

## FRIDAY KHUTBA OF TOKYO CAMII

September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010

### UNITY AND COOPERATION

#### Dear Mumins!

Islam, which has risen up as a sun of happiness, has united people of all colors, languages and races around one faith. In a very real sense, the last divine religion has brought both peace and tranquility to the world and to humanity by eradicating anger and ill-will. Even an essential meaning of the word 'Islam' is 'peace'; to be a Muslim means to live a life of peace and serenity, made possible through unity and co-operation.

One of the key aims of worship in our religion is the formation of unity and solidarity among all Muslims. Congregational prayer is an excellent example of this – an activity which takes place in the Mosque (jami), itself the word for 'place which brings people together and unites them'. Why do we come together five times each day to pray in lines under one dome, after all? As we show our solidarity when we unite to pray shoulder to shoulder, we should also show it through unity in our hearts and minds. Don't forget the pilgrimage, either – the very best example of unity in heart, mind and action which exists!

#### Dear Mumins!

Since the early days of Islam, certain movements which aim at provocation (fitnah) and trouble-making (fasad) have tried to divide Muslims. No-one needs to look too hard to find examples of these. The movements were successful, too – splitting up the Ottoman nations and creating a lot of smaller countries where only one previously existed.

Now, all Muslims who bear the same faith, believe in the same religion, read the same Qur'ân, turn towards the same Qiblah and follow the same Prophet's way must unite and co-operate. They must also be tolerant of any differences which exist between them, at least to the extent to which they would tolerate believers of other religions. We should not forget that we believe the words of a divine book which explicitly says: "**be not divided among yourselves.**"<sup>1</sup> We are also the Ummah of a Prophet who said: "*there is mercy (rahmah) in unity and torment in division [or separation].*"<sup>2</sup>



#### My Dear Brothers and Sister!

Our ancestors, acting in the spirit of unity, accomplished many great things throughout history – working to eliminate threats which headed for Islam and Muslims. Let us

now listen carefully to the following verse of Our Lord (s.w.t.) so that we may overcome our own, modern-day difficulties with the same level of tolerance and understanding: "**Obey Allah and His Messenger, and do not dispute [with one another] lest you lose courage and your strength departs...**"<sup>3</sup>

May Allah be our guide on the path to achieving peaceful societies which deeply reflect the spirit of unity and co-operation.

<sup>1</sup> Âl -‘Imrân, 3/103.

<sup>2</sup> Kashfû'l-Khafâ, V.1, p. 333.

<sup>3</sup> Al-Anfâl, 8/46.