

Backbiting - الغيبة

In the name of Allah Most Gracious Most Merciful

One act of transgression which Allah had prohibited, considered it to be a great sin, it had nested in our hearts, homes, gatherings and talks, it is the sin of "Backbiting". It is for a Muslim brother to backbite another Muslim brother, or a Muslim sister to another sister. Many people had forgotten that backbiting is one of the great sins for which Allah has promised great punishment.

Allah says in Ayah 12 of Surat Hojrat: "Do not backbite one another. Would one of you like to eat the flesh of his dead brother? You would hate it, and fear Allah"

The messenger PPBU was asked once: "what is Backbiting?" He said "Talking about your brother with something he/she hates" He was asked: "Even if what I say is truly a character in him?" He replied: "Well, if what you say is truly a character of his then you have backbit him, and if it is not a character of his then you have falsely fabricated something against him"

Backbiting is more stressfully forbidden than many other sin be warned from Satan and his temptations.

The messenger PPBU on the day of Eid, in Mecca in his final Hajj talk said: "Your bloods, moneys, dignity and honor are forbidden upon you. As forbidden as this day of yours, in this month of yours and in this town of yours. Those of you who are here tell those who are not."

The Prophet was also reported saying "All of you who have become a Muslim by words only while belief did not enter into his/her heart, Do not backbite other Muslims, do not seek their faults and flaws. This who seeks their faults and flaws Allah will seek out his faults. And this who Allah seeks his faults and flaws will disgrace and shame him in his home".

Remember brothers and sisters that Allah gives time but never neglects or forgets. Punishment for backbiting in the next life starts in the grave. In the night of Esra and Meraj the messenger saw people with nails of copper scratching their faces and chests. He Asked:

“Who are those Gabriel?” he said: “Those are who backbite other people and go into their honors. This is their punishment until the day of resurrection”.

There are some that pretend to be caring and pretend to give an advice while backbiting. One may come to you and say: “Do you see such a person, Allah has brought upon him/her the sin of such and such”

Scholars have said that the source of backbiting is four points:

- 1) Revenge. Some may do wrong to someone. Causing a lot of anger and resorting to backbiting as a form of revenge. Not knowing that patience is the virtue in such cases.
- 2) The agreement of the listeners. Friends who hear of backbiting should advice against. If they just knew that the one who listens is one of the backbiters too. This who keeps others happy in the anger of Allah, and Allah will be discontented with him and will make people discontented with him too.
- 3) Messing and playing in talking about others just for fun. In fact that’s how some earn their living. For an hour of laughter can bring an endless painful torture.
- 4) Ignorance, specifically for two groups of people:
 - i. The general public. Those who when they see some good person doing a mistake, they go round talking, exaggerating, as if they never do a mistake. No one is exempted from committing mistakes. But there are those that do not see theirs, they only see other’s mistakes.
 - ii. Those who were tricked by Satan into spending all their time seeking out errors made by scholars and preachers. Tracing those who promote good and deter against evil. So if one says the wrong word, or makes a mistake they attack him or her with no mercy. They ignore all the good deeds.

Dear brother, it is time to wake up and give up this bad act. While it is easy to talk about such sins but it is more difficult to find out ways to avoid them and finding the right solution.

- 1) Take refuge to Allah. Teach yourself the need to Allah and ask Allah (or make dua). The unwise one of us who thinks he has no bad traits in his character.
- 2) Make a sin look bigger. Some scholar said "A sin is as big with Allah as it is small with you." Also remember that sins take away good deeds. One of the companions said "We used to see a sin like a big mountain floating just over our heads about to fall upon us, and you see it as a fly you hush off so easily."
- 3) Conserve on words. For a spoken word is yours; until it comes out of your mouth. Once a word comes out of your mouth then it is held against you. The messenger said "Guarantee me what's between your jaws and what's between your thighs and I guarantee you paradise." In another hadith Muad (معاذ) asked the messenger "Recommend me something will bring me into paradise". The messenger listed a number of things that would help one to go to paradise. Then he said "and shall I tell you the master of all those things? Hold that" pointing to his tongue.
- 4) Pay attention to your self and do not pay attention to people. The messenger said "Signs of being a good Muslim is leaving what doesn't concern him". Let each of us worry about their own problems and fix them.
- 5) Leave a group if it indulges into backbiting. Either change the topic of the conversation or leave the group.
- 6) Think better of your brother/sister as much as possible. Gibe the benefit of the doubt to your brother or sister when you hear something bad about them. Find reasons and excuses why your brother/sister seems to have made such a mistake. If it becomes clear beyond doubt that he/she did sin, take your brother/sister with the advice rather than backbiting. We all make mistakes, we are all sinners remind him/her to fear Allah.