

Not To Be Like That

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The present article mainly discusses about the actions severely prohibited in Islam which are: avoiding suspicion, gossip and backbiting. The author believes they cause social conflict and disorder among people. So he tries to show this through pointing to some Hadiths. The holy prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h.) recalled to his companions about gossip: “The talebearer will not be relieved from the punishment of Allah in the hereafter”

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Avoiding Suspicion

1. Allah the Most High said: **“O you who believe, avoid suspicion, for surely suspicion in some cases is a sin.”**
2. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h.) said: “Do not search the deficiencies of believers and do not follow their faults; because he who follows his brother's faults, his own faults will be sought by Allah; and he whose faults are sought by Allah will be disgraced, even if he keeps indoors.”
3. Imam Ali (p.b.u.h.) the Commander of the Faithful said: “Justify your brother's action in the best way unless you know otherwise; and do not suspect your brother for what he says while you can interpret it as good.”
4. He (p.b.u.h.) also said: “Discard suspicion among yourselves; because Allah has forbidden it.”
5. Imam Ja'far al-Sadiq (p.b.u.h.) said: “When a believer accuses his brother, faith in his heart is melted in the same way that salt is melted in water.”
6. Imam Ali al-Riza (p.b.u.h.) said: “The believers are like brothers who have the same parents. He is cursed, he is cursed, he who accuses his brother; he is cursed, he is cursed, he who deceives his brother; he is cursed, he is cursed, he who does not intend good for his brother; he is cursed, he is cursed, he who hides himself from his brother; he is cursed, he is cursed, he who backbites his brother.”

Eating Gossip

One of the worst of actions is gossiping which is severely prohibited in Islam. It sometimes causes social conflict and disorder among people.

1. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h.) said to his companions: "Shall I not inform you of the worst among you?" They said: "Yes, O Messenger of Allah." He said: "Those who go to and fro bearing tales, who cause separation between friends and who seek deficiencies in those who are sound."

2. He (p.b.u.h.) also said: "The worst of people are those who hate the believers and the believers in their hearts hate them, who go to and fro bearing tales, who cause separation between friends and who seek deficiencies in those who are sound. Allah will not look at them on the Day of Resurrection and will not purify them."

3. He (p.b.u.h.) said: "The talebearer will not enter paradise."

4. He (p.b.u.h.) also said: "The talebearer will not be relieved from the punishment of Allah in the hereafter."

5. He (p.b.u.h.) also said in his speech about the forbidden things that one should not gossip nor should one listen to talebearers.

6. Imam Ja'far al-Sadiq (p.b.u.h.) said: "Murderers, habitual drunkards and those who go to and fro bearing tales will not enter paradise."

7. He (p.b.u.h.) also said: "Paradise is forbidden for three kinds of people: the talebearer, the habitual drunkard and the tame cuckold."

8. *He (p.b.u.h.) also said: “Four kinds of people will not enter paradise: the soothsayer, the hypocrite, the habitual drunkard and the talebearer.”*

9. *He (p.b.u.h.) also said: “Surely the talebearer is a raise witness and a companion of Satan in muting corruption among people.”*

Despising Backbiting

One of the actions severely prohibited in Islam is backbiting. Backbiting is to narrate and display a deficiency or the negative action of (believing person, which he would not like to be disclosed. On the other hand, to disclose something, which is evident, which the doer himself does not hide is not forbidden. Also if an oppressed person narrates about the oppressive actions of his oppressor or if someone speaks about a person who has made an innovation in religion, it is not forbidden. There are other instances where narrating the negative qualities of someone is not forbidden and they are discussed in books of Islamic law. Listening to backbiting is also forbidden and the listener should defend the victim.

1. Allah the Most High said: “O you, who believe, avoid most of suspicion, for surely suspicion in some cases is a sin, and do not spy nor let some of you back-bite others. Does one of you like to eat the flesh of his dead brother? Verily you abhor it; and be careful of (your duty to) Allah, surely Allah is Oft-returning (to mercy), Merciful.”

2. He also said: “Surely those who love that scandal should circulate respecting those who believe, they shall have a grievous chastisement in this world and the hereafter; and Allah knows, while you do not know.”

3. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h.) said: "Backbiting is worse than fornication." He was asked: "O Messenger of Allah, why is it so?" He (p.b.u.h.) replied: "The fornicator may repent and Allah accept his repentance; but although the backbiter may repent, Allah will never accept his repentance until his victim pardons him."

4. He (p.b.u.h.) also said: "I swear by Allah besides Whom there is no god, that no believer can ever attain the benefits of this world and the world to come except by his good opinion of Allah, hope, good nature and abstaining from backbiting of the believers. I swear by Allah besides Whom there is no god, that no repenting believer will be punished except for his suspicion about Allah, despair, ill nature and backbiting of the believers. I swear by Allah besides Whom there is no god, that no believing servant has a good opinion of Allah except He will behave duly towards His believing servant. For Allah is generous and graceful, When His believing servant has a good opinion of Him, He does not fail to do according to it. So have a good opinion of Allah and wish for Him."

5. Imam Ja'far al-Sadiq (p.b.u.h.) said: "Anyone who narrates about a believer what his eyes have seen and his ears have heard, he is of those about whom Allah has said: 'Surely those who love that scandal should circulate respecting those who believe, they shall have a grievous chastisement in this world and the hereafter.'"