

TOPIC 7: KNOWING THE HUMAN BEING

REFLECTION

The scenarios should make us ask ourselves about our approach to the dawah.

That dawah is a call...but a call to whom?

That dawah is all about reconnecting the hearts back to Allah...but whose hearts?

That dawah is about recognising the truth within...but within who?

*The answer to these questions is, the human being. That means, these scenarios should make us ask ourselves about how much do we know about the human being. We have already said – in order for us to call to Allah, we must know who Allah is first! Well, **in order for us to call human beings to Allah, we also must know the human being.***

What is a Human?

The human being is made up of a number of components: Nafs, Ruh, Qalb, Aql, Fitrah. We are not robots! Robots are programmed; they have input then output, without reflecting or contemplation of the input. They cannot feel or express emotion. Human beings are unique in that sense. As a result, we should stop thinking we are talking to robots when it comes to our dawah! Stop thinking that if we give them the rational input, they will automatically output Islam and become a Muslim as a result. There is so much more going on inside a human being.

Awaken the Truth Within

One aspect of the human being that relates specifically to our dawah (or rather, knowing Allah), is the fitrah. This means, that when it comes to giving dawah, it is important to note that any rational arguments we give for the existence of God are a means, not an end. This is because the ultimate aim for our dawah is to The whole basis for our da'wah (i.e. "the end goal") is to awaken the the truth from within; in other words, awaken the fitrah!

The Fitrah – The Natural State

Fitrah comes from the Arabic trilateral stem fa-ṭa-ra (ف ر ط). Every human being is born upon this natural state. It is an innate disposition placed within every human being that contains two primary forms of knowledge: 1) Allah exists and 2) Allah is worthy of praise and worship.

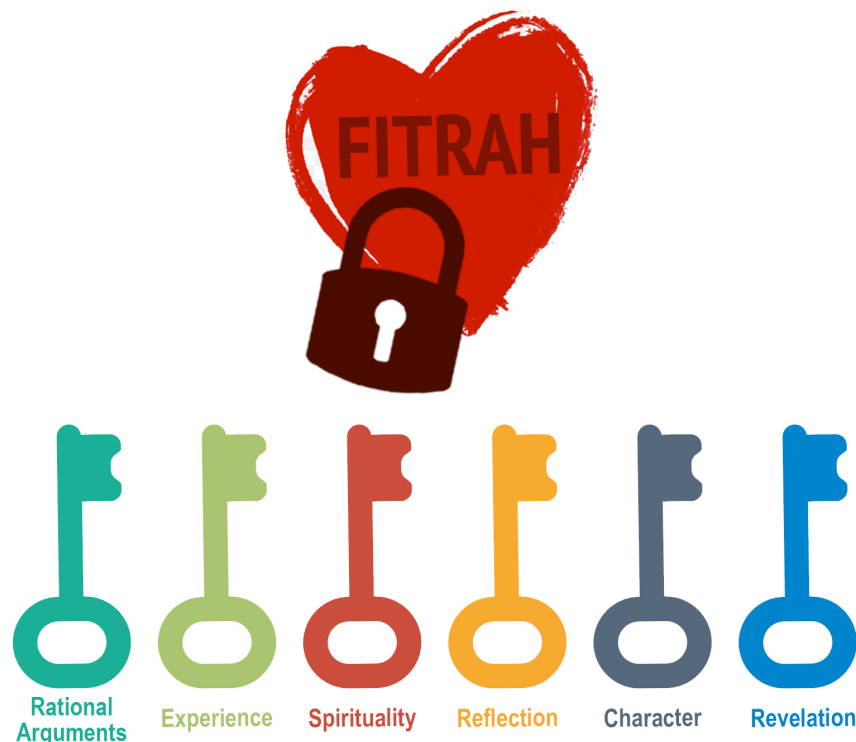
This innate disposition has been with us even before we entered our earthly body. Allah says, "And 'remember' when your Lord brought forth from the loins of the children of Adam their descendants and had them testify regarding themselves. 'Allah asked,' 'Am I not your Lord?' They replied, 'Yes, You are! We testify.'" 'He cautioned,' 'Now you have no right to say on the Day of Judgment, 'We were not aware of this.'" (7:172). He also says: Can there be doubt about God, Creator of the heavens and Earth?" (14:10) and "[Adhere to] the fitrah of Allah upon which He has created [all] people. No change should there be in the creation of Allah. That is the correct religion, but most of the people do not know." (30:30)

What happens to the fitrah?

