

Islaam is the religion accepted by Allaah

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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

Many authentic Hadeeths assert the significance and merits of Da`wah (calling to Islaam), including: When the Prophet (peace be upon him) sent `Alee (may Allaah be pleased with him) to Khaybar he (peace be upon him) told him, **'Call them to Islaam and inform them of their duties towards Allaah, which Islaam prescribes for them, for by Allaah, if Allaah guides even one person through you that is better for you than red camels (i.e. the most precious possession).'**¹

In this honourable Hadeeth, the Prophet (peace be upon him) swore, although he was truthful even if he did not swear, that guiding one man at the hands of `Alee (may Allaah be pleased with him) is better for him than possessing a great number of red camels. This denotes that Da`wah (calling to Islaam) is very significant and has a high status. In addition, this Hadeeth clarifies that the aim of Da`wah and Jihaad (fighting in the Cause of Allaah) is not killing people or taking away their property. Their aim is to guide people, save them from their falsehood, and bring them from darkness into the light and from the trap of deviation and the abyss of depravity into the glory of guidance and honour of piety. For this the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: **'By Allaah, if Allaah guides even one person through you that is better for you than red camels.'**

In addition, this honourable Hadeeth urges Mujaahids (fighters in the Cause of Allaah) and their leaders to be patient, not to rush into fighting, and to exert themselves in calling and guiding their enemies to the means of salvation. By doing so, their enemies may return to the right path, respond to the calls to faith, refrain from fighting and embrace Allaah's Religion i.e. Islaam. The aim of Islaam, Muslims and Jihaad is not killing, taking women and children captives or taking away the property; rather, their aim is to advise and guide people to what they have been created for [i.e. the worship of the Only One God, Allaah]. If the enemies do not accept the truth and insist on their disbelief, Jihaad - if needed - would be the final solution. If they accept what Muslims call them to and Da`wah succeeds with them, there would be no need for Jihaad. Jihaad is sought when those who are called reject the truth; in this case, Allaah (Exalted be He) permits Jihaad using weapons to suppress the followers of falsehood, remove them from obstructing the way of Da`wah, bring people from darkness into light and pave the way for Da`wah in order that Islaam spreads in the

¹ Agreed upon by Al-Bukhaaree and Muslim on the authority of Sahl ibn Sa`d

Islaam is the religion accepted by Allaah

Land of Allaah. Also, this Hadeeth denotes that guiding one man on the right path is better than the most precious form of wealth. Hence, guiding a disbeliever (to Islaam) brings great benefits and significant gains. Some Muslim scholars asserted that this matter is better than the whole world and whatever is in it. This worldly life is transient while the Hereafter is eternal; hence, doing even a little deed while seeking the Hereafter is better than the whole world. It is authentically reported that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: **'A place in Paradise equal to the size of a lash is better than the whole world and whatever is in it.'**²

The Prophet (peace be upon him) mentioned the red camels in particular, as they were the most precious and valuable property of the Arabs. Hence, guiding one person or more is better than the worldly life and its transient and temporary properties.

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: **'The one who guides to something good has a reward similar to that of the one who does it.'**³ This Hadeeth denotes that whoever calls or guides a person to do something good will have a reward similar to the one who does the act. This is a great reward and a significant honour granted by Allaah (Exalted be He) to the Du`ah (callers to Islaam); as He (Exalted be He) would give them rewards similar to those who were guided at their hands. What a great reward! What a great virtue! What a great status! O my brother, when you call others to Allaah and His Religion and to following the Prophet (peace be upon him), you will get rewards similar to those whom Allaah will guide at your hands. Actually, this is a great merit and a considerable virtue. Hence, this honourable Hadeeth urges the Du`ah to be patient and adhere to Da`wah, as they will get rewards similar to those who will be guided through them. Dear Muslim brother, you should prepare and rush to perform Da`wah and be patience with it to obtain these great rewards. Also, it was related by Muslim in his Saheeh that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: **'If anyone calls others to follow right guidance, his reward will be equivalent to those who follow him (in righteousness) without their reward being diminished in any respect...'**⁴ This is also a great reward: **'If anyone calls others to follow right guidance, his reward will be equivalent to those who follow him (in righteousness)...'** This is like the Hadeeth cited above: **'The one who guides to something good has a reward similar to that of the one who does it.'**

