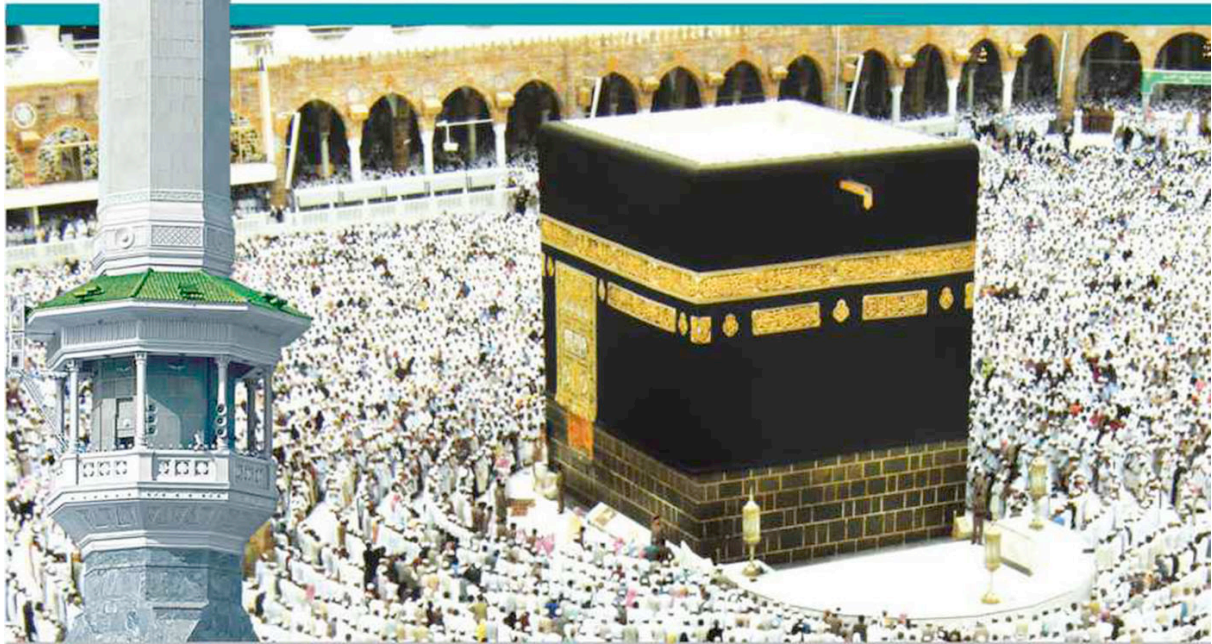




How to **INVITE** People to **Allah**

Dr. Muhammad Al-'Areefi



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How To Invite People To **Allah** (SWT)

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Publisher's Note

In the Name of Allah, the Most Merciful, the Granter of Mercy

All praises belong and are due to Allah, the Lord of the worlds. May prayers and salutations be sent on the noblest of all messengers, our leader, Muhammad, his family and Companions.

This book was originally a lecture given by the esteemed Shaykh, Dr. Muhammad Al- 'Arifi, may Allah protect him, which we have transcribed and published.

We have, to the best of our ability, replaced the words and phrases in colloquial Arabic with classical Arabic; and referenced the ahadith quoted by the speaker to their original places in the books of hadith.

We ask Allah, the Sublime and Exalted, to allow all readers to benefit from it and not to deprive us of the reward, for surely Allah is Ever Munificent and Most Generous. Our final call is that all praises belong to Allah, the Lord of the worlds.

Abdul Malik Mujahid

Darussalam Publishers, Riyadh

Introduction

All praises belong and are due to Allah, the Lord of the worlds. I ask Allah (SWT) to send prayers and salutations upon the noblest of all prophets and messengers, our prophet Muhammad, and upon his family the best of those prayers and salutations.

Dear brothers and sisters, As-salamu ‘alaykum wa rahmatullahi ta’la wa barakatu:

We previously spoke about some of the stories of the prophets in general, and specifically some of the events that took place during the life of our Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) and also some of the stories of his companions. We even spoke about some of the stories of the Tabi’un, may Allah be pleased with them; those who trod that straight path that the Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) made for his Ummah.

