

*Transparencies*

# **Some Characteristics of a Da'ee**

داعی کے چند اوصاف

*Dr. Syed Hasanuddin Ahmad*  
*Peoria, Illinois*

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

فَبِمَا رَحْمَةٍ مِّنَ اللَّهِ لِنْتَ لَهُمْ وَلَوْ كُنْتَ فَظًّا غَلِيظَ الْقَبِّ لَانْفَضُّوا  
مِن حَوْلِكَ

*And by the mercy of Allah, you dealt with them kindly. And had you been severe and harsh-hearted, they would have certainly broken away from you (3: 159).*

To invite people to their Lord, Creator and His code of life is an obligatory duty to every Muslim: man or woman, young or old, learned or illiterate. The above two quoted verses give us some qualities of a da'ee. Here three qualities have been mentioned. These are forgiveness, patience and soft-heartedness. In Qur'an and Sunnah, there are many other qualities as well. Let us, then, look into some most important ones.

(1) First of all a da'ee should be firm in his belief that Islam is a true religion. He should not have any doubt in that this is the religion of Allah T. Allah Himself says that

إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ

*Verily the Deen with Allah is Islam (3: 19)*

(2) The second most important thing for a da'ee is his manners. A da'ee should have good manners. It is a must for the faith. The Prophet S is quoted to have said that those believers are perfect in faith, who have good manners (Abu Dawood).

(3) The third most important requirement is knowledge. A da'ee should have a good grasp of knowledge to which he is inviting. He should have a good working knowledge of Islam- Qur'an, Hadees, History, Literature, Sociology, Science, Current Affairs, and books and teachings of other religions, and cultures etc. Understanding of Deen's teachings is a favor of Allah. The Prophet S is quoted to have said that Allah bestows understanding of the religion on those

whom He wants to favor (Muawiyah R, Bukhari). Therefore, a da'ee must endeavor to seek Allah's favor, and acquire understanding of Deen. Allah T also advises that

قُلْ هَذِهِ سَبِيلِي أَدْعُوا إِلَى اللَّهِ عَلَىٰ بَصِيرَةٍ ...

*Say, "This is my way, I invite unto Allah with sure knowledge, I and who so ever follows me" (12: 108).*

A da'ee should be fully aware of vices of the society in which he is moving around, such as crimes, sex and drugs in teenagers, divorce rate, disintegration of family life, neglect of parents and relatives, cruelties and injustices committed on Muslims, and their nations all over the world, etc.

(4) A da'ee must join an organization to impart da'wah. It gives him strength and support. This is a command of Allah T.

He says,

وَلْتَكُنْ مِنْكُمْ أُمَّةٌ يَدْعُونَ إِلَى الْخَيْرِ ...

*There should be a group of people among you who invite towards good (3: 104)*

There is a hadith, which says that Allah's hand is over jamaat. Whoever leaves jamaat, goes to fire.

(5) A da'ee must strive for self-purification. Though dawah work itself helps in purifying him, when a da'ee is criticized for his loose behavior. Allah advises the same.

فَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَصْلِحُوا ذَاتَ بَيْنِكُمْ

*Fear Allah, and purify yourself (8:1)*

(6) Another good quality of a da'ee is Taqwa (Piety). He should always be fearful of Allah in his heart. Allah SWT says to all Muslims,

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ

*O you who believe, fear Allah as He should be feared (3: 102)*

**(7) A da'ee should develop in himself the quality of patience. Allah T also advises for patience, when He says,**

وَاصْبِرْ وَمَا صَبْرُكَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ

*And endure you patiently; your patience is not but from Allah (16: 127).*

**So a da'ee should be patient, as Allah T Himself says**

فَاصْبِرْ لِحُكْمِ رَبِّكَ وَلَا تَكُنْ كَصَاحِبِ الْحُوتِ

*So wait with patience or the decision of your Lord, and be not like the companion of the fish – when he cried out while he was in deep sorrow (68: 48)*

**(8) Toleration, and forgiveness are two other qualities which a da'ee must develop in himself. Although a da'ee is allowed to avenge when he has power, he has been advised to forgive, and have patience. Allah T says,**

وَأِنْ عَاقَبْتُمْ فَعَاقِبُوا بِمِثْلِ مَا عُوقِبْتُمْ بِهِ وَلَئِنْ صَبَرْتُمْ لَهُوَ خَيْرٌ  
لِّلصَّابِرِينَ

*And if you punish, then punish them with the like of that with which you were afflicted. But if you endure patiently, verily it is better for the patients (16: 126).*

**A story is narrated about the Prophet S that an old woman used to throw garbage from her balcony over the Prophet S whenever he passed through her street. One day she did not throw the garbage. The Prophet S inquired about her. He was told that the woman was sick. He visited her at her sickbed. Such should be the attitude of a da'ee.**

**A very good advice has been given by Hasan Albanna Shaheed. He said that one should be like a tree. People throw stones at it, and it, in return, drops fruits to them.**

**(9) A da'ee should develop good speaking, writing and computer skills. Now a day's all three of them are being used to propagate one's point of view.**

