

Defamation and Slander

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In the name of Allah Most Gracious Most Merciful.

One of the diseases which affect the Muslim society and works on destroying it is the disease of defamation or slandering. It is a malignant and evil disease which is transmitted through tongs. It destroys homes and families, and separates those who have love between them and severs relationships. Slander or defamation is forbidden (*haram*). Linguistically, slander refers to transferring what people say from and to each other with evil and bad intention to destroy, and expose what was concealed. Allah says: **{A criticiser with ridicule, inciter and spreader of slanders}** 68:II.

The messenger pbu said: **{No slanderer will enter Paradise}**. The messenger pbu with some of his companions passed by two graves when he said: **{They are being punished, and not for something big according to what they thought. Oh in fact it was for something big, one of them used to spread slander and the other used to not clean himself after urinating}**. Some scholars have the opinion that one third of the punishment in the grave is due to slander. If slander brings punishment of the grave first, then it is followed by the punishment of the day of resurrection, then we ought to avoid it and take care not to fall into it. We ought to warn those who do not know the great harm slandering brings on to society and the individual; in order to avoid falling into this spiteful and evil moral. The slanderer or defamer will destroy relations between people, and goes in between two close friends and turns them into enemies. He says to each about his brother what he would hate and what would cause him harm. A slanderer will sour the relation between a father and his son or the son and his mother, and between a man and his wife. Many a home was destroyed, and many a group was dispersed and destitute because of slanders and a slanderers.

A slanderer is an assistant to Satan in creating divisions between Muslims. The messenger ppbu said: {Ibleece (Satan) places his throne on water, and sends his regiments. Those of his troops with the closest status are those who make the greatest temptation and disorder and damage. One of them would come and say I did such and such and he would say to him that's nothing. Another would say: I did not leave him until I had him and his wife split up or separated. Ibleece then would get him nearer to him in status, and says: yes you}.

A man came up to Wahb Ebn Munbih (وهب ابن منبه) and said to him: such and such person says such and such about you. Wahb said to him: "Has Satan not found someone other than you to do his post?". Scholars say: "ignore this who slanders you". Once someone visited a brother of his and chatted to him about other brothers with what he hated to hear. He replied to him: "brother, you have been away for so long, then you come to me with three sins, you made me hate my brother, and made my heart worry about him, and you put accusations at the honesty of your soul".

The messenger ppbu hated if one of his companions told him something about someone else. He said once: {let none of my companions tell me nothing about anyone else. I would like always come out to see you with a clear heart about all}. The messenger ppbu here draws the attention to an important point we ought to see in order for Islam to remain strong and for Muslims to enjoy this strength. This can only happen with the clarity of the chests and pureness of the hearts from antagonism and hate, envy, and all other social diseases headed by slander amongst people.

Yahya Ebn Aktham (يحيى بن أكتثم) said: {a slanderer is worst than a magician. a slanderer can do in one hour what a magician can not do in a year}. It is also said that: "A slanderer's work is more harmful than the magician's".

An example of slandering and defaming is to say: such and such says such and such about you. Or "he hates you and does not love you".

Slandering is either saying those words orally in words or in writing or in symbols or in gestures. And that extends to any words which are not true; or even sometimes true but should not be told for being destructive and exposing a cover which someone would hate it to be uncovered. And remember that this, who slanders to you about someone else, could and would slander about you to someone else.

A slanderer hearing someone saying something good about someone else, would say to the speaker: **“That’s strange, you say such good things about him and you sing his praise when you do not know what he says about you”**. So he destroys good feelings between friends and this is a work of Satan. Satan causes conspiracy between Muslims. The Slanderer is a two faced individual who meets different people with different faces, much like a chameleon lizard which changes its colours for each situation. The messenger ppbu said: **{a two faced individual will not be worth or privileged with Allah}**. He also said: **{who ever in this life is a two faced person, in the next life will have two tongs of fire}**. The messenger ppbu also said: **{you shall find that the worst of all people on the day of resurrection with Allah is the two-faced person who comes to those with one face and comes to those with a different face}**. A true Muslim dear brothers, has one face where ever he is, and has one tongue only says which pleases his God. Every human should control what his tongue says, and stops it from talking except with words which bare benefit; and whenever the talk deviates from benefit; then according to the messenger’s style is to refrain from talking. For even normal allowed talks can lead to something forbidden or despised. The messenger ppbu said: **{whoever has faith into Allah and into the next life, then let them say something good or be quite}**

Falsely accusing the innocent by talking about him or her is heavier than the heavens, and a grievous punishment shall be fall this that causes harm to an individual by talking about him to his superior. The messenger ppbu said: **{Shall I tell you about the worst of you? Those who go on spreading their slander, destroyers of relations between loved ones, who falsely accuse the innocent and those who cause harm}**. The messenger ppbu also said: **{Whoever unrightfully spreads**

a slander about a Muslim to do him harm then Allah shall harm him with it in hell fire on the day of resurrection}. That is his punishment on the day of resurrection and before that will face the punishment in the grave.

