

This Divine Name contains attributes of gentleness on levels which human beings cannot hope to possess however we can apply *lutf* in many different religious activities which we are obliged to perform.

NOTE: I spoke in an earlier session about the **Da'wah Imperative** when applying Allah's Names, *al-'Aleem*, *al-'Allaam* and *al-'Aalim* (The Omniscient, All-Knowing). The obligation to convey Islam to the world requires, fundamentally that the *daa'ee* be gentle in conveying the message because harshness could easily discourage people from listening to the truth. Allah even addressed this issue with regard to the Prophet himself saying:

لَوْ كُنْتَ فَظًا غَلِيظَ الْقَلْبِ لَانْفَضُّوا مِنْ حَوْلِكَ

“If you were harsh and hard hearted, they would have fled from around you.”

Soorah Aal 'Imraan, (3): 159

Furthermore, it was as a result of Allah's mercy that the Prophet (ﷺ) was gentle to those he invited to Islam.

فَبِمَا رَحْمَةٍ مِنَ اللَّهِ لِنْتَ لَهُمْ

“And by the mercy of Allah you dealt with them gently.”

Soorah Aal 'Imraan, (3): 159

The *daa'ee* must always consider the fact that Allah instructed Prophets Moosaa and Haaroona to gently communicate the message of Islam to Pharaoh who was, at that time, claiming that he was God. The Almighty said:

فَقُولَا لَهُ قَوْلًا لَيْنًا لَعَلَّهُ يَتَذَكَّرُ أَوْ يَخْشَى

“So speak to him, both of you, mildly in order that he may reflect or fear God.”

Soorah Taa Haa, (20): 44

The Prophet (ﷺ) also prayed saying:

*“O Allah, be hard on whoever acquires control over the affairs of my nation and is hard on them. And be kind to whoever gains control over the affairs of my nation and is kind to them.”*¹

Gentleness in *da'wah* affects the hearts of those being invited and makes them want to listen to the message. The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) was reported by his wife, And he was quoted by Jareer as saying,

((مَنْ يُحْرَمِ الرَّفْقَ يُحْرَمِ الْخَيْرَ)) .

*“One deprived of gentleness is deprived of all good.”*²

¹ *Sahih Muslim*, vol. 2, p. 1016, no. 4494.

² *Ibid.*, vol. 4, p. 1370, nos. 6270-6271.