**(10) A da'ee should be soft spoken. He should never use harsh words or satire or pun in his dawa. Allah T advised Prophet Moses A and Prophet Aaron A to be soft spoken in front of Pharaoh. He said,**

**فَقُولَا لَهُ قَوْلًا لَّيِّنًا لَّعَلَّهُ يَتَذَكَّرُ أَوْ يَخْشَىٰ**

***And speak to him mildly, perhaps he may accept admonition or fear (20: 44).***

**(11) A da'ee should be moderate in his behavior, and attitude. This is an advice of the Prophet S to all his followers. He says, "Beware, Do not be extremist. Because of extremism people before you have been destroyed" (Abdullah Ibn Abbas R, Bukhari).**

**(12) A da'ee should always be just in his dealings. It is required of all Muslims. Allah T orders that**

**يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُونُوا قَوَّامِينَ بِالْقِسْطِ شُهَدَاءَ لِلَّهِ ...**

***O you, who believe, stand out firm for justice, as witness to Allah, even though it may be against yourself, or your parents, or your kin, be he rich or poor (4: 135).***

**(13) A da'ee must do proper prior planning. He should specify objectives, enumerate and estimate resources, choose proper time and place. He should equip himself with proper materials, such as pocket Qur'an, booklets, cassettes, pamphlets, newspaper cuttings, notebook, and pen or pencil etc.**

**(14) A da'ee should be dynamic, and zealous in dawah work. He should burn his blood to light the lamp of his mission. He should try to follow the Sunnah in this regard. Allah T says about the Prophet S,**

**فَلَعَلَّكَ بَاخِعٌ نَفْسَكَ عَلَىٰ آثَرِهِمْ إِنْ لَمْ يُؤْمِنُوا بِهِدَا الْحَدِيثِ أَسَفًا**

***Perhaps you would kill yourself in grief over their steps because they believe not in this narration (18: 6)***

**The Prophet S himself described his condition as,” My example is like the man who lighted the fire and moths are falling in it. I am holding you with your waist to keep you safe from the fire” (Mishkawt).**

**We shall now look into some dos and don'ts which a da'ee must observe through out his life. Let us first look at dos.**

**a) Some Dos:**

**A da'ee should develop strong relationship with his Lord, and Creator. To develop this relationship, he must develop and practice the following traits, and habits.**

**(i) He should constantly seek help from Allah with night prayer, and patience**

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اسْتَعِينُوا بِالصَّبْرِ وَالصَّلَاةِ

*O you who believe seek help with patience and prayer (2:153).*

**(ii) He should spend money in path of Allah (Infaq) to seek nearness to Him.**

وَيَتَّخِذْ مَا يُنْفِقُ قُرْبَاتٍ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ

*And look upon what they spend in Allah's cause as means of nearness to Allah (9: 99).*

**(iii) He should do his utmost for a just or good cause, and then leave the result to Allah T. Allah says**

وَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى الْعَزِيزِ الرَّحِيمِ

*And put your trust in the Almighty, The Most Merciful (26: 217).*

(iv) He should, not only safe guard, but fulfill the rights of other people in the society. The Prophet S had narrated a long story of three travelers. To seek refuge from a storm, they went into a cave. The mouth of the cave got blocked with a large chunk of stone, which came rolling over and closed the cave. They decided to seek Allah's help by calling Him, and narrating their good deeds, which they had done to other people for His sake only. The stone started moving a little bit with the prayer of each traveler. It finally moved away from the mouth to open it completely, as soon as the third traveler finished his prayer (Abdullah Ibn Umar RA, Agreed Upon).

**(v) A da'ee should constantly pray to Allah (Du'a) for His help. The following dua is reported to have been taught by Ali R, "O' Allah bestow upon me your obedience and the obedience to your Prophet" (Tabrani). And, of course, Allah helps every body who strives in His cause.**

وَلْيَنْصُرَنَّ اللَّهُ مَن يَنْصُرُهُ

*Verily, Allah will help those who help His cause (22: 40).*

**(vi) A da'ee should quite often recite salat and Salam for the Prophet S. He should develop this as a habit. The Prophet S had told Ubai Bin Ka'ab R that if he were to recite salat all the time it would suffice for his needs (Tirmizi).**

(vii) A da'ee should constantly repent his sins, and seek Allah's forgiveness (Istighfar). Allah T says in a Hadees Qudsi, "So, seek my forgiveness, I shall forgive you" (Abu Zar R, Muslim).