Slander amongst women and in the homes and between families seems to rage in society. What a woman can say about her friend or neighbour, or the one she chats with or her husband's relatives. A woman who slanders and defames even when she speaks the truth is still like those who tell the future (or fortune tellers); she adds ninety nine lies to each word of truth. Her words are listened to; and what she tells is accepted. Many flames of hate and enmity she ignited and lit between friends and relatives. A Muslim must not take at face value everything he or she is told. Allah says: **{you who have faith, if an offender comes up to you with a piece of news then clarify it}** 49:6. A slanderer may enter a mosque but would leave with more sins than with good reward, and would change the lessons and advice given to whatever his or her evil soul would want and whatever Ibleece (Satan) inspires him or her. He only hears and sees the wrong and always has the worst of doubts in what people say; and never takes the better intentions of other and never gives anyone the benefit of the doubt.

Slandering is forbidden by the general agreement of all Muslims according to the book and messenger's teachings (*sunnah*). Slander is considered to be one of the greater sins.

Motivations for Slandering:

Motivations and reasons for indulging into slandering are many and are hidden, some of which are:

- 1) Ignorance of the fact that it is a forbidden act and it is one of the greater sins. And ignorance of what it results into and ignorance of the splitting up it causes between those who are in love.
- 2) Slander is a response and a relief to hate and envy and jealousy.

- 3) Slandering is practised just for the sake of keeping up with and being nice to and licking up to those whom one socialises with and the urge to cause harm to the victim of slander.
- 4) Slander is practiced because he or she wants to know more about the secrets of others and the want of being skilful about people's lives.

Features of the slanderers:

- 1) A slanderer frequently swears or makes oaths. Only the one who is not truthful and feels that people do not believe him finds that he has to swear to convince people and hide his lies and gain their trust.
- 2) Despicable is this that has no respect for him self or for people in what he says. Again the sign of that is the need he feels to swear and make oath. This feature is psychological which can inflict even those with great status and riches.
- 3) A slanderer is who ridicules people with words, symbols and gestures either in their presence or absence.
- 4) A slanderer frequently and constantly talks about people with what ruins their hearts and severs their relationships, and wipes out any good feelings between them. It is a despicable moral only adopted by one whose soul and behaviour has become evil and low.
- 5) One who prevents good and well being to himself and to others.
- 6) One who is an offender is that who absolutely goes beyond truth, right and justice.
- 7) A slanderer is a sinner who takes and does the forbidden and commits acts of disobedience.
- 8) A slanderer is a savage who is sever, harsh and unyielding and tough with a hated personality.
- 9) A slanderer is evil and intrusive who loves inflicting harm and pain on to others. And no one is safe from the evil of his tong.

Treatment for the problem of slander.

- 1) Remembering and keeping in mind that a slanderer is exposed to Allah's fury and punishment.
- 2) To get the sense of the grave harm caused to hearts and well being of those who get separated and the homes which are destroyed.
- 3) Remembering the verses in the Koran and the messenger's advice and to practice firm control over what words are spoken.
- 4) Spread love amongst Muslims and talk of their good character and features and deeds.
- 5) Remembering that holding ones tong can be a reason to enter paradise.
- 6) Knowing that whoever traces peoples' faults and secrets then Allah will trace his faults and secrets; and would disgracefully expose him even within the depths of his or her home.
- 7) Taking up good company that can guide the individual to good and whose gatherings can be gatherings of good.
- 8) Let it be certain that those slandered today will litigate against him on the day of resurrection.

Response to slanderers:

Those who are spoken to by a slanderer should:

- 1) They should not believe a slanderer.
- 2) Advice and deter the slanderer to refrain from slandering.
- 3) Despise him or her for Allah's sake.
- 4) Never to doubt a brother who is not present who is a victim of slandering.

The messenger ppbu said: {shall I tell you about something that has a better grade than prayers and fasting and giving charity? In good; reconcile relations between others. The true shaving razor is the breaking up of relationships between people. I don't mean shaving razor which shaves hair, rather that which shaves religion}.