

FRIDAY KHUTBA OF TOKYO CAMII

January 9, 2009

EXAMPLES OF STYLE OF COMPARISON IN HADITH

Dear Mumins!

As is seen in all nations during history, explanations are formed by giving examples and utilizing comparisons, which is a method used by Arabs as well as the first people addressed of Islam. Surely, the Prophet (s.a.w.), who was sent as a teacher, used this style of explanation. There are many hadiths of the Prophet (s.a.w.), in which He described some matters through comparison. Undoubtedly, explaining by comparison provides fellow believers of every level of knowledge the opportunity to comprehend teachings more easily. Matters that would be described as abstract from the point of view of its essence are transformed into a concrete idea that can be understood clearly. In today's khutba, we will give some examples of comparison hadiths narrated from Rasulullah (s.a.w.). Let's listen carefully to these examples together:

"My example is illustrated as if a man lit a fire, and when it was lit, moths and other insects began to fall into the fire. The man tried his best to prevent them from falling in the fire, but they overpowered him and rushed into the fire." The Prophet added, "Now, similarly, I take hold of the knots at your waist (belts) to prevent you from falling into the fire, but you insist on falling into it."¹

"The example of the message that Allah has sent me is that of a man who came to a group of people and said, "I have seen with my own eyes the enemy forces, and I am a naked warner (to you) to save yourself, save yourself!" A group of them obeyed him and went out at night, slowly and stealthily and were safe, while another group did not believe him, and thus the army took them in the morning and destroyed them."²

"You see the believers regarding their mercifully, showing love among themselves, and being kind, resembling one body, so that if any part of the body is not well then the whole body experiences sleeplessness and fever."³

"A good companion in comparison with a bad one, is like the musk seller and the blacksmith's bellows or furnace; at first you would either buy musk or enjoy its good smell

while the bellows would either burn your clothes or your house, or you get a bad smell thereof."⁴

"Ulama (scholars) are like stars in the sky. Directions on the land and sea are found thanks to them. If the stars fade away, guides will go astray."⁵

"If there was a river at your door and a man took a bath in it five times a day, would you notice any dirt on him? They said, "Not a trace of dirt would be left." The Prophet added, "That is the example of the five prayers with which Allah blots out evil deeds."⁶

"People who do dhikr and who do not are like people who are alive and are dead."⁷

"A believer (mu'min) is like a date or bee. The bee eats clear food and produces clear honey. A believer is like a piece of pure gold. It is thrown onto the fire and blown, and then it emerges again as pure gold."⁸

"A believer is like a fresh tender plant, which the wind bends sometimes and other times makes it straight. A hypocrite is like a pine tree that remains straight until it is uprooted suddenly."⁹

"One who fails to have charity is like a dog that swallows its vomit."¹⁰

"A believer who recites the Quran is like a citron that smells and tastes good, a believer who does not recite the Quran, is like a date which has no smell but tastes sweet, a hypocrite who recites the Quran is like an aromatic plant which smells good but tastes bitter, and a hypocrite who does not recite the Quran is like a colocynth plant that has no smell and is bitter in taste."¹¹

May the Lord help us on way to follow our unique teacher's path, to comprehend his hadith, and to share its teachings with others rightly.



¹ Bukhârî, Anbiyâ, 40, Rikâk, 26; Muslim, Fadâil, 18; Tirmizi, Adab, 82.

² Bukhârî, Rikâk, 26; 'Itisam, 2; Muslim, Fadâil, 16.

³ Bukhârî, Adab, 27; Muslim, Birr, 66.

⁴ Bukhârî, Buyu', 38; Muslim, Birr, 156; Abû Dâvûd, Adab, 16.

⁵ Ahmad b. Hanbal, Musnad, III, 157; Ramhurmuzi, Kitabu Amsali'l-Hadis, p. 87 (51)

⁶ Bukhârî, Mavâkit, 6; Muslim, Masâjid, 283, 284; Tirmizi, Adab, 80; Nasai, Salât, 7.

⁷ Bukhârî, Da'awât, 67; Muslim, Musâfirin, 211.

⁸ Hakim, Al-Mustadrak ala's-Sahîhayn, I, 147 (253).

⁹ Bukhârî, Marda, I; Muslim, Sifatu'l-munâfikîn, 58, 60; Tirmizi, Adab, 79.

¹⁰ Bukhârî, Hiba, 14; Muslim, Hibat, 5, 6, 8; Abû Dâvûd, Buyu', 81; Tirmizi, Buyu', 62; Nasai, Hibe, 3,

4; Ibn Majah, Hibat, 5.

¹¹ Bukhârî, At'imah, 30; Muslim, Musafirin, 243.