youth: "Allah will give shade, to seven, on the Day when there will be no shade but His. (One of these seven persons is) a youth who has been brought up in the worship of Allah."⁷



¹ Katru'n-Neda s. 206.

² Al-Mustadrak, Rikâk, 4/306.

³ An-Nahl, 99.

⁴ Bukhârî, Zabâih, 31.

⁵ Tirmizî, Zuhd, 45.

⁶ Ahmad, Musnad, 5/257.

⁷ Bukhârî, Azan, 36.