

# The Forgotten Duty of Islam - DAWAH

By Khurshid Imam  
[serviceforhumanity@gmail.com](mailto:serviceforhumanity@gmail.com)

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## A. Introduction

The topic suggests that we are talking about something that is somewhat neglected by the ummah. Something that has not been paid its due. Something that is not in the mind of even a good Muslim. Yes, we are talking about dawah. We are referring to inviting non Muslims to Islam. In a country like India where 80% population is non-Muslim, even sky is not the limit for dawah. Even though Muslims have ruled this country for centuries yet majority of the people today are unaware of the pure and natural teachings of Islam. No wonder, we find some non Muslims full of hatred against Islam. Many of them carry a lot of misconceptions against Islam. Many of them spread propaganda against Islam. However, a vast majority of them is completely unaware of Islam. Who is responsible for that? Of course we are responsible to a great extent.

## B. Quran is for All

Though we boast to call ourselves Muslims yet we hardly try to fulfill its due rights. The Quran is the message of Almighty God. For whom? For Muslims? NO. For whole mankind.

*"Ramadhan is the (month) in which was sent down the Qur'an, as a guide to mankind, also clear (Signs) for guidance and judgment (Between right and wrong)..". Quran 2:185*

Though Quran is for all, we have confined it to Muslims only. We think it is our book.

Allah sends lanat on those who conceal the message of Allah.

*"Those who conceal the clear (Signs) We have sent down, and the Guidance, after We have made it clear for the people in the Book-on them shall be Allah curse, and the curse of those entitled to curse" Quran 2:159*

Are not we too getting curse of Allah by confining the message of Quran to our households only? Are not we hiding it from our neighbors, friends, colleagues who are not aware of message of Allah?

But Allah has not left us by telling our crime; but he has given solution also.

*"Except those who repent and make amends and openly declare (the Truth): To them I turn; for I am Oft-returning, Most Merciful". Quran 2:160*

So, to get rid of this curse we need to repent, correct ourselves and then declare the message.

### Prophet Muhammad was sent for all:

Likewise, Prophet Muhammad was sent for whole of mankind yet we don't convey the same. We think he was our prophet. There is no ayah in Quran that says that Prophet Muhammad was sent for a particular community or group. After Prophet Muhammad received the first revelation, he was commanded by Allah to warn people from danger of hell.

"*Arise and deliver your warning*". Quran 74:2

The whole suffering of Prophet Muhammad was for dawah work. He was pelted with stones and humiliated at Taif not for any reason except for inviting people to one God. His concern for the people's akhirah was so much that he would weep at night. He faced oppression at the hands of Quraysh for this dawah work. Even though he was offered all worldly pleasures by Quraysh yet he did not leave the path of inviting people to Islam.

### **B. What is Dawah?**

Dawah is an invitation to Islam - the religion of God. Dawah is presenting about the oneness of Almighty God and His message. Dawah is conveying to people the message of their creator. It is different from *Islah* - technically. When we work among our Muslim brethren in order to improve ourselves then it is called *Islahi* work.

In dawah you need to meet and talk to someone who does not believe in Allah, who does not know about paradise-hell, who does not know what is salah and how to offer it, who does not know why one should fast, who does not believe in judgement day, who does not know about the concept of prophet hood, who does not know about Prophet Muhammad and his teachings. So, dawah is one step before *Islah*. In Dawah we tell to not-yet-Muslims about:

1. Islam is religion of God
2. Existence of God who is unique and alone
3. Belief in prophet hood
4. Belief in paradise-hell
5. Judgment day
6. Prophet Muhammad and other prophets
7. Quran - the message of God
8. Clearing misconceptions about Islam
9. Islam is against terrorism
10. Non Veg eating is as per teachings of God
11. Islam does not oppress women
12. Islam is in sync with science
13. Islam imparts highest level of moral values

### **C. Why people don't do dawah?**

Despite knowing the need and importance of dawah, people have some hindrance. They have some misunderstandings or excuses that prevent them from doing dawah work. A few of them are:

1. I myself don't practice Islam much:

Usually people say that I myself don't practice Islam much. How can I go and tell non Muslims about Islam. Here I want to ask one simple question: why don't you practice Islam? Do you think we have got certificate of jannah? Will Allah send us to jannah just because of our Arabic name or juma namaz? Since we have taken birth in Muslim family so are we entitled for jannah? NO, NO, NO. These all are our misunderstandings. Allah makes very clear in Quran that emaan+aamal is required for salvation. Just by having a Muslim name or Muslim family or by offering juma namaz we will not get jannah.

