

## SYNONYMS OF DA'EE AND ITS VARIOUS ASPECTS IN THE LIGHT OF THE HOLY QUR'AN

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### ABSTRACT

Allah ﷻ sent Du'at [Pl. of Da'ee i.e., Preachers] amongst all the nations in every epoch and in all lands, for the true guidance of man and persuasion to him to the right path. This is obvious from the verses of the Holy Qur'an:

لِكُلِّ قَوْمٍ هَادٍ... وَوَلِكُلِّ أُمَّةٍ رَسُولٌ... ثُمَّ أَرْسَلْنَا رَسُولَاتِنَا... وَإِن مِّنْ أُمَّةٍ إِلَّا خَلَا فِيهَا نَذِيرٌ...

These Du'at were sent in form of Ambya ﷺ [Pl. of Nabi i.e., Prophets] and Rusul ﷺ [Pl. of Rasool i.e., Messengers] and also as non-Prophet Reformers.

These Ambya ﷺ and Rusul ﷺ left no stone unturned to bring man out from the darkness of ignorance to the light of Truth. After completion of Prophethood and Messengership at Prophet Muh}ammad ﷺ this responsibility transmitted to Ummah of Muh}ammad ﷺ.<sup>1</sup>

Da'ee plays an active role in establishment of peace and tranquility in human societies. But, for executing this task, Da'ee adopts various modes of Da'wah [modes of preaching] and due to the fact he is recognized and known with different names which could be regarded as the synonyms and substitutes of Da'ee.

This article aims to cast light on and elaborate the various aspects the pivot figure of the Holy Qur'an 'Ad-Da'ee', such as: its lexicon definitions; meanings in Islamic terminology and its synonyms and substitutes in the light of the Holy Qur'an—the most comprehensive book of Da'wah and the last version of Shari'ah.

### AD-DA'EE

Ad-Da'ee, derived from the word Ad-Da'wah, is an inviter or a caller to the Religion.

### Dictionary Meaning of Da'ee

Dictionary meaning of Da'ee is 'caller, summoner'<sup>5</sup>, 'convener'<sup>6</sup>, 'inviter'.

Du'at<sup>7</sup> is the plural of Da'ee and Da'iyah<sup>8</sup> is employed for exaggeration.

### Definition of Da'ee

Da'ee is a person who calls towards a [particular] religion or [specific] thought(s).<sup>9</sup>

### Meaning of Da'ee in Islamic Terminology

According to Islamic standpoint Da'ee is a person who calls or invites to the Religion of Islam.<sup>10</sup>

### Significance of Da'ee in the Holy Qur'an

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ إِنَّا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ شَهِيدًا وَمُبَشِّرًا وَنَذِيرًا. وَدَاعِيًا إِلَى اللَّهِ بِإِذْنِهِ وَسِرَاجًا مُنِيرًا

O Prophet (Muhammad)! Verily, We have sent you as witness, and a bearer of glad tidings, and a warner. And as one who invites to Allah by His Leave, and as a lamp spreading light. (Al- Ah}zab 33:45-46)

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يَقَوْمَنَا اجْبُوا دَاعِيَ اللَّهِ وَآمِنُوا بِهِ يَغْفِرَ لَكُمْ مِنْ ذُنُوبِكُمْ وَيُجِرْكُمْ مِنْ عَذَابٍ أَلِيمٍ

*O our people! Respond (with obedience) to Allah's Caller (i.e. Allah's Messenger Muhammad), and believe in him. He (Allah) will forgive you of your sins, and will save you from a painful torment. (Al-Ah}qaf 46:31)*

وَمَنْ لَا يُجِبْ دَاعِيَ اللَّهِ فَلَيْسَ بِمُعْجِزٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَيْسَ لَهُ مِنْ دُونِهِ أَوْلِيَاءُ

*And whoso does not respond to Allah's Caller, he cannot escape on earth, and there will be no Auliya' (helpers, protectors) for him besides Allah. (Al-Ah}qaf 46:31)*

### SYNONYMS AND SUBSTITUTES OF DA'EE

Synonyms and substitutes of *Da'ee* are frequently used in the Holy Qur'an as well in Ahjadith for convincing and conveying the message of Islam. These synonyms and substitutes of *Da'ee* are following:

- **Mudhakkir:** 'One who warns or admonishes'<sup>11</sup>, 'reminder', 'admonisher'<sup>12</sup>.

فَذَكِّرْ إِنَّمَا أَنْتَ مُذَكِّرٌ

*Therefore do thou give admonition for thou art one to admonish. (Al-Ghashiyah 88:21)*

- **Munad:** 'Public caller, herald'<sup>13</sup>.

رَبَّنَا إِنَّا أَسْمِعْنَا دَاعِيَ الْيَاكُودِي لِلَّيْمِينِ أَنْ آمِنُوا بِرَبِّكُمْ فَآمَنَّا

*Our Lord! we have heard the call of one calling (us) to faith 'Believe ye in the Lord' and we have believed. (Aal-e-'Imran 3:193)*

- **Wa'iz:** 'One who warns'<sup>14</sup>, 'one who exhorts to obedience, one who commands to obey, one who reminds of the results of affairs'<sup>15</sup>, 'admonisher', 'preacher'<sup>16</sup>.

قَالُوا سَوَاءٌ عَلَيْنَا أَوَعظمت أَمْ لَمْ تَكُنْ مِنَ الْوَاعِظِينَ

*They said: "It is the same to us whether thou admonish us or be not among (our) Admonishers." (Ash-Shu'ara' 26:136)*

- **Mubashshir:** 'One who announces joyful news'<sup>17</sup>, 'a giver of good tidings'<sup>18</sup>.

