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THE CONCEPT AND FUNCTIONS OF
DA‘WAH BI AL-HĀL

Mohd Yusof Hussain

Introduction
The purpose of this paper is to discuss the concept, importance and methodology of da‘wah bi al-hāl.

To enable the concept of da‘wah bi al-hāl to be properly understood we will first discuss the meaning of da‘wah in general as well as the responsibility of Muslims to conduct da‘wah.

The Meaning of Dakwah
The term “da‘wah” originate from the root word da‘ā meaning “to invite, to call, to invoke. A dā‘ī is always inviting others to Islām, to īmān and to ‘amal ṣalih. He invites everyone he is in contact with, beginning with his relatives and extending it to his friends, neighbours and other members of his community. He also invites non-Muslims to Islām.

Responsibility of doing Da‘wah
It is the responsibility (wājib ‘ainī) of every educated Muslim to do da‘wah to the best of his ability. However, the main responsibility (wājib kifāyah) lies with the ‘ulamā‘s, īmāms, religious teachers Muslim intellectuals and rijālu al-dīn. This responsibility is stated very clearly in the Qur’ān:

“and that there might arise out of you a community (of people) who invite unto all that is good, and enjoin the doing of what is right and forbid the doing of what is wrong: and it is they who shall attain a happy state.”

Āli-‘Imrān (3): 104

Da‘wah Strategy
There are two strategies which a “dā‘ī” could employ to conduct “dakwah”: one is the direct strategy and the indirect strategy.