

READINGS IN ISLAMIC DA'WAH

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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 salih*. 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*, *imams*, 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.