

## FRIDAY KHUTBA OF TOKYO CAMII

February 6, 2009

# ARROGANCE

### Dear Mumins!

Arrogance, a devilish temperament, is first and foremost of the negativities which do not fit a Muslim's ethical personality and diminishes his/her value with Allah, the Prophet and everyone. The concept of arrogance (*kibr*) means "someone pretending that s/he is great, exalted and regarding himself/herself as superior to others" in the *Qur'ân*. It also has been used more specifically with the meaning that unbelievers do not accept the faith of the believers and do not follow their way, despising Muslims. As it has been expressed in the verses, the devil (*shaitan*) first defied Allah's order, asserting that He is superior to Adam (a.s.) and this caused *shaitan* to be deprived of divine mercy.[1]



According to Islam, there is no great and exalted one but Allah in reality. Therefore, if a slave becomes arrogant, first of all it is disrespect to Allah. Arrogance bruises man's outstanding characteristics like justice, compassion and love and it upsets his/her reasoning ability. It has been decreed in the *Qur'ân* as follows: "**Thus does Allah seal up the heart of every arrogant tyrant.**"[2]

### Dear Mumins!

Al-Mâwardî, the famous Islam scholar, says: "Arrogance is the most dangerous of all badness. It causes trouble among people, injures social bonds, and inserts hate in the hearts of friends. Thus, Rasulullah (s.a.w.) said: "A man who bears an atom size of arrogance in his heart cannot enter paradise."[3] After reminding this *hadith* Imam Ghazâlî explains in *Ihyâu 'Ulûmi'd-Dîn*, his terrific work, as follows: "Arrogance is an obstacle for entering paradise. An

arrogant man does not desire what is good and right for the brothers in religion. Since arrogance comprises egoism, the arrogant one cannot be humble. And also s/he is not able to save himself/herself from feelings of rancor, rage and jealousy; is not satisfied with the right; cannot endure listening to useful advice; admires nobody but himself/herself. Since regarding himself/herself as great and exalted, this kind of man commits injustice and oppression towards others with the intention of proving his/her false superiority.

### Dear Congregation!

Because of the damage and objections just summarized related to the feeling of arrogance, our Prophet (s.a.w.) who was trained with the Quranic morals used to hate arrogance; used to refuse to be extremely commended; used to sit down where He found empty. He used to visit His companions, neighbors and patients; used to eat meal along with His maid; used to carry His foods from bazaar by himself. Rasulullah (s.a.w.) who, throughout His life, endeavored to cause other Muslims to gain these good habits and said: "*Allah revealed to me that we should be humble amongst ourselves and none should show pride among others.*"[4] Those who are distant to the excellent morals and virtues of our Prophet (s.a.w.), who is example of humility, are distant to Him in the hereafter.

How happy are those who are close to our beloved Prophet in morals and virtue.

[1] Al-Baqarah, 34; Al-A'raf, 12.

[2] Ghâfir, 35.

[3] Ibn Hanbal, Musnad, IV, 134.

[4] Muslim, Jannat, 16.