Striving for an Invaluable Reward

O noble loved ones, perhaps we can take time to reflect on an objective or destination of incomparable reward which is necessary for every single Believer to strive to reach. This objective is to serve and elevate this religion, in a bid to receive reward from Allah, the Exalted.

After the Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) firmly established his da'wah in Madinah he began to send some of his Companions to different regions and cities to call the people to Islam. For example, he sent various Companions to Egypt, Yemen and Iraq, among many other places. They would explain Islam to the people and invite them to worship Allah, the Lord of the worlds.

At one time he sent one of the Companions to the Valley of Nu'man that lies between the two cities of Makkah and Taif, and which is currently on the road to Hada. He sent this Companion saying to him,

"You shall find the Bedouin nomads in the desert; they are infidels who worship Lat and 'Uzza, and also make sacrifices to other idols. Go to them and invite them to Allah, the Exalted."

So the Companion left and when he reached his destination he found one person who was so ignorant that he only knew about camels, goats and sheep! So he began to invite them to Islam and to do away with worshipping idols but they disbelieved, turned away and said,

"How can we stop worshipping what our forefathers worshipped for one man who comes to us with a new religion."

All of them turned away except one man.

So the Companion immediately went back to Madinah on his she-camel. As for the one man, he then walked from Taif to Madinah, a distance of approximately five hundred kilometers. When he reached Madinah he began to look left and right because he was confused and didn't know where to go. So he asked some of the people about the man who claimed he was a prophet.

"The man who claims to be a prophet is sitting in the masjid," they told him. So he proceeded to the masjid and tied his camel at the door. When he entered the masjid he continued to look around not knowing what to say.

"Where is this man who claims to be a prophet?" he shouted. "Where is Muhammad Ibn 'Abdullah?"

The people then pointed out a fair skinned man sitting against the wall and told him it was Muhammad Ibn 'Abdullah (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him). "That is the man who claims to be a prophet?" he asked doubtfully. They told him yes, it was the man. So he walked through the ranks of people who were sitting in a circle until he reached the center where the Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) was sitting. One of the Companions said, "This man has entered here, we can hear his voice, but we can hardly understand what he's saying." The other Companions looked up and saw a Bedouin man with two long plaits.

The man continued to move forward until he was directly in front of the Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him). He then began to look at him and at the rest of the Companions around him asking which one of them was Muhammad (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him). The Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) answered, "I am Muhammad." The man then asked him, "Are you the one who claims to be a prophet?" The Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) answered yes. He then said, "I shall ask you some questions, but I will be very blunt and frank with you, so don't get frustrated or become angry at me." In other words, he was saying to the Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) that he was going to be extremely rude because he didn't have any manners, and didn't know how to say, "Excuse me," "pardon me," or "if you would be so kind," but would speak

exactly as he would to his fellow Bedouin nomads in the desert. The Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) then instructed him to ask whatever he liked.

The man then asked him, “Who elevated the heavens, O Muhammad?”

“Allah,” responded the Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him).

“So who spread out the mountains?” asked the Bedouin.

The Prophet gave him the exact same answer.

‘I ask you by the One Who sent you, has He commanded you to order us to (not) worship the idols that our forefathers worshipped and single out Allah, alone without any partner?’

He then went on to say, “So by the One Who elevated the heavens and spread out the mountains; has Allah sent you as a messenger to us?”

“Indeed!” replied the Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him).

He then asked, “I ask you by the One Who sent you, has He commanded you to order us to (stop) the worship of the idols that our forefathers worshipped and single out Allah, alone without any partner?”

“Yes, without any doubt,” answered the Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him).

“I further ask you by the One Who sent you, has He commanded you to order us to perform five daily prayers?”

“Yes,” responded the Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him).

“Then I ask you by the One Who sent you, has He commanded you to order us to fast the month of Ramadan and to pay alms on our wealth?”

“Yes,” answered the Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him).

He went on to further ask the Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) about the pillars and obligations of Islam. Every time he asked him something the holy Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) answered, “Yes.” This continued until he had no more questions. The man then said, “I am Dhamam Ibn Tha’labah, the brother of Bakr Ibn Sa’d, and I am the messenger of my people to you. Moreover, I bear witness that there is no god but Allah and Muhammad (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) is His apostle. I swear by the One Who sent you that I won’t do anything more or less than what you mentioned to me.”

The Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) said to him, “Then (as long as you abide by your statement) you will be successful. The man then walked away. The Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) then pointed to him and said, “The man with the two plaits will be successful if he sticks to his word.”

[This hadith above has been collected by Al-Bukhari in The Book of Iman (no. 46-1/131) from the narration of Talhah Ibn ‘Abdullah (May Allah be pleased with him), and it has also been collected by Muslim in The book of Iman (no. 11-12) similarly from the narration of Talhah (May Allah be pleased with him) and also Anas (May Allah be pleased with him). The abridgement was done by the translator.]

The man then left after his short time with the Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him). He only sat a few minutes with him, but the brief dialogue that he had was beneficial and successful because he had come into contact with a pure heart.

After he unfastened the muzzle of his she-camel the man turned towards the valley of Nu'man and went home. The journey took him twenty days - ten days there and ten days back. He traveled freely because things weren't too dangerous in those days. As soon as he arrived at his home, his wife rushed to greet him because she was so happy to see him. But the man told her to get away from him.

"Destruction and loss to 'Uzza and Lat!" he cursed.

"O Dhamam! Why do you say this about Lat and 'Uzza? Beware of becoming afflicted with leprosy! Aren't you afraid of going mad?" his wife asked him.

She said this because the pagan Arabs used to believe that whoever spoke ill of Lat and 'Uzza would be infected with these illnesses. But Dhamam (May Allah be pleased with him) said, "By Allah, these idols neither cause harm or benefit." He continued to remind his wife of these realities until she embraced Islam.

The man then walked until he reached his father's house. His father welcomed him but he said to him exactly the same thing he told his wife. His father responded and said, "Lat and 'Uzza are your deities and the deities of your forefathers." Dhamam (May Allah be pleased with him) rebuked him and continued to debate with him until his father also accepted Islam.

Dhamam (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) then walked to the homes in his village to invite people to Islam and to warn them about worshipping idols. By sunset, everyone had accepted Islam.

Qualities of a Successful Call



Beloved brothers and sisters, what qualities and qualifications did Dhamam Ibn Tha'labah have to call people to Allah? Did he have a Masters degree in Islamic law, or a Doctors degree in Usul ad-Din? Was he a member of the Islamic World League? Was he a member of this or that council? By Allah, he wasn't. He was not affiliated to any Islamic establishment or institution and did not attend any Islamic conferences. In addition, he had never read any books or listened to any tapes. He had never even attended any of the khutbahs (sermons) of the Messenger of Allah (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him). Instead, he was a man who worked hard to call all his people to the truth as soon as he heard it himself, so much so that his entire village accepted Islam before the day was over.

What qualities and qualifications did Dhamam Ibn Tha'labah have to call people to Allah? Did he have a Masters degree in Islamic law, or a Doctors degree in Usul Ad-Din? Was he a member of the Islamic World League?

How did Dhamam Ibn Tha'labah become so successful in inviting his people to good? How did Abu Bakr, 'Umar, 'Uthman, 'Ali, Talhah (May Allah be pleased with them) and the rest of the Companions successfully achieve their goals in giving da'wah? We should also ask how the Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) was able to spread his call so fast? He started off with just one follower and now there are millions of Muslims. We ask Allah to continually increase the number of Muslims in the world today.

O beloved brothers and sisters, isn't it only right for us to reflect on how Allah, the Exalted, used these great people to spread His religion across the globe? There are certain clear reasons for this.

Living for the Sake of Islam

One of the most important reasons for the success of their da'wah was that they lived and died for this noble purpose. This was constantly on their minds, when they were asleep and awake. An example of this is the story of 'Umar Ibn Al-Khattab (May Allah be pleased with him). He spent most of life calling and inviting people to Allah. He did so even on his deathbed, after he was stabbed by Abu Lu'lu'ah Al-Majusi.

