



## 2. What is *Dawah* Work?

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*Dawah* work has been termed in the Quran ‘the call to God.’ In other words, *dawah* work aims at bringing people closer to their Creator and Sustainer. Calling people to God is telling them that the only right way of life for them on this earth is to become true believers in God.

Calling people to God means warning man of the evil consequences of the self-oriented life, and therefore, inviting him to adopt the God-oriented life. The most authentic and reliable source of knowledge of the divine teachings on both types of life has been preserved for us in the form of the Quran. Calling people to God is purely other-worldly in nature. That is, it is in no way directly associated with national, social or economic issues. It is a campaign to call people to God. It starts in the spiritual and religious idiom and goes on in the same idiom and style till the end.

The mission of calling people to God is, in essence, a divine task, which is performed by human beings. It is important that it should be performed in a spiritual way. Any work done in a

one which accepts this message and the other which rejects it on the Day of Judgement. These two opposing groups will be separated from each other. Then according to their deeds, they will be judged and will be destined to two different sets of consequences.

Though this judgement will be entirely God's judgement, the announcement of it will be made by those special servants of God who had undertaken the task of *dawah* (call) and *shabadah* (witness). This will be a matter of a great honour to them. On the Day of Judgement, high platforms will be raised for 'the people of the Heights' to stand on. From there they will be able to see everyone, and will pronounce God's judgement to the people.

The *shuhada'* (those who bore witness to people) and the *du'at* (those who called people to the truth), strove very hard in the world to convey the message of God to people. They dedicated their entire lives to this mission, as if it were their own personal work. For this reason, they will be honoured on the Day of Judgement by being asked to announce the final result of the call of truth to the people. They ranked high in the world according to their mission, and they will be referred to as such on the Day of Judgement, according to the result of their actions.



others did not. We supported the believers against their enemies and they triumphed over them.’ (61:14)

What is the meaning of helping God or being the helpers of God in this verse? It means giving oneself wholeheartedly to the divine *dawah* mission. It means joining oneself with the divine plan wholeheartedly in both word and deed so that mankind might have no argument against God on the Day of Judgement.

The noted commentator of the Quran, Ibn Kathir, explained it in thus: ‘Who will help me in the task of calling people to God?’ The followers of Jesus replied: “We are your helpers in the mission with which you have been sent forth, and we will be your helpers in this mission.” For this reason Jesus sent them to Syria to the Israelites and the Romans. In the same way the last Prophet used to go to people during the Hajj season and he would ask: “Who among you will help me so that I may convey the message of God to people, because the Quraysh are stopping me from conveying to people the message of God?”



hears about the message of Islam through media.

The age of the Companions of the Prophet was that of traditional. Printing press was not invented in their time. They had no printed copies of the Quran to give others as we can do today. So, they went to the people and recited the Quran to them. That is why; they were called the *muqri* (or reciter). Today in the age of printing press, a *da'ee* has to discharge the duty of *darwah* by presenting the copies of the Quran and other Islamic and *darwah* literature to them. Similarly, he can discharge this duty by using the electronic media.



introspect themselves instead of making protest against the other nations because this would definitely mean that they have left the task of *darwah* (calling people to God.)

The duty of conveying the message of God has been termed as God's help in the Quran. (61:14) and it has been also described that who will perform *darwah* work will certainly receive God's help. (47: 7) This is an eternal guide line for the followers of the Prophet. The members of the *ummah* or Muslim community should plan their actions on *darwah ilallah*. All worldly affairs should be of secondary importance to them. If they discharge the duty of *darwah*, such circumstances will emerge as will solve their worldly problems. On the contrary, if they make the worldly issues the target of their actions, they will achieve nothing of them.

