



DA‘WAH AND CONVERSION REFLECTIONS OF A GERMAN MUSLIM

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A true Muslim will never be happy just practicing Islam by and for himself as if Islam could be reduced to a private affair between a believer and his Lord, Allah *Subhānahū wa Ta‘ālā*. Withdrawing from the world, leading a life of contemplation in the way of certain Sufi intellectuals, is not what Islam, well understood, is about. True, a Muslim develops a strong personal attachment with Allah. But he is expected to interact as well with fellow Muslims and the world at large. How could he privatise his faith? How could a heart full of love for Allah, the Creator, not also overflow for Allah’s creation? If I am happy for having found the way, could I possibly keep myself from inviting others to join me? Just as people in the Opera House cannot hold back their applause after a good opera, drama, or ballet performance, a Muslim cannot possibly suppress his enthusiasm for the beauty of his religion and way of life (*Dīn*), Islam.

In other words: A Muslim cannot avoid making an impact on his environment. The question can only be, how? because there are unobtrusive ways of *Da‘wah* as well as obtrusive ones.

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