

## First Shahahdah conveys reality of Tawheed and `Ibaadah

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

A speech delivered at the first Conference for Da`wah and Du`ah held in Madeenah in 1397 A.H.

[On Saturday afternoon corresponding with the 24th of Safar in 1397 A.H., the International Conference for Da`wah (calling to Islaam) Guidance and Preparation of Du`ah (callers to Islaam) was opened. His Eminence, Shaykh `Abdul-`Azeez ibn `Abdullah ibn Baaz (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)<sup>1</sup>, Chairman of the Departments of Scholarly Research, Ifta', Da`wah, and Guidance, inaugurated the conference on behalf of His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn `Abdul-`Azeez the Deputy King, Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister, and the Supreme President of the Islaamic University. Below is the speech delivered by His Eminence.]

Praise be to Allaah (تعالى)<sup>2</sup>, the Lord of the worlds, who has created man and Jinn (creatures created from fire) to worship Him, and ordered them to do this in His Book and through His Messenger (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)<sup>3</sup>. He sent Messengers (صَلَوَاتُ اللَّهِ وَسَلَامُهُ عَلَيْهِمْ)<sup>4</sup> to call people to it, the last of whom was our Prophet Muhammad ibn `Abdullah (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ), and He made his message universal. I testify that there is no true Ilaah (god) except Allaah (تعالى); He has no partner; and it is He alone who states in His Glorious Book, **[And who is better in speech than he who [says: "My Lord is Allaah (believes in His Oneness)," and then stands firm (acts upon His Order), and] invites (men) to Allaah's (Islaamic Monotheism), and does righteous deeds, and says: "I am one of the Muslims."]** It is He also who commanded His Prophet (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) to call to His Way with wisdom and fair preaching; and informed him that Du`ah who have deep insight are those who are His real followers. He (سبحانه)<sup>5</sup> states, **[Say (O Muhammad (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)): "This is my way; I invite unto Allaah (i.e. to**

<sup>1</sup> (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him

<sup>2</sup> (تعالى) Ta'aala (He, The Most High)

<sup>3</sup> (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) (sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him

<sup>4</sup> (صَلَوَاتُ اللَّهِ وَسَلَامُهُ عَلَيْهِمْ) (Peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon them)

<sup>5</sup> (سبحانه) (Subhanahu) Exalted be He

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the Oneness of Allaah - Islaamic Monotheism) with sure knowledge, I and whosoever follows me (also must invite others to Allaah i.e. to the Oneness of Allaah - Islaamic Monotheism with sure knowledge). And Glorified and Exalted be Allaah (above all that they associate as partners with Him). And I am not of the Mushrikoon (polytheists, pagans, idolaters and disbelievers in the Oneness of Allaah; those who worship others along with Allaah or set up rivals or partners to Allaah)."] I testify that Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) is Allaah's Servant, Messenger, His trustee on the matters of Wahy (Revelation) and the best of His creation. Allaah (تعالى) sent him as a mercy to the worlds, role model to followers, a proof against all (disobedient) servants, a witness, a bearer of glad tidings, a warner, a caller to Allaah by His Leave, and an illuminating light. Thus, people were guided after ignorance, eyes were opened after blindness, people agreed after discrepancy, and were sustained after poverty. Blind eyes, deaf ears, and closed hearts were opened, and people were guided to the straight path. May Allaah's peace and blessings be upon him, his family, companions, and those who follow his example and guidance until the Day of Judgment!

Dear brothers and members of this conference, in the Name of Allaah, the Great, I inaugurate this international conference for Da`wah Guidance and Preparation of Du`ah on behalf of His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn `Abdul-`Azeez the Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Deputy Prime Minister, as he is too busy to attend this conference. May Allaah (تعالى) grant him success, help and guide him, and bless his deeds!

Dear brothers and members of this conference, it is a pleasure for me to welcome you with the Islaamic greeting: As-salamu `alaykum warahmatullah wabarakatuh (May Allaah's Peace, Mercy, and Blessings be upon you!). Welcome to your home among your brothers in the city of the Messenger of Allaah (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ). In his Masjid (mosque), in the place where he migrated, in the first capital of Islaam; and the place where Da`wah was launched by Prophet Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ), his noble Sahabah (Companions), the liberators and conquerors, and the guided Imaams (rulers), and their followers in righteousness. May Allaah be pleased with them all and please them. May Allaah (تعالى) also make us and you from those who follow them in righteousness, make Islaam triumph, raise His word; set right the affairs of all Muslims; make the best the rulers, grant them understanding of Islaam; and lead them and us to His Straight Path. He is All-Hearer, Ever-Near.

