

FRIDAY KHUTBA OF TOKYO CAMIİ

October 1th 2010

SALĀT

Dear Mumins!

From Allah's point, the first duty of human is to believe in the existence and oneness of Allah (s.w.t.) and the prophethood of Muhammad (s.a.w.). Next obligation after the faith is salat (the prayer). Salât, the second one of the five pillars, has been made fard (obligation) at the night of Miraj, one and an half year before the Hegira (emigration).

Qur'an expresses that the most important function of salât is to prevent one from the badness, from the evil through the following verse:

"Recite what has been revealed to you of the Book and perform Salât. Verily, salât prevents from fahshâ (great sins)."¹ Allah (s.w.t.) has especially ordered to pay attention to salat. He (s.w.t.) says in Sûrat al-Baqarah as following: **"Guard strictly salât especially the middle salât (asr prayer). And stand before Allah with obedience."**²

Dear Brothers and sisters!

To be patient for the troubles of the stress-filled life is something that only those who pay attention to salât endure. Our Lord (s.w.t.) decrees: **"Seek help in patience and salât and truly it (salât) is extremely heavy and hard except for khâshi'ûn (those who obey Allah (s.w.t.) with full submission)"**³ In another expression, no worldly pursuit can be an excuse to neglect salât for the mumin whose love for Allah (s.w.t.) is superior than everything.

When the Prophet (s.a.w.) was sad or mumins met any trouble He (s.a.w.) used to perform salât and used to say: **"O Bilâl! Get up and relieve us."**⁴ He (s.a.w.) also expressed that it is source of the peace of mind and happiness by the remark: **"My happiness is at salât"**⁵

In another hadith while the Prophet (s.a.w.) expressing the benefit of salât said **"If there was a river at the door of any one of you and he 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 (SAW) added "That is the example of the five prayers with which Allah blots out evil deeds"**⁶ The Prophet (s.a.w.) who used to advise his ummah to perform salât on every occasion said even while He (s.a.w.) was leaving the world and breathing his last breaths as follows: **"Pay attention to salât, abstain from neglecting it."**⁷

Again, Allah's Messenger (s.a.w.) affirmed that the first thing to be calculated on a servant's deeds on the doomsday will be his salât. If his salât is good then every deed will be good. Naturally, if a mumin's salât is defective, his other deeds would also be defective.

Dear Mumins!

Let's leave so many benefits of salât, which is the light of eye aside. Does not Our Lord (s.w.t.), who bestows upon us uncountable favors (ni'mat) so much, deserve to be exalted five times in a day? From whom do we ask the health during sickness? From whom do we want help when we have debts to pay? To whom do we supplicate when we meet a trouble? Whose door do we knock when we face stress?

I am finishing my khutba by mentioning how Shaikh Shamil, the famous Caucasian commander, gave importance to salat, even just before he became shaheed (martyr). Shaikh, wounded by an assassination, was lying on the mattress of death for twenty five days. The first thing he said to his mother when he regained consciousness was that **"did I miss the time of prayer mom!"**

¹ Al-'Ankabût, 29/45.

² Al-Baqarah, 2/238.

³ Al-Baqarah, 2/45.

⁴ Abû Dâvûd.

⁵ Nasâi.

⁶ Bukharî, Muslim.

⁷ Ibn Mâjah.