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# THE DANGERS OF ‘HE SAID, SHE SAID’

## With Advice from Shaykh Rabee’ Ibn Haadee al-Madkhalee

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The Messenger of Allaah (*sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam*) said in an authentic narration that is collected by Imaam Muslim in his Saheeh on the authority of Aboo Ruqaiyah Tameem ibn Aws Ad-Daaree that the Prophet (*sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam*) said, “The Religion is sincerity [sincere advice].” We said: “For who?” He said: “For Allaah, His Book, His Messenger, the leaders of the Muslims, and the common folk.”

In working by this tremendous text in the religion of Allaah, I advise myself firstly and my brothers in Islaam and *salafiyyah* secondly with the fear of Allaah (*subhana wa ta’ala*). As Allaah has made clear in His Book,

**“O you who believe fear Allaah and say a word that is that is straight.”**  
[Sooratul-Ahzaab, 33:70]

This is a command from Allaah to fear Him. As the Messenger of Allaah (*sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam*) said in an authentic *hadeeth* collected by At-Tirmidhee and graded authentic by Al-Muhaddith Al-Albaanee on the authority of Aboo Dharr, “Fear Allaah wherever you are, and follow up a bad deed with a good one, and treat people well.”

And from what I wanted to advise myself and my beloved *salafee* brothers with is an affair that is causing an abundance of *fitan* (trials and tribulation) amongst us. It is an affair that our *shaykh*, al-‘Allaamah Aboo Muhammad Rabee’ ibn Haadee Al-Madkhalee, may Allaah preserve him, has warned us about and advised us to free ourselves from it, for indeed it is that which is harming us and causing splits in the ranks of the brothers. It is the affair of ‘he said, she said’ and the carrying of tales.

Allaah says in His Noble Book,

**“And do not obey everyone who swears much, and is considered worthless. A slanderer, going about carrying tales.”** [Sooratul-Qalam, 68:10-11]

And the Messenger of Allaah (*sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam*) said, as is collected by Muslim in his Saheeh, "The carrier of tales will not enter the Paradise."

Also, in the narration collected by Bukharee and Muslim on the authority of Ibn Abbaas that the Messenger of Allaah (*sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam*) passed by two graves and said, "Both of them are being tortured. One of them used to not protect himself from his urine, and the other used to go about spreading tales [amongst the people causing hostilities, meaning he went to a man and said, 'so-and-so said such and such about you from evil speech']."

As we see, the Messenger of Allaah (*sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam*) clearly says in this narration that the one who goes about spreading tales and 'he said, she said' will be from those who are tortured in their graves. But many take this affair as a light one, and how easy is it for us to find the people spreading tales and statements amongst one another sowing seeds of enmity and division amongst the ranks of the *salafees*. In it is evident evil and the Messenger of Allaah here has warned us from it with a most severe warning.

The Messenger of Allaah (*sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam*) also said in a *hadeeth* collected by Muslim on the authority of Ibn Mas'ood, "Should I not tell you what falsehood is? It is the 'he said, she said' [that is carried] between the people."

In this narration the Messenger of Allaah (*sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam*) has shown us that the carrying of tales and 'he said, she said' is from falsehood and Allaah and His Messenger have forbidden us from speaking falsehood in many narrations. We must be people of truth, honour, upright and free from all forms of falsehood.

There is a *hadeeth* collected by Imaam Ahmad on the authority of Mu'aawiyah (*radiyallaahu 'anhu*) that he said, "I heard the Messenger of Allaah forbid 'he said, she said', excessive questioning, and the wasting of money."

And the narration in Ahmad authenticated by Al-Muhaddith Al-Albaanee on the authority of Aboo Hurayrah (*radiyallaahu 'anhu*) that he said, "Indeed Allaah is pleased with three things for you and hates for you three things. He is pleased that you worship Him alone ascribing no partners with Him, that you hold on altogether to the Rope of Allaah and not divide, and that you advise those who Allaah has placed in authority over you, and He hates for you 'he said, she said', excessive questioning, and the wasting of money."

### **THE ADVICE OF AL-'ALLAAMAH RABEE IBN HADEE AL-MADKHALEE ON THE FITNAH OF 'HE SAID, SHE SAID':**

In the advice of our *Shaykh*, Rabee' Ibn Haadee to the *salafiyyeen* of the West, he said,

“What I wanted to warn you about at this time is an abundance of ‘he said, she said’, for indeed it is the most harmful of affairs, and has the most evil of consequences... Indeed an abundance of ‘he said, she said’ leads to *fitan* (trials and tribulation). The Messenger of Allaah (*sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam*) said, “Whoever believes in Allaah and the Last Day then let him say good or remain quiet.” So do not speak except with good, and do not speak except with that which will benefit the people, and beware of speaking with falsehood and oppression, and it is upon you to be truthful in spreading the call to Allaah, advising your brothers, advising the believers, the common-folk from them and the leaders, be diligent upon that which will benefit you, and love for your brother what you love for yourself, for indeed we have seen very dangerous effects upon the *salafee* youth when they were engrossed in ‘he said, she said’, and some of them went beyond the bounds in this affair (‘he said, she said’), so it has led to what you see now, so beware of everything that causes division and splitting especially ‘he said, she said’...”

In this most tremendous advice of our *shaykh*, we can see that which has helped to create this environment of hatred and splitting amongst the ranks of the Salafees is the ‘he said, she said’ between the people. This ‘he said, she said’ is indeed a trial upon us, so it is upon us to beware of it and to warn our brothers who engage in it to fear Allaah and to not indulge in this and thus become a helper to *shaytaan* over our brothers. Allaah says in the Qur’aan,

**“And help one another upon piety and righteousness and do not help one another upon sin and transgression.”** [Sooratul-‘Asr, 103:3]

So listening to this ‘he said, she said’ is helping one’s brother upon sin and transgression and we have been commanded in this verse not aid one another in sin. Rather it is upon us to enjoin the good and forbid the evil. Allaah says,

**“You are the best of nations raised up for mankind enjoining the good and forbidding the evil and believing in Allaah.”** [Soorah Aali-Imraan, 3:110]

And the Messenger of Allaah said in the *hadeeth* collected in Saheeh Muslim, “Whoever from you who sees an evil then let him change it with his hand, and if he is unable then let him change it with his tongue, and if he is unable then let him hate it in his heart, and this is the weakest of faith.”

When one hears his brother sinning and transgressing by spreading tales and speaking of ‘he said, she said’ amongst the people then let him say to his brother, “The Messenger of Allaah said: “Whoever believes in Allaah and the Last Day then let him say good or remain quiet.” Or at the least one should remove himself from the sittings of ‘he said, she said’ and the tale carrying from the statement of Allaah,

**“And if they come upon vain speech, they pass by graciously [not involving themselves in it nor listening].” [Sooratul-Qasas, 28:55]”**

So it is a must that we concern ourselves with the lofty and noble affairs and leave off the lowly and trivial ones. The Messenger of Allaah (*sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam*) said, “Indeed Allaah loves the lofty and noble affairs and hates the lowly and trifling ones.”

May Allaah bless all of us and protect us from every evil and hated thing and make us from the means of unity amongst the Salafees.

