

Science of Da'wah

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Publisher's Note

‘Invite (people) to the way of your Lord with wisdom and good counsel (Sermon, Preaching). And argue with them in the best of manners. Surely, your Lord knows best the one who deviates from His way, and He knows best the ones who are on the right path.’
[Al Quran: al-Nahal: 125]

The concept of Da'wah has been very important throughout the history of Islam as Allah himself describes the fundamental methodologies of Dawah in above-mentioned verse.)

Da'wah literally stands for 'issuing a summons' or 'making an invitation'. In Islamic theology, da'wah is interpreted as inviting all the people, both Muslims and non-Muslims, to the understandings and teachings of the holy Quran and to the way of worshiping none but only Allah according to the Quran and Sunnah.

Muslims believe that the fate every single person only belongs to Allah. Hence, it is not the responsibility or obligation of individual Muslim to convert others to the Islamic faith. That's why the goal of *da'wah* is rather to share information to invite others towards a better understanding of the faith with wisdom and excellent admonition. It is of course up to the listener to make his or her own choice regarding to accepting or rejecting the Islamic faith. Having said that, the question is what should be the aim and intention, focus, prescribed methodology, manners and etiquettes, and evaluation of productivity of da'wah.

In this book, entitled Science of Dawah, the author examines the issues, methodology and manners of da'wah in a scientifically precise way. Among many other areas covered in this book, the author critically analyzes the perspectives of the Islamic da'wah in a contemporary

context, and offers valuable observations for developing and implementing a results-oriented da'wah strategies in 21st century. I do believe, it would be a great source of knowledge to individual da'ee, da'wah groups, and organizational leaderships to guide da'wah activities.

I express my cordial gratitude to the author Dr. Shaikh Akhlaque-E-Rasul on behalf of The Guardian Publication for his reliance on us. Brother Zahidur Rohman showed his heartiness, class and great concentration in preparing this book flawless for our reader. May Allah have mercy on both of them and accept their deeds in the day of Judgement.

Note to mention, this is our first-ever English book. We have made sincere effort to ensure a quality production. If you find an error, please let us know.

As it is the responsibility and obligation for all the Muslims to be involved in Da'wah in every possible way, our efforts will be significant when you utilize the methodology of Da'wah scientifically that derived from the holy Quran and the tradition of the prophet Muhammad (peace be on him).

Noor Mohammad Abu Taher

1st February, 2019

Banglabazar, Dhaka.

FOREWORD

Muslims constitute one-fourth of the world's population and, unfortunately, Islam has been presented with a wrong interpretation to the West; to the other believers and religious communities. As a result, Muslims have been facing the real challenge of existence. To improve the present status of the Ummah, it is urgently needed to inform the non-Muslims as well as non-practicing Muslims about Islam. Truly, the Islamic dawah organizations and Muslim majority countries have failed to do so. Actually, presently, most of the Muslim organizations are in tough situation to improve their Da'wah activities. Therefore, the present book may be a small but significant contribution to fulfill the need of the Ummah as a whole.

The present book is different from those of the other available books on Da'wah. 'Da'wah Training Program' by Dr. Billal Philips in which the writer has emphasized on emphasis on Da'wah methodology in general and the guidelines in particular, have also provided that a Da'ee may face tribulations from time to time. However, Da'wah and its connection with the organizations have not been highlighted. On the other hand, 'The Da'wah to Islam' by Sheikh Ahmad Mahmoud is mostly on Da'wah obligations that are mentioned in Quran and Sunnah. 'Islamic Da'wah in the west' (mainly focused on Muslim Missionary Activity and the Dynamics of conversion to Islam) is written by Larry Poston which is one kind of evaluation of Muslims Da'wah work by a non-Muslim writer. 'Taking Islam to street' (it is mainly the Da'wah of the Islamic Party of North America) by Muhammad al-Ahari is the short presentation of Da'wah methodologies that are adopted and practiced by the different Islamic parties in North America. 'The Challenge of Da'wah' (main points are on political Islam as ideology and movement and how to counter it) has been authored by Ayaan Hirsi Ali. In This book, the writer has recommended the process to stop any kind of Da'wah work in the modern society.

Her claim is that Da'wah is encouraging the people to violent action. That is why she marked it 'how to counter the Da'wah'.

Considering the various perspectives recommended by all the aforementioned books, it is hoped that the present book may play an important role to educate the Muslim individuals to take the right decision in regard to the Da'wah activities.

Especially, the authorities of all Mosques of the west need a guideline to boost-up their Da'wah works properly. Now-a-days, there are also a huge number of Islamic organizations that are dedicated to call the people towards Islam. All of those organizations will be benefited by this book to think out of the box.

Not only the mosque and Islamic organizations, huge number of universities are also offering courses on Islamic Da'wah. Even in the educational institutions, huge numbers of students are facing difficulties to defend Islam. In that case, the present book *Science of Da'wah* is here to respond to their needs and queries.

