

FRIDAY KHUTBA OF TOKYO CAMII

February 22, 2008

TRADITION OF THE WAQF IN ISLAM

Dear Mumins!

Waqf means an endowment for public benefit, to which a property or other assets are allocated, with the sole intention of becoming closer to Allah (s.w.t.) without expecting any other benefit. This intention is the main condition to be able to set up a waqf. The founders of waqfs have been appreciated by the public thanks to this sincere intention.

Dear my brothers and sisters!

Our religion gives waqf special importance and has encouraged the believers forming waqfs. Allah (s.w.t.) decreed in the Qur'an as follows: **"By no means shall you attain to righteousness until you spend (benevolently) out of what you love; and whatever thing you spend Allah surely knows it"**.¹ Also, our Prophet (s.a.w.) has informed that *"when a man dies all his deeds come to an end except for three: An ongoing charity, beneficial knowledge or a righteous son who will pray for him"*².

Then our Prophet (s.a.w.) became the initial model about waqf in person. He (s.a.w.) endowed with the lands where He (s.a.w.) was in possession of, and his shares in date wood of Fadak and Khaybar. Almost all of His companion (sahabah), muhajer and ansar, participated in this good sunnah.

Dear Mumins!

In Islamic history of 1400 years, waqfs have performed important duties in various areas of the social life. The poor, travelers, orphans, students and unemployed ones have been helped. Similarly, waqfs helped bachelors who could not afford to marry to arrange their marriages.

Keeping in mind the reality that nowadays almost no service can be received without fee, let's try to comprehend, only in the example of the caravansary, how magnificent functions the waqfs have carried out. In the caravansaries built in every 30-40 kilometers of the important trade roads, needs of each traveler, Muslim or non-muslim, poor or rich, and needs of his mount used to be served free. Moreover, those who were ill used to be treated till recovering. And if someone died his burial process used to be fulfilled.

The compassion wings have been lowered not only onto human but also onto other livings through the waqfs. We can mention of various examples of waqfs, such as setting up nest for the migratory birds, and treating wounded storks. Nevertheless, some education and health services in the society have been conducted by the waqfs. Islamic civilization has turned into a "waqf civilization" just by virtue of this characteristic and excellence. So, Muslims have deserved to be proud of the waqf establishments formed with eiman and the intention of service.

Let's try to bring up a generation, who sustains the tradition of the waqf and endeavor to develop it. Let's be aware of that all of our beauties have sprouted from our eiman.

I am finishing my khutba with a hadith sharif: *"There are two things deserving to be envied: The first one is the man that Allah (s.w.t.) bestowed properties on him and made him succeed to donate those properties to the poor. The other one is the man that Allah (s.w.t.) bestowed knowledge and wisdom upon him and he used it for correct judgments and taught it to other people."*³



¹ Âl 'Imrân, 92.

² Muslim, 1631.

³ R.Salihîn, II, 573.