

## FRIDAY KHUTBA OF TOKYO CAMII

December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009

### THE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

#### Dear Mumins !

What keep nations standing are religious and national values. A nation keeps its existence as long as it transfers these values to next generations. The history shows us that past nations, who had lost their religious and national identities by aping other nations blindly, have disappeared from the world geography. Because of this, people, who want to fell a community from inside, have chosen to destroy its belief, and its moral and national values as a first target.

#### Dear Mumins !

Our religious values and national cultures have great importance on establishment of love, respect and self-sacrifice, on bringing up our children and the young and on keeping going our social life harmoniously and strongly.

Especially, it is very important to educate and bring up young generations within these values. Because, to grow our youngsters distant from the religious and moral values causes them to adopt inappropriate behaviors according to our truthful customs and traditions and to fall to the trap of the harmful trends and habits. So, it is our responsibility as parents, educators and community to bring up our teenagers, who are our guarantee for the future, according to our religious and cultural values. Likewise, Allah ordered us to protect

our personality and identity by conserving religious and moral principles and said:

**'And verily, this is my Straight Path, so follow it, and follow not paths, for they will separate you away from His Path. This He has ordained for you that you may become Al-muttaqîn'**<sup>1</sup>

#### Dear Mumins !

Today, the gathering and entertainments hold under the name of new-year celebrations have neither religious nor traditional and cultural origin in Muslim point of view. Furthermore, how can we explain the

legitimacy of drinking alcoholic drinks, threatening the mind and the health, and gambling, damaging the family economy, extravagant spending for these entertainments?

So, let's do the best to keep our religious and cultural values alive and to transfer them to our young generations. Instead of behaviors like new-year celebrations, which Allah and His Messenger (S.A.W.) would not agree, let's think how to give a better direction to our lives in the new year by revising our deeds in the past years.

On this occasion, I congratulate you with the Hijri New Year, and wish health and happiness in the Gregorian New Year.



<sup>1</sup> Al-An'âm, 153.