

FRIDAY KHUTBA OF TOKYO CAMII

October 23, 2009

GREETING EACH OTHER

Dear Mumins!

Our religion has attached great importance to etiquette. We can say that the most important aspect is that of greeting each other. Greeting someone enhances solidarity and binds us in the society. It strengthens human relations. Likewise, our beloved Prophet (s.a.w.) decreed the following: "Should I not direct to a thing which, if you do, will foster love amongst you: Give currency to as-salamu alaikum."¹ In our religion, giving salam is sunnah, replying to this is the right of the greeter on the addressed person.

There are many distinctive expressions of greeting in different religious and national traditions. As for the Islamic tradition, a greeting can be fulfilled with the following special remark "Salamun Alaikum" or "As-Salamu Alaikum." The person addressed replies by saying "Alaikum salam" or "Wa alaikumu's-salam." These phrases are expressions of prayer, which mean, "May Allah's salam be upon you" or "I wish you well-being and safety from Allah." Moreover, these sayings are the salâm forms both that are passed in the Qur'ân and that the Prophet (s.a.w.) used in person and taught to Muslims. That is to say, these forms are the most suitable greeting expressions in the sunnah. Thus, Muslims are naturally advised to use these forms.

Dear Mumins!

In fact, even more important than oral forms of greetings are the good intentions, pure emotions, and wishes

behind those expressions, and subsequently the love and respect we feel inside us for those whom we greet. Greeting each other is the first step for Muslims to become acquainted with each other. Furthermore, it is an ethical and social duty that will help build friendship and unity among people.

According to what the Qur'ân has informed, the first remark of the angels to those mumins who would enter Paradise shall be "Salamun Alaikum." It has been decreed in the applicable verse: **"And those who kept their duty to their Lord (al-Muttaqûn) will be led to Paradise in groups, until, when they reach it, its gates will be opened, and its keepers will say: 'Salamun Alaikum! You have done well, so enter here to abide therein.'"**²

Dear Mumins!

Giving salam to the spouse, the children when they arrive home, to colleagues, and others at work, and to the Muslim brethren on the way, causes us to win Allah's pleasure. Likewise, according to the narration of Anas b. Malik, one of the closest companions (sahaba), the Prophet (s.a.w.) used to give salam even to the children who play in the street.

I would like to finish our khutbah with the translation of a verse: **"When you are met with a greeting, greet in return with one that is better than it, or return it equally. Certainly, Allah always takes very careful account of all things."**³

¹ Tirmidhî, Qiyâmah, 42; Muslim, Eiman, 93; Abû Dâwûd, Adab, 131; Ibn Mâjah, Adab, 11.

² Az-Zumar, 73.

³ An-Nisâ', 86.

