Khutbah 4: The Danger of Backbiting and Gossip

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First Khutbah — Arabic Opening

Innal hamda lillah,
nahmaduhu wa nasta‘eenuhu wa nastaghfiruhu,
wa na‘oodhu billahi min shuroori anfusina
wa min sayyi’aati a‘maalina.

إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ، نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ، وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا.

▶ Listen to pronunciation

Man yah-dihi-llahu falaa mudilla lah,
wa man yud-lil falaa haadiya lah.

مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ، وَمَنْ يُضْلِلْ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.

▶ Listen to pronunciation

Wa ash-hadu an laa ilaaha illallahu wahdahu laa shareeka lah,
wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadan ‘abduhu wa rasooluh.

وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلٰهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.

▶ Listen to pronunciation

Yaa ay-yuhal-ladheena aamanut-taqul-laha haqqa tu-qaa-tihi
wa laa tamootunna illaa wa antum muslimoon.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تُقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

▶ Listen to pronunciation

Yaa ayyuhan-naasu-ttaqu rabbakumul-ladhee khalaqakum min nafsin waahidah,

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ،

▶ Listen to pronunciation

wa khalaqa minhaa zawjahaa,
wa baththa minhumaa rijaalan katheeran wa nisaa’aa.

وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا، وَبَثَّ مِنْهُمَا رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَاءً.

▶ Listen to pronunciation

Wattaqullahal-ladhee tasaa’aloona bihi wal-arhaam.
Innallaha kaana ‘alaykum raqeebaa.

وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي تَسَاءَلُونَ بِهِ وَالْأَرْحَامَ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ رَقِيبًا.

▶ Listen to pronunciation

Yaa ayyuhalladheena aamanu-ttaqullaha wa qooloo qawlan sadeedaa.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا.

▶ Listen to pronunciation

Yuslih lakum a‘maalakum wa yaghfir lakum dhunoobakum.

يُصْلِحْ لَكُمْ أَعْمَالَكُمْ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ.

▶ Listen to pronunciation

Wa man yuti‘illaha wa rasoolahu faqad faaza fawzan ‘azeemaa.

وَمَنْ يُطِعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ فَازَ فَوْزًا عَظِيمًا.

▶ Listen to pronunciation

Ammaa ba‘d.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ.

▶ Listen to pronunciation

Fa inna asdaqal hadeethi kitaabullah,

فَإِنَّ أَصْدَقَ الْحَدِيثِ كِتَابُ اللَّهِ،

▶ Listen to pronunciation

wa khayral hadyi hadyu Muhammadin sallallahu ‘alayhi wa sallam,

وَخَيْرَ الْهَدْيِ هَدْيُ مُحَمَّدٍ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ،

▶ Listen to pronunciation

> **wa sharral umoori muh-dathaa-tuhaa,**
> **wa kulla muh-dathatin bid'ah,**
> **wa kulla bid'atin dalaalah,**
> **wa kulla dalaalatin fin-naar.**
>
> وَشَرَّ الْأُمُورِ مُحْدَثَاتُهَا، وَكُلَّ مُحْدَثَةٍ بِدْعَةٌ، وَكُلَّ بِدْعَةٍ ضَلَالَةٌ، وَكُلَّ ضَلَالَةٍ فِي النَّارِ.
>
> ▶ Listen to pronunciation

First Khutbah

My dear brothers in Islam,

I advise myself first, and then all of you, to have taqwa of Allah. Remember that every word we speak is known to Him.

Today's khutbah is about the danger of backbiting and gossip.

It happens at work, at home, in family gatherings and on our phones. Someone makes a mistake, and soon many people are talking about it.

We may say, 'But what I said is true!' Yet that does not make it right to spread someone's private faults.

The Prophet Muhammad, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, explained backbiting in Sahih Muslim (Hadith 2589). He said:

'Backbiting implies your talking about your brother in a manner which he does not like.'

The Prophet, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, explained that if it is true, it is backbiting. If it is untrue, it is slander, meaning a false accusation.

In Surah Al-Hujurat, (verse 12), Allah tells us:

'do not spy on one another or speak ill of people behind their backs'

Allah compares backbiting to eating the flesh of a dead brother. It is a terrible picture that shows how serious this sin is.

My dear brothers in Islam, imagine someone speaking about your private mistakes while you are not there to defend yourself. Would you be happy with that?

Our words can damage friendships and family relationships. One rumour can cause harm that lasts for years.

And today one message or screenshot can reach hundreds of people. Before forwarding it, ask yourself: is it true? Is it necessary? Will it help anyone?

Allah tells us in Surah Qaf, (verse 18):

'he does not utter a single word without an ever-present watcher'

Allah knows what we say, even when we think nobody is listening.