وَمَا أَرْسِلُ الْمُرْسَلِينَ إِلَّا مُبَشِّرِينَ وَمُنذِرِينَ

*We send the Apostles only to give good news and to warn. (Al-An'am 6:50)*

- **Mundhir:** 'Warner'<sup>19</sup>, 'exhorter'<sup>20</sup>.

قُلْ إِنَّمَا أَنَا مُنذِرٌ وَمَنْ إِلَهٌ إِلَّا اللَّهُ الْوَاحِدُ الْقَهَّارُ

*Say: "Truly am I a Warner: no god is there but the One Allah Supreme and Irresistible. (S{uad 38:65)*

- **Nadheer:** 'Warner, preacher'<sup>21</sup>.

إِنَّا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ بِالْحَقِّ بَشِيرًا وَنَذِيرًا وَإِنْ مِنْ أُمَّةٍ إِلَّا خَلَا فِيهَا نَذِيرٌ

*Verily We have sent thee in truth as a bearer of glad tidings and as a warner: and there never was a people without a warner having lived among them (in the past). (Al-Fat'ir 35:24)*

- **Basheer:** 'Bearer of good tidings'.<sup>22</sup>

فَقَدْ جَاءَكُمْ بَشِيرٌ وَنَذِيرٌ

*Now hath come unto you a bringer of glad tidings and a warner (from evil). (Al-Ma'idah 5:19)*

- **Aamir:** 'One who commands'<sup>23</sup>, 'one who hold command, Ruler and learned man'<sup>24</sup>, 'one who charged with authority'<sup>25</sup>.

وَلَوْ رَدُّوهُ إِلَى الرَّسُولِ وَإِلَىٰ أُولِي الْأَمْرِ مِنْهُمْ لَعَلِمَهُ الَّذِينَ يَسْتَنبِطُونَهُ

*If they had only referred it to the Apostle or to those charged with authority among them the proper investigators would have tested it from them (direct). (An-Nisa' 4:83)*

- **Nahi:** One who forbids<sup>26</sup>, preventer<sup>27</sup>.
- **Muballigh<sup>28</sup>:** One who conveys the message; Informant<sup>29</sup>.
- **Moos}jee:** Recomender<sup>30</sup>, One who enjoins or admonish.
- **Hadi:** 'Leader, guide'<sup>31</sup>.

إِنَّمَا أَنْتَ مُنذِرٌ وَلِكُلِّ قَوْمٍ هَادٍ

*But thou art truly a warner and to every people a guide. (Ar-Ra'd 13:7)*

- **Khat}eeb:** 'Speaker, lecturer'<sup>32</sup>; one who delivers speech.
- **Mu'allim:** Teacher.<sup>33</sup>
- **Muzakkee:** One who purify.
- **Nas}eh:** 'One who counsels or advices, one who acts as a sincere friend'<sup>34</sup>, 'a good counselor'<sup>35</sup>, 'one who desires what is good for other'<sup>36</sup>.

أُبَلِّغُكُمْ رِسَالَاتِ رَبِّي وَأَنَا لَكُمْ نَاصِحٌ أَمِينٌ

*I but fulfil towards your the duties of my Lord's mission: I am to you a sincere and trustworthy adviser. (Al-A'raf 7:68)*

- **Murshid:** 'One who directs aright, one who guides'<sup>37</sup>.

وَمَنْ يُضِلِلْ فَلَنْ يَحْدِلَهُ وَإِلَيَّا مَرْشِدًا

*He whom Allah leaves to stray for him wilt thou find no protector to lead him to the Right Way. (Al-Kahf 18:17)*

- **Muqri or Qari:** Reciter, Reader.<sup>38</sup>
- **Raghib:** One who supplicate earnestly<sup>39</sup>, beseecher<sup>40</sup>.
- **Shaheed:** 'One who bears witness to the truth'<sup>41</sup>.

إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَذِكْرٍ لِّمَنْ كَانَ لَهُ قَلْبٌ أَوْ أَلْقَى السَّمْعَ وَهُوَ شَهِيدٌ

*Verily in this is a Message for any that has a heart and understanding or who gives ear and earnestly witnesses (the truth). (Qaf 50:37)*

- **Shahid:** 'One who is present, or who bears witness'<sup>42</sup>.

إِنَّا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ شَهِيدًا وَمُبَشِّرًا وَنَذِيرًا

*We have truly sent thee as a witness as a bringer of Glad Tidings and as a Warner. (Al-Fat}h 48:8)*

## CONCLUSION

The Prophets and Messengers of Allah ﷻ employed various modes of *Da'wah* such as: bearing of good tidings to the righteous people, warning to the evil-doers as well as admonition and advice to the humble. They presented Allah's message to the mankind in a comprehensible manner. Allah ﷻ continued sending Prophet to various habitants and town in every era. Now, it is the duty of the Followers of the Last and Final Prophet of Allah ﷻ — the Prophet Muh}ammad ﷺ — that they should take guidance from the modes and manners of Prophets that are depicted unambiguously and explicitly in the

Holy Qur'an—the Book of Da'wah and Shari'ah—and to struggle hard to promote the cause of *Da'wah* by means of wise persuasion, honest efforts and patient striving so that no ambiguity and confusion remain left between Falsehood and Truth.

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