READINGS IN ISLAMIC DA’WAH

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There are numerous barriers or obstacles to Islamic da’wah. Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w.) himself had to face huge barriers or obstacles in his da’wah especially during the first thirteen years of his mission in Makkah. Some of these barriers were life threatening. After the death of Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w.) in 632 du’āt continued to face barriers or obstacles in preaching Islam. This chapter discusses the barriers or obstacles to Islamic da’wah in the contemporary Muslim world. As a backdrop, barriers of Islamic da’wah encountered by Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w.) will first be discussed. The purpose is to enable contemporary Muslim du’āt to compare the enormity of barriers which they have to face with that faced by Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w.) and also to derive inspirations from Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w.) on how to deal with the barriers they are currently facing.

Barriers and Obstacles as Tests from Allāh

Barriers are actually tests from Allāh (s.w.t.). Every Muslim including du’āt will be tested in this life. It is sunnatullāh. Allāh (s.w.t.) says in the Qur’ān:

“Do men think that they will be left alone saying: We believe, and that they will not be tested?”
“We did test those before them, and Allāh will certainly know those who are true from those who are false.”

al-’Ankabūt (29):2-3

In another verse Allāh (s.w.t.) says:

“Or do you think that you shall enter the Garden (of Bliss) without such (trials) as came to those who passed away before you. They encountered suffering and adversity.”

al-Baqarah (2): 214