

FRIDAY KHUTBA OF TOKYO CAMII
NOT TO SEEK OTHERS' FAULTS OUT

May 6, 2011

Dear Mumins!

One of the habits which has been disapproved and prohibited in the religion of Islam is to seek out a mumin's deficiency, fault, shame and private life.¹ Because inquiring others' deficiency or shame and disclosing them bruises the confidence among the people and leads to increased feelings of being offended and disagreements.

Our Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w.) said about this matter as follows: *"Avoid*

suspicion, for suspicion is the gravest lie in talk and do not be inquisitive about one another and do not spy upon one another..."² *"Whoever discloses a fault of a mumin, Allah will uncover his fault and disgrace him even at his own house."*³ He

(s.a.w.) has also expressed the attitude to be praised, which is suitable for a mumin: *"Whoever keeps a mumin's fault or deficiency concealed, Allah will also conceal and forgive one of his faults in this world and in the hereafter."*⁴

Dear Mumins!

As Islam has ordered to respect to one's life and property it has ordered to show respect to his/her honor and dignity as well. From this point of view, the prohibition of seeking out others' faults is a precaution aiming to protect man's honor and dignity. Considering these precautions, entering others' homes, investigating their properties, opening their mobile phones or computers without

permission, reading their letters, listening them behind closed doors or windows secretly, making children talk in order to get knowledge about family's secrets and other behaviors of this kind have been regarded as sin and shame.

Meanwhile, investigation for the purpose of disclosing any plans, intentions or activities which are dangerous for the others and the public, and which threaten the security and peace does not enter into the extent of the

prohibition in the verses and hadiths. Similarly, activities to get basic knowledge about somebody, whom we plan to marry, or form a partnership in a trade or travel have not been prohibited either.

Dear congregation!

Another purpose of the prohibition of seeking out others' faults is to encourage man to concern with his/her own faults and deficiencies. Because, Muslims are primarily responsible with straightening their own faults out and being purified from the sins and shames. Moreover being concerned with others' mistakes, while leaving his or her own deficiencies has been mentioned as the Muslim's own shame. So, let's eliminate our own faults first.

I would like to finish my khutba again with a hadith of Rasulullah (s.a.w.): *"O those who declared eiman with tongue but that eiman has not been flourished in their hearts yet! Do not torment Mumins... Do not make them feel ashamed... And do not seek their concealed situation out."*⁵



¹ Look at: Al-Hujurat, 12.

² Muslim, Birr, 28.

³ Ibn Majah, Hudud, 5.

⁴ Abu Dawud, Adab, 44.

⁵ Tirmizî, Birr, 84.