

FRIDAY KHUTBA OF TOKYO CAMII
MAN'S FORGETTING OF ONESELF

June 3, 2011

Dear Congregation!

Allah (s.w.t.) has created man in the best stature and decorated him/her with outstanding abilities like reasoning and perception, and sent him here to ensure the order and regulation of the world, as His khalifah, namely to act as responsible ruler and sustainer of the earth. In light of the necessity of this mission of khalifah, we are in charge of not only ourselves but also our families, our environment, be it close or far, and of the balance of the animate and inanimate nature and its order.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

One of the current downfalls that we encounter is materialism; that is to say, we can forget the hereafter, devoting ourselves to outrageous passions and desires for worldly possessions. Our religion that aims to preserve the balance between the world and the hereafter has advised man to follow the middle way. Man, because of his nature, may forget from time to time the responsibilities loaded upon him by complying with its nafs, or tricks of Satan. Therefore, our religion shows us the right path and warns us not to be deceived by the desires of the worldly man. This has been decreed in a verse as follows: "***O you who believe! Follow not the footsteps of Satan. And whosoever follows the footsteps of Satan, then, verily he commands al-Fahshâ (to commit indecency) and al-Munkar (to do evil and wicked deeds).***"¹

Dear Mumins!

The cure for this disease of materialism is to keep an otherworldly life and keep the day of grand assembly (mahshar) in mind by remembering that the worldly life is mortal. Our

Prophet (s.a.w.) warned about this matter, stating the following: "*The things I am afraid of most for your sake (concerning what will befall you after me) is the pleasures and splendors of the world and its beauties which will be disclosed to you.*"² This admonition of our Prophet does not imply that we should give up the world entirely. Likewise, Rasulullah (s.a.w.) criticized three fellows who had decided to retire to constant worship. It has been stated in the Qur'an that everything in the world has been created for humankind. In addition, it is urged in the verse of "**Rabbanâ âtinâ**" that we

frequently recite in prayer as follows: "***Our Lord! Give us in this world that which is good and in the Hereafter that which is good...***"³

Dear Mumins!

If we forget the hereafter by drifting into the perishable world, what other things do we forget?

We forget many crucial things. Our holy book declared that the man who becomes a slave to his nafs and to the world also forgets Allah⁴ (s.w.t.), judgment day, and the account⁵. He forgets all advice⁶ and forgets his sins⁷. While admonishing others, he forgets himself⁸. After overcoming any trouble, he forgets to supplicate Allah⁹ (s.w.t.).

I will finish my khutbah with a warning from our holy book: "***Be not like those who forgot Allah and He caused them to forget their own selves. Those are fâsiqûn (disobedient to Allah).***"¹⁰



¹ An-Nûr, 21.

² Bukhârî, Zakat, 47.

³ Al-Baqarah, 201.

⁴ At-Taubah, 67.

⁵ Al-A'râf, 53.

⁶ Al-Maidah, 13-14.

⁷ Al-Kahf, 57.

⁸ Al-Baqarah, 44.

⁹ Az-Zumar, 8.

¹⁰ Al-Hashr, 19.