Dear brothers, this is undoubtedly a great conference that has been convened due to necessity. We would like to thank the Islaamic University in Al-Madeenah al-Munawwarah for taking on the responsibility to hold this conference, preparing for it, inviting selected scholars and Du`ah from more than seventy countries to attend the conference and exchange viewpoints concerning the affairs of Da`wah and Du`ah; removing the impediments in the way of Da`wah; discussing ways of fighting against the misguiding calls,

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destructive methodologies, deviant ideas; and all the issues related to Da`wah and the affairs of Muslims.

We would like also to thank the government of Saudi Arabia, may Allaah (تعالى) guide it, for their acceptance to organise, support, and sponsor this conference, as is their usual in supporting all Da'wah and Islaamic related issues.

Praise be to Allaah (تعالى), they have blessed efforts and great achievements in supporting the causes of Muslims and Du`ah, and giving aid to their institutions, schools and organisations. May Allaah reward them for this, bless their deeds, grant them more of His Bounty, make them a reason for spreading the Islaamic Da`wah, guide their advisers and grant them success. May Allaah grant success to all Muslim leaders everywhere; guide them to the straight path. May Allaah make Al-Haqq (the Truth) victorious and defeat falsehood through them; keep them upright in Islaam, devoted in `Ibaadah (worship) to Allaah only, and eliminate anything that contradicts this. May Allaah (عزوجل)<sup>6</sup> guide the Muslim leaders, scholars, callers to al-Haqq and help officials all over the Islaamic world to cooperation in righteousness and piety. May Allaah make His Way victorious and His Word supreme, clarify the truth of Tawheed (monotheism) and `Ibaadah for which Allaah (عزوجل) has created the creation and sent the Messengers, clarify the truth of Shirk (associating others with Allaah in His Divinity or worship) which is the gravest sin and most serious crime, eliminate it, disclose and eradicate the means to it by the ways prescribed by Allaah (عزوجل).

May Allaah also guide them all to fight Bida` (innovations in religion) that has spread in the world and caused ambiguity in religion for many people, although they were not revealed by Allaah. Too many people promote these Bida` nowadays and call to them in the name of Islaam, which has resulted in confusing the truth with falsehood among many people, as the well-informed scholars are too few to explain the truth of Islaam to everyone, reveal to them the truth of what Allaah (تعالى) sent His Prophet Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) with, and explain the meanings of the Qur'aan and the Sunnah (whatever is reported from the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)) as clearly as the Sahabah learned it from the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) himself.

Dear brothers and members of the conference!

It is clear to everyone who has the least knowledge or insight that the Islaamic world, or perhaps the entire world, is in dire need of the Islaamic Da`wah that shows people the reality of Islaam, its rulings, and merits, and explains to them the meaning of La ilaaha illaallaah (there is no god worthy of worship but Allaah) and the Shahadah (Testimony of

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<sup>6</sup> (عزوجل) (Azza wa Jaal) Glorified and Exalted be He

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Faith) that Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) is the Messenger of Allaah. Most people do not understand the two Shahahdahs as they should, so they have associated others with Allaah and turned away from Him, although these two Shahahdahs are the foundation of faith and the basis of Islaam.

As for the first Shahahdah, it conveys the reality of Tawheed and `Ibaadah that should be dedicated only to Allaah (عزوجل). It clearly means that none has the right to be worshipped except Allaah; it denies `Ibaadah for anything apart from Allaah, and confirms it for Allaah only. `Ibaadah is a comprehensive term which encompasses everything that Allaah loves and is pleased with, whether sayings or deeds, both apparent and hidden, such as Salaah (Prayer), Zakaah, Sawm (fasting), Hajj, slaughtering animals, vowing, Du`a' (supplication), seeking help, Sujood (Prostration) and so on. These forms of `Ibaadah must be dedicated to Allaah alone. The scholars should clarify this to people, and that dedicating these forms of `Ibaadah to a prophet, a Walee (pious person) or other creatures is considered Shirk (associating others with Allaah in His Divinity or worship). Allaah (عزوجل) states, **[That is because Allaah — He is the Truth (the only True God of all that exists, Who has no partners or rivals with Him), and what they (the polytheists) invoke besides Him, it is Baatil (falsehood).]** He (عزوجل) also stated, **[And the mosques are for Allaah (Alone): so invoke not anyone along with Allaah.]** He (سبحانه) also states, **[Such is Allaah, your Lord; His is the kingdom. And those, whom you invoke or call upon instead of Him, own not even a Qitmeer (the thin membrane over the date-stone).] [If you invoke (or call upon) them, they hear not your call; and if (in case) they were to hear, they could not grant it (your request) to you. And on the Day of Resurrection, they will disown your worshipping them. And none can inform you (O Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)) like Him Who is the All-Knower (of everything).]** There are many Ayahs (Qur'aanic verses) that stress this meaning.