We have to enter into Islam whole hearted and completely. Dawah is an obligation. How can you ignore that? You need to practice Islam and at the same time you need to propagate the *Deen*. Prophet Muhammad said - "Propagate, even if you know one ayah". Don't we all know at least one ayah of Quran? Can't we propagate "*Qul; hu wallaho ahad*" i.e. "Say! Almighty God is one and only"

### 2. Namaz, roza etc are sufficient; no need for dawah work:

Some people say that we need to just follow pillars of Islam i.e. emaan, namaz, roza, hajj and zakat. This is more than sufficient. However, people forget that these are only pillars and not the complete structure. Islam is a complete way of life. Pillars without structure are useless. If only these 5 things were necessary for the salvation, then there was no need for the Revelation of Quran containing 6000+ ayah. Allah would have described these 5 things in one small surah and that would have been sufficient. But No, whole Quran is required for the guidance of mankind. And whole Quran is dawah. Ayah of Quran is sign of Allah. We have to call people to Allah.

### 3. Let Muslims become good Muslims first then we will reach to non Muslims:

Some say that first let Muslims become very good Muslim then we will work on non Muslims. Believe me, no day will come when you can say that today all Muslims are very good Muslims; now we need to go to non Muslims. Quran never says so, Prophet Muhammad never taught so.

Dawah and *Islah* have to go in parallel. Quran is for all. islam is for all. Did not prophet Muhammad invite people to *Deen* throughout his life? Dawah was his mission. Sahaba too carried out this mission and spread across the globe to carry on the message of Allah.

### 4. Quran says-"Lakum denakum wale yadeen":

Some people say that Quran says that for non-Muslims is their religion and for us is our religion so why we should go and tell them about Islam. People forget that Allah is not justifying that religion of non Muslims is correct. If you read the complete surah Kaferun then you will find that Allah is telling, "Say to those who reject the faith". So only when you have conveyed Islam you can take rest. This surah is telling that once you have presented islam to them and then if they reject then for them is their way and for your is yours. (In the qiyamah it will be made clear who was on correct path). So first we need to present Islam.

### 5. Quran says-"La ikraha fiddeen":

Some people say that Quran says that there is no compulsion in religion so we should not do dawah. This ayah is definitely telling that no one can force anyone to accept Islam - and that is true. One should never ever force, allure to accept Islam. Faith should come from the conviction; it cannot be forced. So we should only convey the message of God, present it in beautiful manner.

#### **E. Why is DAWAH TRAINING PROGRAM needed?**

When we understand that dawah is an obligation and NOT an option then we want to do dawah. We realize that this was a duty grossly neglected by us. We should spread the message of Deen. We should try to stop shirk and glorify Allah. However, some practical problems come when we want to do dawah.

1. How to talk to Non Muslims about Islam?
2. Where to start?
3. How should I prove the existence of God to him?

4. How should I convince him about the concept of Prophet-hood?
5. How should I convince that after death human beings will not take birth in the form of animals or plants?
6. How should I tell that the concept of awagaman is false?
7. How to convince that akhirah, paradise-hell is fact?
8. How to tell him that idol worship is wrong?
9. How to tell that God is not present everywhere?
10. How to tell that God does not take birth as human being?
11. When I talk about Quran he talks about Vedas, Bhagwad Geeta, Ramayana, Bible - what should I do?
12. There is a Hindu who himself does not believe in idol worship; then is he on tauheed?
13. My Hindu friend wishes me Salam; what should I reply?
14. One person has reverted to Islam; should we change his name and ask him to declare his faith in front of people in masjid?
15. How to create opportunity for dawah?
16. My Hindu friends gets very angry because of meat eating - what to do?
17. They hate us because of issue of terrorism - what is the reply?
18. Quran says that we should not befriend Non-Muslims then how can I do dawah? ..... and so on.

**That is why we need to have Dawah camp. Are you willing to attend it?**

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