

FRIDAY KHUTBA OF TOKYO CAMII

October 2, 2009

SUICIDE

Dear Mumins!

As we all know, without any legal or just cause, homicide is one of the gravest sins. To kill someone unjustly has been regarded equal to killing all mankind, and to save someone's life has been deemed equal to saving life of all mankind in the Qur'ân¹. Life is the most valuable gift that Allah, the Exalted, has bestowed upon man. The basic principle is to conserve, guard, and maintain the life that has been entrusted to us by Allah (s.w.t.). As man does not have the authority to end others' lives, he has no right to act on his own life as he pleases either. Thus, as Islam has not approved to kill anyone without a legitimate reason; it has not assented to commit suicide either and has strictly forbidden it.



The Prophet (s.a.w.) has informed us that the one who commits suicide will go into Hell. He says, *"Whoever purposely throws himself from a mountain and kills himself, will be in the (Hell) Fire falling down into it and abiding therein perpetually forever; and whoever drinks poison and kills himself with it, he will be carrying his poison in his hand and drinking it in the (Hell) Fire wherein he will abide eternally forever; and whoever kills himself with an iron weapon, will be carrying that weapon in his hand and stabbing his abdomen with it in the (Hell) Fire wherein he will abide eternally forever."*²

Suicide is a dramatic result of hopelessness, desperation, pain, and

misery. The man who believes that he was sent to the world for examination and who relies on Allah (s.w.t.) by necessity of his or her faith never sinks into desperation and pessimism. To stand up to one's troubles, to bear with pain and misery, no matter how difficult the situation is, one must not lose his or her belief and trust in Allah, and this is the main characteristic of a Muslim. So, a pious mumin does not attempt to commit such a great sin because of a worldly event. Admittedly, in Muslim's opinion, even the worst and most devastating occurrence in this world will not be more severe than Hell fire. Worldly troubles and distresses fade. Some events that man thinks as unbearable and that drive man to suicide today may after a while appear to be less traumatizing and not worth such an action.

Dear Mumins!

It has been narrated that our Prophet (s.a.w.) did not hold salatu'l-janaza for someone who killed himself with a knife³. But this pursued a goal of punishing the fellow who committed suicide and obstructing the others from such an action. However, His companions (sahaba) performed salatu'l-janazah for that man. This Muslim who committed suicide is washed and shrouded (clothing with kafan). Then the salatu'l-janazah is performed and he is buried into the Muslim cemetery. The rest is under Allah's wish. He may either forgive or may torment. Wa'llahu a'lam.

¹ Al-Mâidah, 32.

² Al-Bukhâri, Tibb, 56.

³ Muslim, Janâiz, 37.