The mentioned above Hadeeths and many others that reveal the same meaning urge Muslims to adhere to Da`wah and show its significance and high status in Islaam; it is the job of all Messengers (peace be upon them all). Allaah (Exalted be He) sent all Messengers to call people to Him, give glad tidings to those who follow His Religion, and warn those who disobey Him. O Believers, it is more proper for you to follow in their footsteps and adopt their example in calling people to Allaah, calling them to Islaam and warning them against disobeying Allaah (Exalted be He). This can be attained by being patient, sincere and truthful; hence, the one who

² Saheeh Bukhaaree

³ Related by Muslim in his Saheeh

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Islaam is the religion accepted by Allaah

lacks patience, sincerity, or truthfulness may fail in achieving this great aim. Da`wah needs sincerity; as the hypocrites wave the white flag and fail to remain firm at times of difficulties. Also, it needs patience and truthfulness; as those who become bored and weary do not have enough power to complete their task. Accordingly, Da`wah needs these three indispensable elements, as Allaah (Glorified and Exalted be He) says: **Say (O Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم): "[This is my way; I invite unto Allaah (i.e. to the Oneness of Allaah - Islaamic Monotheism) with sure knowledge].**⁵ Allaah (Glorified be He) also says: **[O you who believe! Be afraid of Allaah, and be with those who are true (in words and deeds)].**⁶ And: **[...and be patient. Surely, Allaah is with those who are As-Saabiroon (the patient)].**⁷ It is necessary to have sincere devotion to Allaah, as Allaah (Glorified be He) says: **[This is a Day on which the truthful will profit from their truth].**⁸ And: **[...and be patient. Surely, Allaah is with those who are As-Saabiroon (the patient)].**⁹ And: **[And We made from among them (Children of Israel), leaders, giving guidance under Our Command, when they were patient and used to believe with certainty in Our Ayaat (proofs, evidence, verses, lessons, signs, revelations, etc.)].**¹⁰ Thus, through patience and certainty leadership in religion can be attained. Hence, when the Du`ah adopt patience and call others to Allaah with sure knowledge and deep insight, they will be the leaders and examples that are followed by all people during times of distress and prosperity, and times of difficulty and ease as we cited above that Allaah (Glorified and Exalted be He) says: **[And We made from among them (Children of Israel), leaders, giving guidance under Our Command, when they were patient and used to believe with certainty in Our Ayaat (proofs, evidence, verses, lessons, signs, revelations, etc.)].**¹¹ O Allaah's Servant, be patient in your Da`wah, have firm faith, good deeds, and be sure of all your deeds. Have a deep insight, seek religious knowledge, and act on clear proof! By doing so, your Da`wah will be based on patience and certainty and you will be a leader and a good example to all people regarding your good deeds and good behaviour. These are the merits and virtues of Da`wah.

Now, we will move to the second part of this lecture i.e. the impact of Da`wah on the spread of Islaam. Allaah (Glorified and Exalted be He) sent His Messengers (peace be upon them all) to call people to Allaah and guide them to the truth. He (Exalted be He) did not tell us that the early Messengers practiced Jihaad to spread their message; as Allaah first mentioned Jihaad after sending His Messenger Moosa (Moses, peace be upon him).

Since the time of Adam (peace be upon him) until the revelation of the Tawrah (Torah), Messengers were just Du`ah, calling to Allaah without Jihaad. Hence, Allaah's Message

⁵ Soorah Yoosuf [12:108]

⁶ Soorah Tawbah [9:119]

⁷ Soorah Anfaal [8:46]

⁸ Soorah Maa'idah [5:119]

⁹ Soorah Anfaal [8:46]

¹⁰ Soorah al-Sajdah [32:24]

¹¹ Soorah al-Sajdah [32:24]

Islaam is the religion accepted by Allaah

(Islaam) was spread among the people by calling them to Allaah, and clarifying the aspects of the message, and the heavenly revealed Books. The Messengers (peace be upon them all) called people to Allaah and warned them against disobeying Him; hence, their message was spread through Da`wah from the time of Adam until Musa (peace be upon them) was sent.