When people begin gossiping, try to change the subject, speak fairly about the person or politely leave the conversation.

If someone is being abused or treated unfairly, they can ask for help. But we must not spread private matters simply for entertainment.

The Prophet Muhammad, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, gave us this rule in Sahih al-Bukhari (Hadith 6475):

'Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day should talk what is good or keep quiet.'

My dear brothers in Islam, let us speak good or remain silent. Let us protect the honour of others as we would want others to protect ours.

May Allah forgive the harm we have caused with our words, and protect our tongues from backbiting, lies and gossip, Ameen.

End of First Khutbah — Forgiveness

> **Aqoolu qawlee haadhaa,**
> **wa astaghfirullaha lee wa lakum,**
> **wa li saa'i-ril muslimeena min kulli dhanb.**
> **Fastaghfirooh, innahu huwal ghafoorur raheem.**
>
> أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا، وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ مِنْ كُلِّ ذَنْبٍ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.
>
> ▶ Listen to pronunciation

Sit briefly between the two khutbahs.

Second Khutbah — Arabic Opening

> **Alhamdulillahi rabbil 'aalameen, was-salaatu was-salaamu 'alaa ashrafil anbiyaa'i wal mursaleen, nabiyyinaa Muhammadin, wa 'alaa aalihi wa sahbihi ajma'een.**
>
> الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ، وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى أَشْرَفِ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ وَالْمُرْسَلِينَ، نَبِيِّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ، وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.
>
> ▶ Listen to pronunciation

> **Ash-hadu an laa ilaaha illallahu wahdahu laa shareeka lah, wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadan 'abduhu wa rasooluh. Ammaa ba'd.**
>
> أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ. أَمَّا بَعْدُ.
>
> ▶ Listen to pronunciation

Second Khutbah

My dear brothers in Islam,

Again, I advise myself and all of you to have taqwa of Allah.

We have heard how serious backbiting is. Now we need to change our habits.

Think before speaking. Do not repeat every story or forward every message. If you have nothing good to say, remaining silent is often better.

Look at your own faults before looking for faults in others. We all make mistakes, and we all need Allah's forgiveness.

Parents, teach your children to speak kindly. Let them see you refusing to insult relatives or spread rumours.

If you have spread something false, correct it. If you have hurt someone, try to repair the harm. Ask Allah for forgiveness and make sincere tawbah.

Use your tongue to remember Allah, comfort others and bring people together, rather than tear them apart.

My dear brothers in Islam, one day we will answer for our words. Let us make them a source of good deeds rather than regret.

May Allah forgive our mistakes, bring unity to our families and communities, and make us people who protect the honour of others, Ameen.

Closing Dua

> **In-nal-laaha wa ma-laaa-e-ka-ta-hoo yu-sal-loo-na 'alan-na-bee,**
> **yaaa ay-yu-hal-la-thee-na aa-ma-noo sal-loo 'a-lay-hi wa sal-li-moo tas-lee-maa.**
>
> إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ، يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا.
>
> ▶ Listen to pronunciation

> **Allah humma Sali wa salam wa barik ala Muhammadin wa ala alley Muhammad**
>
> اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ.
>
> ▶ Listen to pronunciation

> **Allahummaghfir lil-muslimeena wal-muslimaat, wal-mu'mineena wal-mu'minaat, al-ahyaa'i minhum wal-amwaat.**
>
> اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ.
>
> ▶ Listen to pronunciation

> **Rabbanaa zalamnaa anfusanaa, wa illam taghfir lanaa wa tarhamnaa, lanakoonanna minal-khaasireen.**
>
> رَبَّنَا ظَلَمْنَا أَنْفُسَنَا وَإِنْ لَمْ تَغْفِرْ لَنَا وَتَرْحَمْنَا لَنَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ.
>
> ▶ Listen to pronunciation

Rabbanaa aatinaa fid-dunyaa hasanah, wa fil-aakhirati hasanah, wa qinaa 'adhaaban-naar.

رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ.

▶ Listen to pronunciation

Final Khutbah Closing

Ibaadallah,
innallaha ya’muru bil-‘adli
wal-ihsaani
wa eetaa’i dhil-qurbaa,
wa yanhaa ‘anil fahshaa’i wal-munkari wal-baghy.
Ya‘izukum la‘allakum tadhakkaroon.

عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَاءِ ذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ، وَيَنْهَىٰ عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ، يَعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ.

▶ Listen to pronunciation

Wa akhiroo da3wanal humdoolilahi rubul Alameen.
Wa Aqimis-salaah.

وَآخِرُ دَعْوَانَا أَنِ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ. وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ.

▶ Listen to pronunciation