## (b) Some Don'ts

**We shall now discuss some of the points, and deeds which a da'ee must always avoid.**

(i) A da'ee should not take part in the discussion if the verses of Allah are being ridiculed

وَإِذَا رَأَيْتَ الَّذِينَ يَخُوضُونَ فِي آيَاتِنَا فَأَعْرِضْ عَنْهُمْ  
حَتَّى يَخُوضُوا فِي حَدِيثٍ غَيْرِهِ

*And when you see those who indulge in false conversation about our verses by mocking at them, stay away from them till they turn to another topic (6: 68).*

**(ii) A da'ee should not degrade himself.  
On the other hand, he should remain  
dignified.**

**وَلَا يَسْتَخِفُّكَ الَّذِينَ لَا يُوقِنُونَ**

***And let not those who have no certainty of  
faith discourage you from conveying  
Allah's message (30; 60)***

**(iii) A da'ee should not be disheartened  
because of bigger and powerful numbers of  
opposition. He should remember that**

**وَلِلَّهِ غَيْبُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَإِلَى اللَّهِ يُرْجَعُ الْأُمُورُ كُلُّهَا**

***And to Allah belongs the unseen of the  
heavens and the earth, and to him return all  
affairs (11: 123)***

**(iv) A da'ee should never be afraid of propaganda against him. There will be accusations, cruelties, and mistreatments but he should never give up the mission, or succumb to greed.**

**A da'ee should always remember the fact that even prophets had enemies.**

**A da'ee should always stand firm, and never compromise, or follow the desires of those who have gone astray.**

**وَاسْتَقِم كَمَا أَمَرْتَ وَلَا تَتَّبِعْ أَهْوَاءَهُمْ**

***And stand firm as you are commanded, and follow not their desires (42:15), and whatever be the consequences.***

**(v) A da'ee should never compromise on his mission. Allah T says,**

**فَلَا تُطِعِ الْمُكَذِّبِينَ . وَذُؤا لَوْ تُدْهِنُ فَيُدْهِنُونَ**

*So do not obey the deniers. They wish that you should compromise with them, so they would compromise with you (68:8, 9)*

**Standing firm is the trait which has been emphasized by Allah, as well as the Prophet S.**

**We shall illustrate our point with the lives of the Prophet S, other prophets, and some determined and pious peoples as well.**

**We all know that as soon as Prophet S started to preach, the whole society became his enemy. The matters got from bad to worse. He remained firm and refused to budge. Once the chiefs of different tribes came to his uncle, Abu Talib, and complained to him against the mission of the Prophet S. They wanted him to stop his preaching of Tauhid.**

**In return they were ready to accommodate his worldly demand of money, power, or marriage, if any. But the Prophet S said, "Let them put sun in my one hand and the moon in my second. I would not give up preaching unity of Allah."**

**In another story, Utabah bin Rabiah R offered to make him king, marry him to the woman he liked, give him gold and silver, or even to arrange for his treatment. The Prophet S recited the verses of Fussilat to him, and told him that he had heard his reply.**

**It is also well known that the disbelievers would drop dead goats over him while he used to pray. They would throw dirt and refuse over his food. They would throw nails and thorny bush at his door.**

**They used to hit him with stones in the bazaar. They used to express delight, and celebrate the deaths of his children.**

**The Prophet S used to say that the day of Aqaba was the hardest on him. On his mission to Taif, street urchins, and boys were throwing stones at the Prophet S. He was profusely bleeding. The angels asked his permission to collide the two hills to crush the transgressors. “No perhaps Allah may guide them, and their off springs may accept Islam some day” was his reply.**

**Abu Jahl used to disturb the prayer of the Prophet S in the Haram.**

**Prophet Abraham A was thrown into a pyre of fire, but he did not compromise.**

**Allah T mentions this in the Quran as**

**قُلْنَا يَا نَارُ كُونِي بَرْدًا وَسَلَامًا عَلَىٰ إِبْرَاهِيمَ**

***We said, “O’ Fire, Be you coolness, and safety for Ibrahim” (21: 69).***

**His own people betrayed Prophet Jesus A to the Romans. Prophet John A got beheaded, but did not compromise.**

**In olden days, Imam Abu Hanifa, Imam Malik, Imam Ahmad Ibn Hanbal, Imam Ibn Taimiyya, Imam Mujaddid Alf Sani all were imprisoned, and suffered a lot but none of them compromised.**

**In present day life, Maulana Abul Ala Maudoodi was sentenced to death, besides several time imprisonments. Syed Qutub Shaheed and Abdul Qadir Audah Shaheed both were put to death.**

**But all of them stood firm and did not compromise.**

**(vi) A da'ee should never use derogatory or insulting language for others, especially for those whom some people love or hold them in high regards. Allah T says,**

**وَلَا تَسِبُّوا الَّذِينَ يَدْعُونَ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ ...**

***And insult not those whom they worship besides Allah, lest they insult Allah wrongfully without knowledge (6: 108).***

**(vii) A da'ee should always avoid answer to a question which may offend others, or may not be of liking to others. When Pharaoh asked Prophet Moses A about the fate of his dead elders, Prophet Moses did not give a direct answer to him.**

**Instead, He said**

**عِلْمُهَا عِنْدَ رَبِّي فِي كِتَابٍ لَّا يَضِلُّ رَبِّي وَلَا يَنْسَى**

***The knowledge there of is with my Lord,  
in a Record. My Lord neither errs, nor does  
He forget (20: 52).***

**وَ آخِرُ دَعْوَانَا أَنِ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ**

**وَ الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى رَسُولِهِ الْكَرِيمِ**