Islaam is the religion of Allaah, as He (Glorified and Exalted be He) says: **[Truly, the religion with Allaah is Islaam].**¹² It is the religion of all Messengers and nations. Allaah (Exalted be He) tells us about Nooh (Noah, peace be upon him), the first of messengers, that he said: **[...and I have been commanded to be of the Muslims (i.e. those who submit to Allaah's Will)].**¹³ `Abdullah ibn `Abbaas (may Allaah be pleased with him) said: **There were ten centuries between Aadam and Nooh (peace be upon them) and they were all on Islaam. Then, differences among the people of Nooh took place.** Allaah (Exalted be He) tells us what Ibraahim (Abraham) and his son Ismaa'eel (Ishmael) said when they were constructing the Ka'bah: **[Our Lord! And make us submissive unto You and of our offspring a nation submissive unto You, and show us our Manaasik (all the ceremonies of pilgrimage - Hajj and 'Umrah), and accept our repentance. Truly, You are the One Who accepts repentance, the Most Merciful.]**¹⁴ Hence, they asked Allaah to make them Muslims. Also, He (Exalted be He) says on the tongue of Yoosuf (Joseph, peace be upon him): **[You are my Walee (Protector, Helper, Supporter, Guardian, God, Lord) in this world and in the Hereafter. Cause me to die as a Muslim (the one submitting to Your Will), and join me with the righteous.]**¹⁵ He (Exalted be He) says in the story of Moosa (peace be upon him): And Moosa (Moses) said: **["O my people! If you have believed in Allaah, then put your trust in Him if you are Muslims (those who submit to Allaah's Will)."]**¹⁶ Also, He (Exalted be He) says on the tongue of Bilqees: **[...and I submit [in Islaam, together with Sulaimaan (Solomon)] to Allaah, the Lord of the 'Alameen (mankind, jinn and all that exists).]**¹⁷ So, Islaam is the religion accepted by Allaah (Exalted be He) who sent His Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) with the perfect and last message. He (Exalted be He) sent Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) with the universal and complete message of Islaam, which is and will be suitable for all times and places until the Day of Judgment. As for the previous Messengers, they were sent with the religion of Islaam but with particular Divine Laws directed exclusively to their people. Hence, every Messenger was sent to his people with the religion of Islaam, which calls to monotheism, but with special and exclusive Divine Laws. Allaah (Glorified and Exalted be He) says: **[And verily, We have sent among every Ummah (community, nation) a Messenger (proclaiming): "Worship Allaah (Alone), and avoid (or keep away from) Taghoot (all false deities i.e. do not worship Taghoot besides Allaah)."]**¹⁸ Thus, Allaah sent to every nation a Messenger to call its people to Islaam - which calls

¹² Soorah al-Imraan [3:19]

¹³ Soorah Yoonus [10:72]

¹⁴ Soorah al-Baqarah [2:128]

¹⁵ Soorah Yoosuf [12:101]

¹⁶ Soorah Yoonus [10:84]

¹⁷ Soorah al-Namal [27:84]

¹⁸ Soorah al-Nahl [16:36]

Islaam is the religion accepted by Allaah

people to worship Allaah Alone, obey Him, keep away from worshipping anything along with Him, and renounce Shirk (associating others with Allaah in His Divinity or worship) and its people - but with special Divine Laws that suited his time, place, and the nature of his people. Then, He (Exalted be He) closed the line of the Messengers with Muhammad (peace be upon him), as Allaah sent him with the comprehensive and perfect religion, which has been, is and will be valid for all people since the revelation of the Ever-Glorious Qur'aan until the Day of Judgment. It is a comprehensive religion, which deals with all religious and worldly affairs such as acts of worship, dealings, personal affairs, and criminal affairs. It handles all the affairs of Allaah's Servants, regulates all their needs in the present and future, and clarifies all that is required and needed. Accordingly, Islaam spread at the times of Aadam, Nooh, Hood (Hood), Saalih (Saleh), Ibraaheem, Loot (Lot), Is-haq (Isaac), Ya'qoob (Jacob) and Yoosuf (Joseph) - peace be upon them all - through Da`wah. The Messengers and their followers and advocates called their people to Allaah (Exalted be He).