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) informs us about what happens to a person's fitrah. He said, "Every child is born in a state of fitrah. Then his parents make him a Jew, a Christian or a Magian..." (Muslim). This means the fitrah of a non-Muslim that has become clouded (i.e. corrupted) through social upbringing, influences etc. The light of truth from within it is veiled. It is therefore, our duty— by the will and guidance from Allah - to use the means He has made available to us to trigger the fitrah from being unlocked.

How to unlock the fitrah?

It is important to note that it is not always a rational argument that you need to give someone to trigger the fitrah from being unlocked. Unlocking the fitrah can be achieved by a number of different keys. For instance:



NOTE: By the will and guidance of Allah, everyone's fitrah can be unlocked! More specifically, by Allah's will first and foremost, and then those who are honest and sincere with themselves and in searching for the truth. Even Firawn' fitrah became unlocked "But as Pharaoh was drowning, he cried out, 'I believe that there is no god except that in whom the Children of Israel believe, and I am 'now' one of those who submit.'" (10:90). This is not some sort of tactic or trick we think we can use to bring people to Islam. The truth is within them – this is indisputable! It just needs the right catalyst!

However, we should also remember that, even if we are the catalyst to unlock their fitrah, it does not mean they will believe. There are (unfortunately) those who are stubborn in their disbelief and they simply refuse to accept. Allah says about them, "They say, 'Our hearts are veiled against what you are calling us to, there is deafness in our ears, and there is a barrier between us and you. So, do 'whatever you want' and so shall we!' (41:5). and also, "Indeed, those against whom Allah's decree 'of torment' is justified will not believe - even if every sign were to come to them — until they see the painful punishment." (10:96-97)

Important tips

It is also important to note that any approach you use to unlock the fitrah, use what we teach you as a map. Sometimes we can start at different points, yet want to end up in the same destination. You must seek to understand the steps and the concept in each of these examines rather than trying to memorise everything we say. Internalise the concept. Make it your own and apply your personality to it. It can be done in 5 minutes or 5 years! Remember, practice makes perfect! You have to see your mistakes as an essential path to success! A person who has never done mistakes in the dawah before, has never given dawah!

Before you unlock the fitrah – Initiation

The key to a productive dawah conversation is to create an environment that allows for a meaningful discussion, and for you to be able to present Islam (i.e. unlock the fitrah). Initiation acts as the bridge between your interaction and calling that person to the oneness of Allah. In other words, it links any conversation to the concept of Islam.

There are two types of initiation:

- **Passive:** This type of initiation is when you wait for someone to ask you a question. For example, "Excuse me, why do Muslim women cover their hair?"
- **Active:** This type of initiation is when you engage in a conversation and you pose a question. For example, "So, what do you think can make you happy?"

Initiation has three main steps:

- **Your Character:** Remember what we covered in the "*Characteristics of a daee*" section. We must internalise the sunnah and Islamic ethics when it comes to dealing and interacting with others. Being compassionate, kind, empathic and tolerance are key traits of a caller to Allah.
- **Concept:** The concept is the critical part of initiation. Without it you could not link your question to one of the keys that may unlock their fitrah.
In passive initiation: "That is a very interesting question and I am really happy you took the initiative to ask directly. However, in order for you to understand the answer, you have to understand the concept of Islam."
In active initiation: "I appreciate your views, and see where you are coming from. However, I believe life is not just a game. In order for you to understand this you have to understand the concept of Islam."
- **Agreement:** An agreement to have a conversation.
