



*Handbook of*  
**ISLAMIC  
DA'WAH**

*Edited by*  
Mohd Yusof Hussain



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# Chapter 1

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## 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