After the attack, 'Umar Ibn Al-Khattab (May Allah be pleased with him) had stab wounds in three different places on his body. The first blow landed on his chest, the second in his side and the third beneath his navel. When Abu Lu'lu'ah Al-Majusi stabbed him beneath his navel he pulled down the dagger to rip open the wound further. When the physician came to examine the wounds he gave him milk to drink. After he drank the milk it came out of the wound in his belly which led the physician to conclude that 'Umar's death was inevitable.

Many people came to visit him to give their salutations and to pray for him. One of the visitors was a young man who kissed him on the forehead and bid him farewell. He then said to him, "May Allah reward you well 'Umar. Indeed you ruled and your rule was just. You were one of the most intimate companions of the Messenger of Allah (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him)..."

After the young man praised and lauded 'Umar (May Allah be pleased with him) and turned to leave, the Caliph noticed his thaub falling over his ankles, that is, his garment was dragging on the ground. Just stop to reflect on this: he was severely wounded and bleeding heavily, he was thinking about who would be the leader of the Muslims after his death, people were crying around him and the one who stabbed him had committed suicide to face judgment for his actions. All of these things were major issues which were more than enough to occupy his mind, but when he saw that this young man's lower garment was over his ankles he ordered the people to bring him back and said to him, "Son! Raise your thaub, for indeed it is more pleasing to your Lord, and cleaner and more lasting for your clothes."

How many of us on a daily basis see countless people performing their usual acts of munkar (undesirable)? Some of us see them falling into all types of haram acts and major sins such as adultery and fornication, drinking intoxicants, and looking and listening to unlawful things.

O beloved ones, what efforts have we put into giving these people sincere advice and guiding them back to the truth that is binding on all of us?

‘More Lawful Than Unlawful’

Some people, whenever we speak about these affairs, say, “O shaykh, don’t be too harsh on the people! Don’t tell them that they cannot listen to music, or look at women (that they are not mahrams for), this is haram and that is impermissible...”

The answer to these doubts is that these things are legislated by Allah, the Sublime and Exalted. It has not come from me or the Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him); it is Allah Who has laid down these rulings.

I will give you one example of what we can say, or what we can use to rebuke the people who say that Islam has made things harsh and difficult for us and that everything is unlawful: If I asked you to tell me the things that Islam has made unlawful to eat you would not be able to go beyond five categories, which are: the flesh of swine, the animal that has been found dead, any animal that has canine teeth and any bird that has talons. That’s it.

Now tell me the things that Islam has allowed you to eat: bread, cake, all types of fruits and vegetables, the flesh of camel, beef, poultry, rabbit and so on. If we were to sit and count them all we would stay here for hours. If Islam has made one thing unlawful then it makes hundreds of other things lawful.

‘Islam has allowed you to eat bread, cake, all types of fruits and vegetables, the flesh of camel, beef, poultry, rabbit and so on. If Islam has made one thing unlawful then it makes hundreds of other things lawful.’

Let’s look at the drinks that Islam has made impermissible which are only alcohol and blood. In contrast, there are countless drinks that you are allowed to enjoy, such as milk, orange juice, banana juice and so on. If we attempted to name all of them we wouldn’t have enough time to do so.

Therefore, Islam has forbidden some things, but made thousands of other things lawful for you. Islam has forbidden men to wear (pure) silk and gold but allows many others including wool and fleece, nylon and cotton.

“Islam has forbidden men to wear (pure) silk and gold but allows many others including wool and fleece, nylon and cotton.”

So in brief, O beloved ones, when we speak about enjoining good and forbidding evil and calling the people to that which is wholesome and sound, it is necessary for us to realize that Allah has actually made things extremely easy for us and facilitated countless bounties for mankind. Allah, the Sublime and Exalted, says,



“And We shall make easy for you [O Muhammad (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him)] the easy way (the doing of righteous deeds).” Surah Al- ‘Ala (8)

Furthermore, the Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him), whenever he was given the choice, would choose the easiest thing to do, provided it did not entail any sin, according to Al-Bukhari in The Book of Virtues, no. 3560, from the narration of ‘Aishah (May Allah be pleased with her).

Once we’ve realized this then it is further necessary for us know that some people have been hindered from obtaining Islamic knowledge. Some occasionally commit unlawful acts because they are unaware these acts are haram, while others know certain behavior is not allowed but are stubborn and choose to disobey.