

## **Dawah responsibility**

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## Introduction

Today, one of my companions showed me the new, pocket-size Quran (published by Goodword). Upon seeing it, I exclaimed, “It’s a miracle!”

My mind instantly rewinded the history of the printing press, which begins from the 15<sup>th</sup> century German native, Gutenberg. Since then, history was waiting for those men who would take up the cause of God and publish His word and spread it. Centuries elapsed, many provocative revolutions took place but this is for the first time that such a Quran has come into being, which is beautiful, portable and written in simple English.

In earlier times, Companions had committed the Quran to their memory. Upon meeting someone, they used to recite to them the verses of the Quran. Today, in the era of printing press, a believer is not required to memorise the Quran; he can carry a pocket Quran instead and present it to those with whom he interacts. So, the history is actually repeating itself.

English has become the language of the world today and in such circumstances, the coming up of such a Quran is a miracle. Realising this, I prayed to God:

*O God! Some of Your men have gathered (here and worldwide) because of their love for the cause of dawah. They possess nothing except the hope they have from You! They face neglect in this world but strive for dawah in the hope that Your succour may enable them to accomplish this arduous task! Let their hope see fruition.*

I remembered how many years ago in my village, I used to quietly observe the habits of a bird that made its nest inside the bark of a tree. The nest was like a small cave where the bird’s offspring – blind and vulnerable – were lodged since they took time to become independent. During the time they could not find food for themselves, the parents used to bring food and feed them. The offspring reminded me of CPS members, whose only asset is God’s promise which has been recorded in the Quran thus,

**Believers! If you succour God, He will succour you and make your footsteps firm. (47:7)**

## Helping God

There is only one act which has been referred to in the Quran as, '*Helping God*,' that is, dawah work. This is because dawah work is not done for the purpose of announcement. According to the Quran

**They were messengers, bearing good news and giving warning, so that mankind would have no excuse before God. (4:165)**

That is, on the Day of Judgement, when all men will be made to stand before God, no man should have the excuse that he was not told about the Creation Plan of God, that his life would have been different had he been aware and that when he did not know in the first place, what is he being tried for? The singular mission of dawah work is to remove the scope of raising this question before God (*hujjat*).

Those who do dawah work for the sake of God alone, without mixing any worldly benefits with it and with the sole feeling that the Word of God must reach mankind, are the people whom God would discuss with His angels. He would tell the angels that these are men, who have neither seen Him, nor His reward and not even Hell or Paradise. Neither did He address them directly. They heard from the Prophets, believed what they said and worked diligently so that His Word reaches mankind.

I read a newspaper report today which described the life of sportsperson who was born in Hyderabad. By working hard in the narrow by-lanes of the city, he grew to such heights that today his talent has been recognised all across. While reading this, I remembered my companions who utilise their time - day and night – in performing dawah work. This has become the cause they live by. Even though they are neither receiving any material benefit nor appreciation from me but they think, plan and execute their programmes on their own, consumed by the spirit of doing dawah work. I therefore prayed to God to accept all the endeavours of those present here and of those working in various parts of the world.

### **Prediction in the Hadith**

According to a Hadith,

**There would be no house left – big or small - where the Word of God would not have entered (Musnad Ahmad)**

This Hadith made me pray to God to accept all the CPS dayees for bringing to fruition the above Hadith so that they become entitled for the big reward in the hereafter. Imbued with the spirit of dawah work, this team has been striving without any recognition or fame, so that the Word of God reaches mankind.

### **Community or milli work**

All communities today are engaged in doing community (or *milli*) work. Muslims likewise are rigorously following the practice of community work. Ironically, God attaches no values to community or *milli* work. The Muslim led “Muslim empowerment,” exercise has no value before God. He [God] values only dawah empowerment.

On the first Friday of Ramzaan (August 5, 2011), a famous Arab Sheikh gave a speech which has been featured in today’s newspaper. He spoke about the course of action that Muslims must adopt during the month of Ramzaan. He said that the Muslims must put an end to all forms of external confrontation everywhere in the world, for example, in the Gulf countries where the confrontation is between the rulers and the ruled. As I read it, I started thinking that I had been hearing this slogan since my childhood, but what could be the reason that till date it had not converted into reality. Why did the external confrontation (*bahami adavaat*) not come to an end amongst the Muslims? Thinking about this, I recalled the following verse of the Quran

**God has not placed two hearts in any man’s body (33:4)**

This verse highlights that according to the law of nature, it is impossible that the same heart has two kinds of emotions – love and hatred.

