

Da'wah Course DP206 at IIU

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July 15 to September 30, 2003

Lecture 1 Outline: July 15, 2003.

Reading assignment:

- Call to Islam by Amin Ahsan Islahi Chapter 12, pp. 159-173
- Da'wah and Its Objectives by Shamim Siddiqui, pp. 1-49
- Articles on www.ilaam.net by Dr. M. Amir Ali
 - a. Islamophobia in America
 - b. Anti-Islam Campaign
 - c. Islam in America, Rough Road Ahead
 - d. The Vision
 - e. The Challenge of Da'wah, A Duty and A Necessity

Definition of Da'wah: See the Qur'an verse 41:33

Why Da'wah, Significance:

1. Discharging duty and fulfilling a commandment of Allah, Qur'an verses 3:104, 110; 2:143; 22:78: 4:41; 7:6 and orders of the Prophet
 - (a) Convey for me even if it is one verse,
 - (b) Those who are present must convey to those who are absent.
2. Preservation of Islam is possible only through propagation.
3. Boundaries never stay the same, they recede or expand but expansion needs work input.
4. Muslims are moral and spiritual healers for the humankind (Islam is the answer).
5. Resource development (money, talent and manpower for Islamic work).
6. Benefits to the Muslims living as minorities.
7. Benefits to the Muslim majority countries.
8. Tazkiah, education and training of the Da'ie.
9. Fight ignorance that gives birth to prejudice, fear and hate against Islam and Muslims.
10. Establishment of the rule of Allah on earth (*Iqamat ad-Deen*).

Objective of Da'wah:

To become a means of delivering the message of Islam to the world and become a catalyst in the process of educating the world on ways of serving the Creator. Ultimate objective is to bring people voluntarily to accept the sovereignty of Allah in all aspects of worldly life so that they may achieve eternal bliss in the life of the next world. The motivation is selfishness to attain permanent happiness in the next life. However, eternal bliss of the next life requires selfless servitude to the Creator and service to His creation in the present life.. This brings us to the definition of Islam. The term Islam has been translated to mean peace and submission. When you combine the two, Islam means to make a commitment to live in peace through submission to the Will of Allah; however, peace is not possible without justice and equity for all. The selfless life of this world requires attainment of peace through the establishment of justice and equity for all mankind

Enemies of Islam: Each group has its own motivation to oppose Islam. Qur'an 61:8 & 9:32.

1. Secular Fundamentalists- the most powerful and the most resourceful enemy.
2. Christian Fundamentalists- the power behind the Bush administration, very persuasive.
3. Zionist Fundamentalists- the most powerful political, media and financial lobby.

4. Hindu Fundamentalists- growing influential lobby in the West.
5. The Slavs (Russians and Serbs)- another growing influential lobby.
6. Some among the Muslims are worst enemy within.

Motivation of the enemies of Islam:

1. Fight the truth: Satan's inspiration to rebel against Allah, Qur'an 7:11-18 & 15:26-44.
2. Religious envy: to make their own ancestral religion dominant and defeat Islam.
3. Leadership envy: there should be our hegemony without sharing.
4. Cultural competition: our culture is better than theirs.
5. Economic interests: fear of the loss of businesses such as, banking, insurance, pork, alcohol, gambling, prostitution, pornography, fraud, and so on.
6. Political and military domination: fear of Islamic system becoming successful making Muslims a world power to reckon with and Muslim nations becoming advanced and prosperous.
7. Freedom from divine restrictions: Islamic religious values are more restrictive than any other religion and punishment is stronger. Freedom for homosexuals, freedom of sexual relations, fornication and adultery, deceit in business (legal cheating), deceitful business practices due to the absence of *taqwa* (God-consciousness) and so on.
8. Conservatism, that is, status quo is more comfortable than change.

Vision is required: No vision and no plans are the signs of dead nations.

The vision of the Prophet:

1. Early Makkan period: Prophet's conversation with Mathna bin Harith of the tribe Bani Shaiban bin Tha'labah. This tribe was willing to submit to the Prophet and fight against the Arabs but not against the Persians due to her mighty power. The Prophet said that Persia would fall to the Muslims along with her land, wealth and women. The Prophet emphasized that he needed unconditional support. It happened during the khilafah of Umar ibn al-Khattab.
2. Early Makkan period: Khabbab bin Arat's conversation with the Prophet in the shade of Ka'abah. The Prophet said that Islam will be established and an old lady with gold will travel from San'a (South Yemen) to Hadr Mawt (North Yemen) without any fear but fear of Allah. This happened during the life of the Prophet.
3. Early Makkan period: Prophet asked Uthman bin Talha, the custodian of Ka'abah, to open the door of Ka'abah but he refused. The Prophet said that the keys of ka'abah will fall in his hands and he will give them to whomever he wished. This happened at the conquest of Makkah.
4. During the Prophet's migration to Madina, 14th year of Prophethood: Suraqa bin Malik, a bounty hunter and a fast horseman caught up with the Prophet but his horse wouldn't move and kept on falling down. He feared for himself and promised the Prophet that he would prevent other bounty hunters from chasing him. The Prophet promised Suraqa that if he kept his promise he would wear the gold bracelets of the emperor of Persia. This promise was fulfilled during the period of Umar bin al-Khattab after the fall of Persia to the Muslim armies.

Mission of the Prophet:

The mission of the Prophet has been described in the Qur'an verses 2:151, 3:164 and 62:2. His mission was four fold:

1. To recite the signs of Allah, that is, to show the signs for the people to believe in Allah and that he is the appointed Messenger of Allah.

2. To purify those who believe in the message through purifying their beliefs thereby their lives in totality.
3. To teach them the Book of Allah, the Qur'an, recite the book, explain it and become a role model for mankind.
4. To teach them wisdom for successful living in the world and happiness of the life hereafter.

Stages and strategies of Da'wah:

1. Delivery of the message in the best way possible.
2. Conversion or reversion of the people to Islam.
3. Education and training leading to their complete integration in the Muslim ummah at large.
4. Organization and discipline for further propagation of the Deen al-Islam.
5. Cooperation with the people of other faiths in virtuous activities and project in fulfillment of the Qur'an verse 5:2, that is, cooperate in virtue and goodness but do not cooperate in sin and transgression.
6. Development of institutions for the progress of the Muslim community:
 - (a) Educational institutions,
 - (b) Financial institutions,
 - (c) Social institutions, and
 - (d) Political institutions.
7. Political movement.
8. Formation of an Islamic government under the sovereignty of Allah.
9. Globalization of the Islamic movement.

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