Handbook of ISLAMIC DA’WAH

Edited by Mohd Yusof Hussain

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# Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preface</td>
<td></td>
<td>ix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 1:</td>
<td>The Meaning and Responsibility of Doing Islamic Da’wah</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sohirin M. Solihin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 2:</td>
<td>The Process and Purpose of Islamic Da’wah</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mohd Yusof Hussain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 3:</td>
<td>Qualities of a Credible Da’i</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mohd Yusof Hussain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 4:</td>
<td>The Content of Islamic Da’wah</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mohd Yusof Hussain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 5:</td>
<td>Tawḥīd: The Bedrock and Core Message of Islamic Da’wah</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thameem Ushama</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 6:</td>
<td>The Qur’an as a Source of Islamic Da’wah: Understanding Its History</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thameem Ushama</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 7:</td>
<td>Hadith as a Source of Islamic Da’wah</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jamal Ahmed Badi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 8:</td>
<td>The Religion (Al-dīn) of Islam</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mohd Yusof Hussain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 9:</td>
<td>What Everyone Should Know About Prophet Muhammad (SAW)</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mohd Yusof Hussain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Chapter 10: Short Notes on *Ahl Al-Sunnah Wa Al-Jama’ah*  
*Abdul Salam Muhammad Shukri* | 163 |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----|
| Chapter 11: Islamic Spirituality  
*Wan Mohd Azma Mohd Amin* | 186 |
| Chapter 12: Sufism in Malay Tradition  
*Muhammad Uthman El-Muhammady* | 204 |
| Chapter 13: The Path of Islamic Moderation for Muslim Countries  
*Mohd Kamal Hassan* | 217 |
| Chapter 14: Prophet Isa (a.s) in The Bible and The Qur’an  
*Mohd Yusof Hussain* | 264 |
| Chapter 15: How Much of The Four Gospels Are The Words of God  
*Mohd Yusof Hussain* | 275 |
| Chapter 16: Some Discrepancies in The Four Gospels  
*Mohd Yusof Hussain* | 289 |
| Chapter 17: Following Jesus or Paul?  
*Mohd Yusof Hussain* | 295 |
| Chapter 18: From Trinity to Tawheed  
*Mohd Yusof Hussain* | 303 |
| Chapter 19: The Prophetic Discourse  
*Hassan A. El-Nagar* | 309 |
| Chapter 20: Methods of Islamic Da’wah  
*Mohd Yusof Hussain* | 316 |
# Contents

Chapter 21: Principles of Communication in Islamic *Da'wah*  
*Mohd Yusof Hussain*  
323

Chapter 22: Communicating Islam Through The Internet:  
A Guideline for *Du'at*  
*Mohd Yusof Hussain*  
329

Chapter 23: Psychology of Islamic Communication: A Brief Introduction for *Du'at*  
*Mohd Yusof Hussain*  
338

Chapter 24: The Sociological Approach to Islamic *Da'wah*  
*Jamil Farooqui*  
347

Chapter 25: Strategic Action Planning in Islamic *Da'wah*: A Guideline for *Da'wah* Organizations  
*Che Mahzan Ahmad*  
363

*Glossary of Arabic Words by Mohd Kamal Hassan*  
373

*Contributors*  
391

*Index*  
393
Chapter 1

The Meaning and Responsibility of Doing Islamic Da’wah

SOHIRIN M. SOLIHIN

The Term Da’wah

In Islam the term da’wah, means introduction of the divine message to others. The person who undertakes the work of da’wah is called as da’i (lit. caller). The work of da’wah is aimed at calling others into the religion to worship and to offer love to God. It can be claimed that a da’i is one who renders his efforts to call others with his words and deeds to the divine message and to observe the Shariah.

The word, da’wah, literally has several meanings. It gives the meaning as al-nida (lit invitation) when someone invite others by giving a verbal invitation. It can give the meaning of calling someone to attain certain thing and asking him to attain an objective. Moreover, the word da’wah also gives the meaning of calling others to believe in certain school of thought. When a nation calls people it means asking them to attend a meeting or an assembly at a specific place. And it also means to invite a person to agree to an idea regardless of whether it is true or false. A good example of this is Prophet Yusof when he was called into falsehood.

He said: O Lord, the prison is more preferable to me than that to which they call to it.

Yusof (12):33

The meaning can also be inferred from a hadith which was uttered in front of al-Aws and al-Khazraj when they were about to come into a clash in which the Prophet (pbuh) said, afa bi da’wah al-jahiliyyah wa ana bayna azhurikum (Are you going to follow the call of ignorance in