

FRIDAY KHUTBA OF TOKYO CAMII
THE PROPHET (S.A.W.) AND THE DISABLED

June 10, 2011

Dear Mumins!

Our exalted Lord has created man according to His will and unlimited wisdom, in distinctive forms, with different characteristics, and in various living conditions. He tests man with these differences. One group of people whose distinctions are substantially difficult to cope with is the disabled.

Dear Mumins!

While evaluating the applications of the Prophet (s.a.w.) about people with disabilities, scholars have classified them into two sections, the physically and mentally disabled. The blind are included in the physically handicapped. Most judgments

regarding the blind appear among the hadiths of the Prophet (s.a.w.). He stated that those who are blind but also patient will be rewarded in paradise. He also condemned those who treat the blind badly.

We see the best example of treatment of the blind from Rasulullah (s.a.w.) in His attitude to Ibn Umm Maktûm, His celebrated companion. He assigned him as muezzin in Masjid an-Nabi. Furthermore, He repeatedly appointed him at the top position of the public missions – as deputy in His place – in other words, as vice president of the state.

Dear Mumins!

Our Prophet (s.a.w.) did not regard disabled people as beggars in need of aid and forced to be idle. He urged the handicapped to work according to their abilities and implemented sentences that facilitate trade for them. In addition, our beloved Prophet (s.a.w.) exempted the disabled from work that they would not be able to cope with. According to narration, Abr b. al-Jamûh (r.a.) was a lame man. He wanted to participate into the Battle of Badr, but Rasulullah (s.a.w.)

refused and exempted him from the battle. Later, Abr b. al-Jamûh wanted to participate into the Battle of Uhud. His sons tried to hinder him, staging the example of the Battle of Badr. Then Amr sought counsel from the Prophet. Our Prophet said he was not obliged to go to battle, as he had an excuse. But upon Amr's insistence, He allowed Amr to participate in the battle, and he ultimately became a martyr (shahid) along with his son, who always fought behind him, trying to protect him.

It could not be expected that our Prophet (s.a.w.) who dealt with and cared about each segment of society would not be

interested in mentally disabled people and neglect them. Likewise, He stressed that mentally disabled people have been exempted from the religious obligations with the following remarks: "*The pen has been lifted for three: the child until he reaches puberty, the sleeper until he wakes up, and the insane until he regains his sanity*".¹

Our beloved Prophet (s.a.w.) has inculcated some ethical practices that regulate the attitudes of sane/sound people toward insane ones. Likewise, He regarded the following good deeds as sadaqah: to lead the way for blind and to try to make the deaf or dumb understand what he needs.²

Let us behave well toward those who are innately disabled or later became disabled due to traffic accident, fire, natural disaster, and so forth in the frame of the principles taught by Rasulullah (s.a.w.). Let us conduct our responsibilities to reintegrate them into society and to be able to become productive, successful, and happy people.

¹ Bukhârî, Hudûd, 22.

² Ibn Hanbal, V, 169.