Thus, Islaam spread among their nations through Da`wah and not through Jihaad and weapons. Allaah (Exalted be He) did not mention in his Ever-Glorious Qur'an that they struggled using weapons, but He indicated that they called their people to Allaah, gave glad tidings to those who followed His Religion and warned those who disobeyed Him. Some of their people whom Allaah guided accepted their call and some others who chose the way of misery rejected their call. We seek refuge with Allaah from this way.

When the nations that were before Prophet Moosa (peace be upon him) opposed their Prophets and rejected to follow them, Allaah sent His Punishment against them and destroyed them completely except those who believed in the Prophets. Prophet Aadam (peace be upon him) and his progeny until the time of Prophet Nooh (peace be upon him) were Muslims and were on the right path. However, this does not mean that there were no sins among them; as Qabil (Cain) committed a sin when he killed his brother Habil for no rightful reason. Afterwards, Satan seduced the people of Nooh into exceeding the proper limits in their love of the righteous people among them to the extent that they used to depict them and put their pictures in their houses. Then, Satan made fair-seeming to those who followed them to worship these pictures; accordingly, some of the people of Nooh became Mushriks (those who associate others with Allaah in His Divinity or worship) due to their excessive love of the righteous persons among them, depicting them and making innovations in the religion. Hence, Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) warned against pictures and against innovations in religion; for innovations are the means to Shirk. We seek refuge with Allaah from Shirk. It is narrated that Umm Habibah and Umm Salamah mentioned to the Messenger of Allaah (peace be upon him) a church which they had seen in Abyssinia (Ethiopia) and which had pictures in it. The Messenger of Allaah (peace be upon him) said: **'When a pious person among those people died, they built a place of worship on his grave, and then**

Islaam is the religion accepted by Allaah

decorated it with such pictures. They would be the worst of creatures in the sight of Allaah (on the Day of Judgment).'¹⁹

Hence, the Prophet (peace be upon him) stated that they would be the worst of creatures on the Day of Judgment, as they built places of worship on the graves of the righteous people among them and then decorated them with pictures. During the time of Nooh, Islaam spread through Da`wah; but when they rejected the call of Prophet Nooh, who stayed among them for nine hundred and fifty years, and adhered to Shirk, Allaah sent them the flood and destroyed them completely except Nooh (peace be upon him) and those with him in the ship. We supplicate Allaah to keep us safe.

The people of Prophet Hood (peace be upon him) were destroyed all [except the believers] by a barren wind, and the people of Saalih were destroyed completely [except the believers] by the earthquake and the awful cry. Allaah (Exalted be He) punished many nations with different types of punishment because of their disbelief, deviation, and rejection of the call to Islaam. Allaah (Exalted be He) prescribed Jihaad during the time of Moosa (peace be upon him) to support the right and suppress falsehood. Then, Allaah (Exalted be He) legalised Jihaad during the time of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) in a perfect way. When Allaah (Exalted be He) sent our great Prophet (peace be upon him), he (peace be upon him) stayed in Makkah more than ten years, calling his people to Allaah and His Religion without Jihaad. His people rejected his call and harmed him and his Companions but he (peace be upon him) was patient. At first, the first stage of Da`wah was secret [limited to those near to him]; then, Allaah (Exalted be He) ordered him to declare his message to the public. He (peace be upon him) responded to Allaah and endured along with his Companions, the harm of the Mushriks. Aboo Bakr Al-Siddiq Khadeejah, `Alee, and Zayd ibn Harithah (may Allaah be pleased with them all) were the first Muslims.

Aboo Bakr Al-Siddeeq (may Allaah be pleased with him) was a noble and venerable man. He was known among his people to be kind, beneficent, and wealthy, and have good morals. He called people secretly to Islaam; many people embraced Islaam through him including `Uthmaan, Al-Zubayr ibn Al-`Awwam, `Abdul-Rahmaan ibn `Awf, Sa`d ibn Abee Waqqas and Talhah ibn `Ubaydullah (may Allaah be pleased with them all). Many people in Makkah entered Islaam without Jihaad, but through Da`wah, guidance, reciting the Qur'aan and clarifying the merits of Islaam. The Prophet (peace be upon him) used to read the Ever-Glorious Qur'aan and clarify the truth to them; hence, they accepted his message and entered the Religion of Allaah (Glorified and Exalted be He).

¹⁹ Saheeh Muslim