

FRIDAY KHUTBA OF TOKYO CAMII

September 24th, 2010

TO SHOW OLD MEN LOVE AND RESPECT

Dear Mumins !

The life, the greatest gift from Allah, it really is like a long journey from the birth to the death. This journey has long course and path, started from childhood to youth, and adult, then finally arrives at the age of senior and mature. In accordance with the unchangeable theory of life, the men on the each stage leave their place to next coming generations when time comes. Although every old man has a life experience in a top level, s/he has got weak physically. It is said in Quran: **'And he whom We grant long life We reverse him in creation (weakness after strength). Will**

they not then understand?'¹ The people in this term are sensitive spiritually and need the concern and support more. In this respect, the old men and older people should not be left in loneliness and be pleased by visiting frequently and show the required respect and love to them.

Dear Mumins !

Love, respect, and consideration are sublime feelings that Our Lord has bestowed upon us. The man cannot be happy without these sublime feelings. All you can find is sadness and grief when you lost these feelings. The respect and love to people are assumed to be a basic of our ethical duties, and therefore, our religion encourages importance of these basic duties and warns about how to behave yourself with your parents, seniors, and elder people. As in all subject, our Prophet

¹ Yâsin, 36/68.

Muhammad (s.a.w.) is the best model for us to learn about relationship with seniors and elders. He (s.a.w.) has taught us to be always merciful, pleasant, and being good helper to the people by living His life as so, and said *'Allah will not be merciful to those who are not merciful to mankind and be merciful to the creature and Allah would be merciful to you as well'*² Seniors who spend their life for us, for the society by striving, producing and transfer their experiences to us are suitable and worthy for all love and respect through life.

Dear Mumins !

In all societies, there are so many people who needs love, caring and friendship with others both physically and spiritually. Meeting them, asking recent situation with a smile, asking them if they need any help, and satisfying their needs, all these simple and small things means a lot to those people. We should not forget that as today's old men are yesterday's youth, today's youth will be tomorrow's old men. I will finish my khutba with The Prophet's two hadiths as follows: *"Woe to him in whose presence his parents or either one of them attains old age, and (through failure to serve them) he is not allowed to enter Paradise"*³ *"Those who do not show mercy to our young ones and do not realize the right of our elders are not from us."*⁴

² Tirmizî, Birr, 66.

³ Tirmizî, Birr, 4627.

⁴ Tirmizî, Birr, 15; Abû Davûd, Adab, 66.