Let's take a look at the recent history of hatred among the Muslims. Both the Arabs and the non-Arabs hated France and Britain during the colonial era because they had colonised Africa and Asia respectively. After the coming up of Israel, the Muslims began hating it. When America supported Israel, it became their enemy and when it attacked Iraq, the slogan in the Muslim world was, '*America is the enemy#1 of Islam*'. Likewise, the Muslims have come to hate every community. It is important to understand here that it is impossible for human beings to continue to love their own people and hate others. The requirement therefore is to love "man" and not your own community. While they harbour hatred for others, they will also cease to harbour love for their 'own' community.

### **Reason why Muslims hate all others**

The present-day Muslims hate all other communities because they no longer have the dawah mindset. Dawah work and community work are different. While community work inculcates love for the community only and holds all others as opponent; Dawah work on the other hand, targets mankind and develops love for all. Unless Muslims start doing dawah work, they will not be able to live peacefully within themselves.

### **Feelings in the heart of a dayee**

All present-day Muslims (except people of our team) hate Jews, and there is no exception to this rule. Let's examine this in the light of the behaviour demonstrated by the Prophet Muhammad. When the Prophet migrated to Medina, a large number of Jewish tribes resided there. According to a tradition, once when Prophet was seated, a funeral procession was passing from the street. Seeing that, the Prophet stood up in respect. A Companion said to him, '*O Prophet! It was the funeral procession of a Jew.*' The Prophet replied, '*Was he not a human being?*' So, the Prophet saw a Jew as a human being unlike the present day Muslims who see the Jews as enemies. Prophet was sent to do dawah work with mankind and he personifies the conduct that every Muslim must emulate. The present-day Muslims must understand that 'Muslim empowerment' is not the key issue because it will not lead to intellectual development. This is testified by the history of last fifty years, where efforts have been made only in this field, yet the result has not been fruitful. Community work therefore, does not yield champions; it does not produce any worthwhile result.

### Starting point for Muslims

The starting point for developing right thinking among the present-day Muslims is that they be made to recognise their role as a *dayee* and the position of rest of the world as *madu*. At present, the Muslims consider everyone as their rival. The rival mindset, inculcates negative thinking and depletes hearts of well-wishing. Contrarily, if they consider themselves as *dayee* and others as *madu*, a revolution will come about in their minds. The example of Prophet Muhammad advocates well-wishing for mankind because he considered everyone as a *madu*; the crux is that it is only the spirit of dawah work which inculcates positive thinking.

Often people perform community work and take the credit of doing dawah work. It is however not difficult to distinguish between dawah work and community work. I would like to clarify here that there are two pre-requisites for true dawah work – *well wishing for mankind* and *presenting the Word of God as it is*. In other words, well-wishing and honesty become the two-point determinants of the personality of a dayee.

Muslims must start correcting their course by admitting that they were wrong in protesting against France and Britain. This is important so that they are able to detach themselves from preconceived notions and biases in order for de-conditioning to take place. Because for a right beginning, it is imperative that we confess that our earlier policies were wrong and were not Islamic. Or else, the real change which is sought in terms of breaking the conditioning of mind will not be brought about.

Let me explain this with the example of my companions. A new phase in their lives commenced only after they admitted that they had not been following the right course. It is important to clarify this in the light of *La ilaha illallah (There is no god but One God)*. This phrase which forms the basis of the creed of monotheism begins with “La” or denial – denial of all those whom one held as deities and resting one’s faith on One God alone. *Kalimah* therefore is not about repeating certain words; it is a discovery that I was wrong until now and henceforth I will follow the path of the righteous.

### **Two-fold mission**

Muslims have reduced Islam to the status of a communal culture. Culture is an external part of societal existence and this is what the present-day Muslims think Islam is (represented by a particular style of dressing, a particular behaviour etc).

