

FRIDAY KHUTBA OF TOKYO CAMII

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IMPORTANCE OF CONSULTATION IN ISLAM

Dear Mumins!

Many important characteristics of Mumins have been mentioned in the Qur'ân. One of these characteristics is conducting any matter with consultation (استشارة). Consultation means to ask and receive opinion of someone about a matter. According to Islamic moral, Muslims consult each other about every matter in a cordial and friendly way. The Qur'ân, our holy book, has advised Mumins through addressing the Prophet (s.a.w.): "**Consult them in the affairs. Then when you have taken a decision, put your trust in Allah, certainly, Allah loves those who put their trust (in Him).**"¹ And also decreeing "**(those) who (conduct) their affairs by mutual consultation**"² describes the behavior from a believing man.

Dear Mumins!

The Prophet (s.a.w.) has showed the best model of consultation. When we examine the life of Rasulallah (s.a.w.) we recognize that He (s.a.w.) used to give great value to His companions (sahaba) around Him and used to consult them. Although He (s.a.w.) used to wait the divine inspiration on affairs related to the religious matters and act according to the orders of our Lord (s.w.t.), He (s.a.w.) used to consult sahaba and turn to their opinion on problems that concerned all of the society like battle or reconciliation and that could be solved by opinion or interpretation (اجتهاد).

For example Rasulallah (s.a.w.) consulted and got their opinions on the battles of Badr, Uhud and Khandak, vital events in the history of Islam. His idea particularly about the Battle of Uhud was to conduct self-defense, by staying in Madina. But some young sahaba who could not attend in Badr wanted to fight face to face with mushrik's army in the

war arena. The Prophet (s.a.w.) accepted the opinion of the majority and the battle was made around the hillside of Uhud Mountain. Anas (r.a.) who was given to the Prophet's service when he was only ten years old said about Rasulallah (s.a.w.) as follows: *I saw nobody more foremost than the Prophet (s.a.w.) about consultation.*³ Sahaba (r.a.) also acted after passing of Rasulallah (s.a.w.) in the same way.

Esteemed Mumins!

We can conclude both from the Quranic verses and the implementation of Rasulallah (s.a.w.) that the people certainly should benefit from the others' opinion and experience on every kind of work. This is both an order of Allah and a sunnah of Rasulallah (s.a.w.). Also, it provides many advantages to Muslims. Non-Muslim societies that are aware of this have formed "consulting companies". Recently, these companies' effects on commercial, military and political fields have increased.

Dear Mumins!

While consulting, one of the most important points that should be kept in mind is that the choice of the person to be consulted. This significantly affects the results whether to be with khayr (goodly) or not. So, the person to be consulted should be intelligent, experienced, religious, virtuous, heartfelt, reliable and aware of human psychology. On the other hand, it is clear that consulting to a person, who is immoral, conceited and cannot grasp is useless as well.

I would like to finish my khutba with the meaning of a verse: "**... Above everyone who is endowed with knowledge is One who knows all.**"⁴

¹ Âl-'Imrân, 159.

² Ash-Shûra, 38.

³ Tirmizî, Jihâd, 34.

⁴ Yûsuf /76.