As for testifying that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allaah, many people do not understand it right. They seek the judgment of man-made laws, and ignore Allaah's Sharee'ah (Islaamic law), whether out of ignorance or negligence. Testifying that Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) is the Messenger of Allaah implies believing in him (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ), obeying his commands, avoiding his prohibitions, believing in what he brought, and worshipping Allaah only in the manner which he taught. Allaah (عزوجل) states, **[Say (O Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) to mankind): "If you (really) love Allaah then follow me (i.e. accept Islaamic Monotheism, follow the Qur'aan and the Sunnah), Allaah will love you and forgive you your sins.]** Allaah (سبحانه) also says: **[And whatsoever the Messenger (Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)) gives you, take it; and whatsoever he forbids you, abstain (from it).]**

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All Muslims, whether man or Jinn, must worship Allaah alone, and seek the judgment of Prophet Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ), as Allaah (سبحانه) states, **[But no, by your Lord, they can have no Faith, until they make you (O Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)) judge in all disputes between them, and find in themselves no resistance against your decisions, and accept (them) with full submission.]**

He (عزوجل) also states, **[Do they then seek the judgement of (the days of) Ignorance? And who is better in judgement than Allaah for a people who have firm Faith.]** Allaah (سبحانه) also says: **[And whosoever does not judge by what Allaah has revealed, such are the Kaafiroon (i.e. disbelievers of a lesser degree as they do not act on Allaah's Laws).] [And whosoever does not judge by that which Allaah has revealed, such are the Zaalimoon (polytheists and wrong-doers - of a lesser degree).] [And whosoever does not judge by what Allaah has revealed (then) such (people) are the Faasiqoon [the rebellious i.e. disobedient (of a lesser degree) to Allaah].**

Dear brothers and members of this conference, people nowadays are in dire need of Da`wah and explanation of the character and deeds of Du`ah who are to perform it. There is no doubt that Du`ah should be upright in their sayings and deeds; and be a good example for the people to follow in their reputation, morals, deeds and all their affairs. The world must facilitate the means of Da`wah and remove any impediments in the way of Du`ah.

The Muslims desperately in need of need of righteous Du`ah and eminent scholars who call them to return to the Qur'aan and the Sunnah, clarify their meanings to them, and inform them about the Seerah (the Prophet's (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) biography), and that of his Sahabah (may Allaah be pleased with them and please them).

The Muslims and the world in general are in dire need to know the reality of Islaam and its merits. By Allaah, if the people learn its truth, they will embrace it in crowds as they did after the conquest of Makkah by the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ).

Dear honourable, righteous scholars, our mission is great; the duty of the officials in the Islaamic world, whether scholars, rich people, princes, or leaders, is so heavy; and the responsibility is enormous.

We must fear Allaah (تعالى) as He should be feared when dealing with people. We should cooperate in righteousness and piety wherever we are; we should maintain strong connections in the field of Da`wah, to guide people to what is good and cooperate in righteousness and piety. May your conference be a form of cooperation in goodness as you exchange opinions on everything that leads to the spread of Islaamic Da`wah, removing the impediments from the way of Du`ah, and clarifying the means that should be used to face the deviant calls, destructive principles and sweeping trends.

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I hope that your conference solves these problems and clarifies all that the Muslims need in all parts of the world. By Allaah, you are responsible for this, and it is a heavy responsibility. I implore Allaah (عزوجل) to grant success to this blessed conference, make it reach sound decisions, give it a good end, and make it fulfil its hopes. I also pray that your efforts and exchange of opinions solves the problems, brings benefit to the Mu'mins (believers), and brings Allaah's Mercy to His servants. So, they know the reality of Islaam and embrace it and then you will be rewarded the same as them. It is authentically reported that the Messenger of Allaah (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said, **One who guides to something good has a reward similar to that of its doer.** He (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) also said: **If anyone calls others to follow right guidance, their reward will be equivalent to those who follow them (in righteousness) without their reward being diminished in any respect.**<sup>7</sup>

May Allaah (عزوجل) guide us all to the straight path; rectify our affairs and the Muslims'; and increase the callers to guidance and supporters of al-Haqq among the Muslims. May Allaah guide the Muslim rulers to what pleases Him and rectifies their affairs. He is the All-Hearer, Ever Near. Praise be to Allaah, the Lord of the Worlds. May Allaah's Peace and Blessings be upon His Servant and Messenger Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ), his family, Companions, and those who followed them in righteousness!

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<sup>7</sup> Both Hadeeths are related by Muslim in his Saheeh Muslim (authentic) book of Hadeeth.