

## FRIDAY KHUTBA OF TOKYO CAMII

June 25, 2009

# THE QURAN

### Dear Mumins!

Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) had conveyed the message of the Quran - which was revealed to him over a 23-year period - to the people verse by verse. The Caliph Abu Bakr (r.a.) consolidated the scriptures, which were written on different materials, into a book. Then, the Caliph Uthman (r.a.) prepared official copies and distributed them to all areas of the Islamic world of that time. The Quran is the only divine scripture that has been preserved just as it was revealed.

The Quran is the word of Allah and represents a miracle by itself. It describes the rules and responsibilities about beliefs, ibadahs, morals, and societal laws. It teaches people about Allah's oneness and other characteristics, about the life in the hereafter, and about the paradise and the hell. It informs us about the lives and historical cases of previous nations and prophets (a.s) so that people can learn by example. The Quran orders us to behave justly and to have "taqwa." It describes itself as "an admonishment and a guide to righteousness for humans."<sup>1</sup>

The Quran asks humans first of all, to think about their creation and the perfect order of the universe. It reminds humans that this world does not consist of a single dimension but of several, such as metaphysics.

According to the Quran, life is not only in this world and does not end with death. The real and infinite life is the life that takes place in the hereafter, namely the life of akhirah. Earning the life of akhirah depends on our righteous deeds in this world.

In the Quran, therefore, the importance of performing the deeds Allah (S.w.T.) ordered

as fard and the forbidden deeds Allah (S.w.T.) identified to us as haram has been emphasized frequently. All of these serve to guide humans and their societies to the happiness in this world and in the hereafter.

### Dear Mumins!

Achieving a true understanding of Islam and of true life it is only possible through reading and understanding the Quran, which is the primary source of Islam. Allah (S.w.T.) informs us that He made this task easy for us to understand and perform. He wants us to reflect about the verses, the ayahs of the Quran, and understand their real meaning.

He criticizes those who do not seek to understand the Quran with the verse "Do they not then earnestly seek to understand the Qur'an, or are their hearts locked up by them?"<sup>2</sup> The only way to understand the Quran is by obeying its first order, "Read!" For us, the Muslims who believe, the biggest

purpose in life must be to understand the Quran and to live in accordance with it. Imam Ghazali said about the etiquette of reciting the Quran "in order to truly read the Quran, the tongue, the mind, and the heart must be in cooperation. The tongue reads the Quran slowly considering the pronunciation rules. The mind reflects about the meanings. The heart feels the orders and prohibitions and corrects itself. Namely, the tongue reads, the mind interprets, and the heart takes lessons. If these three do not co-exist, the Quran would not be read with its true meaning."<sup>3</sup> Let us conclude our khutbah with a hadith of our Prophet (S.a.W.): "**The best among you are those who learn and teach the Quran.**"<sup>4</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Tâ Hâ, 20/2-3; Neml, 27/2; İsrâ, 17/9

<sup>2</sup> Muhammed, 47/24)

<sup>3</sup> Gazali ihya U. 1. 259 )

<sup>4</sup> Tirmizi, Fezâilül Quran, 15