

FRIDAY KHUTBA OF TOKYO CAMII

LIFE IS A TEST

April 22, 2011

Dear Mumins!

Allah (s.w.t.) has created humans to be tested on the Earth. This reality has been expressed in the Qur'ân as follows: **"(Allah) who has created death and life that He may test you which of you is best in deed. And He is the All-Mighty, the Oft-Forgiving."**¹ The main objective of man's creation is to recognize Allah (s.w.t.) and to worship Him. Our Lord (s.w.t.) has informed us about this matter as follows: **"And I (Allah) created not the jinn and mankind except that they should worship Me (Alone)."**²

The man, who was created as a distinguished being has been warned through the Prophets and the books and has been shown how to be a good 'abd (slave or worshipper) for Allah (s.w.t.).

Dear Mumins!

Worldly life is deceptive and temporary. Allah (s.w.t.) warns us about this matter as follows: **"And the life of this world is nothing but play and amusement. But far better is the house in the Hereafter for those who are the pious. Will you not then understand?"**³ **"O mankind! Verily, the promise of Allah is true. So let not this present life deceive you, and let not the chief deceiver (satan) deceive you about Allah."**⁴ By taking these warnings into consideration, a Muslim should be able to strike a balance between this world and the hereafter without indulging himself in the worldly life. S/he should frequently ask himself from where we came, why we exist and to where we will go, and naturally, she and he should be able to answer as follows: From Allah we have come. We are here to be tested. And finally, to

Allah we will return. If man passes this mortal life by submitting to Satan and by pursuing the endless desires of the nafs (soul), he surely will be from those who are the losers in the hereafter. All of us in this mortal world have been tested in various forms. While the lives of some have passed within wealth, health and happiness, the lives of others have been spent in poverty, trouble and calamity. To believe that everything we have confronted occurs with Allah's takdîr (destiny or permission); to show patience when a disaster or calamity happened; not to act ungratefully towards the bestowed blessings and delights, and to give hamd and shukr (thanks) is to be 'abd (slave) for Allah in the real meaning.

Dear Mumins!

The worldly life is a substantial test. Let's lead our lives by understanding

that we cannot complete this big examination successfully unless we comply with Allah's orders and avoid what He has forbidden. Let's never forget the hereafter. Let's be aware that every delight we taste and every suffering we feel is transitory. Then, let's bear in our mind the caution from our Lord: **"Every soul shall have a taste of death, and We test you by evil and by good by way of trial. To Us you shall be brought back."**⁵

I am finishing my khutba with a hadîs of Rasûlullah (s.a.w.): *"Strange are the ways of a believer for there is good in every affair of his. This is not the case with anyone else other than a believer. For if he has an occasion to feel delight, he thanks (God); thus, there is good in it for him. And if he gets into trouble but shows resignation (and endures it patiently), there is good in it for him."*⁶



¹ Al-Mulk, 2.

² Adh-Dhâriyât, 56.

³ Al-An'âm, 32.

⁴ Al-Fâtir, 5.

⁵ Al-Anbiyâ, 35.

⁶ Muslim, Zuhd, 64.