The contents of this book are multi-disciplinary where science and Islam are combined together. That is why those who have knowledge on both Islam and science have evaluated this book positively. In this regard, special thanks are due for Dr. Tasdiq Ahmed, Director of Windsor Islamic Association (WIC) and ex-professor of Wayne State University, Detroit, USA. Also, thanks to those students of Dhaka University who provided their valuable thoughts.

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PREAMBLE

Praise be to the Allah, Lord of the universe, and peace and blessing be upon the seal of the Prophets and Messengers, the one sent as a mercy to the worlds; Muhammad al-Ameen, and on his family, companions and those who followed him with Ihsaan until the Day of Judgment.

This book is on 'Science of Da'wah (علم الدعوة)', where the details of the Da'wah processes are explained based on the Quran and Sunnah to invite the people to Islam. The main guidelines are taken from the verse 125 of surah An-Nahl (The Bee).

'Invite (people) to the way of your Lord with wisdom and good counsel (Sermon, Preaching). And argue with them in the best of manners. Surely, your Lord knows best the one who deviates from His way, and He knows best the ones who are on the right path.' [Al Quran: al-Nahal: 125]

The main messages of the above mentioned verse are as follows:

Calling the people to Allah: The main goal of Da'wah should only be to call people toward the Creator. Therefore, all the Da'wah activities are to be designed focusing on one direction (not to a particular organization or a person) as mentioned in the Quran. The most fundamental focus is Tawheed of Allah, the Blessed and the Most High. Allah says:

'We sent a Messenger to every nation ordering them that they should worship Allah Alone, obey Him and make their worship purely for Him, and that they should avoid everything worshipped except Allah.' [Al Quran: an-Nahl (16): 36]

And the Most High says:

'We did not send any Messenger before you, O Muhammad (ﷺ) except that We revealed to him that none has the right to be worshipped except Allah, so make all of your worship purely for Him.' [Al Quran: al-Ambiya, 21: 25].

Allah, the Most High says after mentioning a number of stories of the Prophets (A):

'This religion of yours is a single religion and I am your Lord, so worship Me.' [Al Quran: al-Ambiyah, 21: 92]

Allah has informed us about some of the individuals from the Prophets, and how they faced their people. All of the prophets proceeded upon the universal way laid down by Allah and they followed the methodology established for all of them by Allah. Not a single one of them is at variance with it, Allah says:

And we sent Nooh to his people saying, 'I am a clear warner to you, that you should worship none besides Allah. Indeed, if you do not make all your worship purely for Him I fear for you the torment of a painful Day.' [Al Quran: Hood, 11: 25-27]

And the Most High says:

'And to 'Aad We sent Hood, saying, 'O my people, worship Allah, making all your worship purely for him, since there is none besides Him having the right to be worshipped by you. Will you not fear your Lord?' [Al Quran: A'araf, 7: 65]

Inviting the people with wisdom (Hikmah - حكمة): Hikmah is an Arabic word meaning wisdom. Hikmah is important in Islamic philosophy. In Islam, Allah is viewed as All-Wise (Qur'an 45:37) and messengers are given scripture and wisdom (Qur'an 2:129).

Hikmah is found to have the meaning as: 'Hikmah is to know the best of things by way of the best of sciences. And the one who excels in the knowledge of the details of various things is referred to as one who is a hakim.' [1].

Ibn al- Qayyim also said:

'Hikmah is to do that which needs to be done, in the manner in which it needs to be done, at the time in which it needs to be done.' [2].

Giving sermon (وعظ) to the people: One must try to convince others to bring them to the path of Islam. The convincing power is one of the main tools of Da'wah work. The sermon has three perspectives:

- i) practical example from our daily lives,
- ii) Quran and Sunnah as references to connect our daily lives, and
- iii) encouraging the people based on their own situation (not randomly).

The details on sermon (Waz) will be discussed in this book.

Arguing (يجادل) with the people: Argumentation includes both the debate and discussion which are concerned with reaching the mutually acceptable conclusions. There may be several types of argumentations: conversational, mathematical, scientific, interpretive, legal and political. For any kinds of argument, especially for Da'wah works, one's debate, discussion, appearance and approaches must be according to Islam, details of which will be discussed in this book.

In the first chapter, importance of Da'wah is explained based on Quran and Sunnah. In the second chapter, the minimum quality of a propagator (Daa'ee) is discussed. At the same time, the details of Hikmah (wisdom) are also explained that relate to the da'wah to Islam where the central point is Allah (SWT). Chapter three is on effective Da'wah organization where the Da'wah methodology, structure of organization and decision making process are discussed.

The fourth chapter is on sermon (Waz), which is one of the most vital issues to convince the people applying all kinds of known techniques. Fifth chapter is about the technique of argument (Jidal) with people with the best possible manners. In the sixth chapter, the Da'wah techniques for the spiritual solutions of the major problems of the modern society are discussed that include mental illness and its spiritual remedy; atheism (denial of Creator) and its solution; reduction of the gap between rich and poor that is growing exponentially; family violence and its root causes and so on. Finally, in the last chapter (Chapter Seven), the benefits of Da'wah works are discussed elaborately.

All praises to our Lord and blessing be upon His Messenger Muhammad (ﷺ) to undertake this great endeavor.

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