

FRIDAY KHUTBA OF TOKYO CAMII

December 14, 2007

SACRIFICE

Dear Mumins!

The worship of sacrifice has been expressed in the Qur'an as a deed of servanthship to Allah on its own. Our Lord decreed in the Qur'an as follows: **"..For every nation we have appointed rites (of sacrifice) that they might mention the Name of Allah over the beast of cattle that He has given them for food."**¹ **"...Turn in prayer to your Lord and sacrifice"**² And also our Prophet (s.a.w.) emphasized the importance of this worship by saying as follows: *"the son of Adam does not do any action on the day of Qurbân which is more pleasing to Allah than the sacrifice of animals."*³ Therefore sacrifice is a religious duty.

Sacrifice means to slaughter an animal that bears specific conditions for the sake of Allah according to a certain procedure. Every mumín who is adolescent, non-insane, wealthy according to the religious measurements and non-traveler is responsible for slaughtering a sacrifice for the purpose of coming closer to Allah and earning His pleasure (rida).

Dear Mumins!

By slaughtering a sacrifice, the individual shows his devotion to Allah (s.w.t.) and His orders like Ibrahim a.s. and also shows that he is ready for every kind of self-sacrifice whenever it is needed in order to get His ridâ (pleasure). So the intention and ikhlâs (sincerity) are foundation like in all other worships.

Dear My Brothers and Sisters!

Qurbân (sacrifice) should be slaughtered by someone capable. It should be taken to the slaughtering place without hurting, should be laid to its left side and the legs should be tied by a rope properly. Its direction should be turned to qiblah and cut by a sharp knife without waiting. And of course it should not be forgotten to say "bismillahi Allahu Akbar" with a short dua.

Sheep, goat, cattle and camel are animal kinds, which may be accepted as sacrifice. There is no difference between being male or female. Sheep and goat can be slaughtered for one person; cattle and camel can be slaughtered for up to seven persons. Sheep should be older than one year and cattle should be older than two years

in order to be sacrificed.

Days of slaughtering are the first three days of the festival after salatu'l-`id. It can not be slaughtered on the day of arafa⁴ or after third day. As the person who sacrifices and his family or his guests can eat from its meat, he can also give a part of the animal to the poor and the relatives. Or if he wants, he can distribute all of it to the poor. The sacrifice can also be performed by wakalah (proxy). But this responsibility can not be carried out by donating its price.

May your sacrifices be a cause to come closer to Allah (s.w.t.).



¹ Al-Haj, 34.

² Al-Kawthar, 2.

³ At-Tirmizî, Adahî, 1.

⁴ The day before the festival.