Hence, the members of CPS have a two-fold mission: to make Islam, a *re-discovery* for the present-day Muslims, and a *discovery* for the non-Muslims. In other words, both Muslims and non-Muslims have reached the status of a *madu*.

Many Hadith have predicted that the later-day Muslims will transgress from the original religion revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. According to a tradition,

**You [later-day Muslims] will follow the doings of the previous generations, step by step, so much so that if they had entered into an ant-hole, so will you**

*[Baad ke zamane mein Musalmanon mein bahut bigad aa jayega]* (Bukhari)

According to another tradition

**Islam would be left for namesake and Quran would become an abandoned book**

*[Islam ka naam reh jayega aur Quran ki lakeerein reh jaeygi]* (Baihaqi)

This means that just like every other community, the Muslims (because of having transgressed from the true religion of God) will become *madus* themselves.

### **A common misconception**

A common fallacy amongst the Muslims is that they must not break away from the community (*millat*) because it is with *millat* that *khair* (blessing) lies. If we evaluate this notion in the light of the above Hadith, then we understand that a time will come when the *millat* in totality would have fallen into darkness and would have transgressed from the religion of God. Such a community or *millat* will then have to be criticised, overlooking their evils will be a greater evil. One principle is that if there is a scare of confrontation, majority can be sided with. But this principle is not applicable here. When there is derailment, Muslims will have to be advised so that they re-discover Islam. You cannot afford to become a part of them and be derailed yourself.

## **Conclusion**

The correct approach is to derive the truth from the Quran and Hadith. The actions of the Muslim community are not the yardstick. First you must read the life of the Prophet Muhammad and the life of his companions – only their example is to be emulated.

Unfortunately, the Islam of present-day Muslims is a derivative of Muslim history. In other words, history stands between the original Islam and present-day Muslims. Their immediate reference is the political empire which got established in many parts of the world and that is where they derive their Islam from. In order to understand the real Islam, the Quran, Hadith, Prophet's life, life of Companions will have to be read, studied and followed by Muslims and non-Muslims alike.

Some years back, I met an American Professor who had authored a book on Islam. We met when he visited India. He shared a striking observation with me. He said that when he was standing in front of the Red Fort, he told his wife that this monument is the root cause of negativity among the Muslims. He was indeed correct in his assessment. When the Muslims see Red Fort and other such monuments, be it in India or Spain or anywhere in the world, they are reminded of their political glory. They think of the time when their flag was hoisted there but when they see that in present times someone else's flag is hoisted on these monuments, it makes them emotional. In fact, once a Muslim author wrote a book in which he urged the Muslims to annex all those areas till where the Muslim empire once extended as they are their heritage and must remain preserved. This is a clear example of absurd thinking and building such mindset only inculcates negativity and hatred.

If I were to describe it in the form of a process then: it begins with the remembrance of political glory, which then converts into a strong desire of wanting to re-establish the lost grandeur. However, when others are seen to be in more powerful, dominant positions, resentment is expressed through written medium at the first level of protest. When writing yields nothing then, guns are resorted to and when nothing works, such people undertake suicide bombing in order to bring about de-stabilisation. All this is because Muslims have become bereft of dawah thinking.



According to the Quran

**We bring these days to men by turns, so that God may know those who believe, and choose witnesses from among you. (3:140)**

The above verse means that political power cannot be the monopoly of one; it will change hands. This is because political power is a form of test for man and as per the Plan of God everyone must be tested.

It is this wrong mindset of Muslims that political power is their monopoly and must therefore be re-established, which is the root cause of all problems. Till the Muslims admit to it being a wrong notion, their situation will not change. The Muslims have to be made aware that political approach is not correct; they must stay focussed on the path of following the Prophet Muhammad and doing dawah work. It is an obligation they must discharge.

Prophet Muhammad received guidance from God and he passed on the message to the Muslims. Now, it is upon Muslims to disseminate the message of God to the rest of His creations. The Muslims must be reminded of the big task they have at hand – of doing dawah work.

Unless the Muslims embark themselves upon the task of doing dawah work, their negative approach will not change. This change requires re-engineering of the mind and creation of dawah mindset in place of the existing political mindset. Once this happens, all positive qualities will emerge in Muslims and they will be able to receive true guidance from God!