
Sunan Abī Dāwūd [4888]



Commentaries by Ash-Shaykh Al-‘Uthaymīn, Ḥāfiz
Ṣalāḥuddīn Yūsuf and Ibn Athīr رحمه الله

By Abū Muḥammad ‘Abd Allāh

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

All praise and thanks be to Allāh alone, the One, the Almighty, and the All-Merciful. Blessings and peace be upon Prophet Muḥammad, the last of His Messengers and Prophets, and upon his family, his Companions and all those who follow in his footsteps until the end of time.

We ask Allāh to make this a source of benefit for us and our deceased family members, and accept this little effort in serving the ḥadīth of our beloved Messenger (peace and blessings of Allāh be upon him), and may He enable us to achieve this task with all sincerity.

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تَخْرِيجُ الْحَدِيثِ

حَدَّثَنَا عِيسَى بْنُ مُحَمَّدٍ الرَّمْلِيُّ، وَابْنُ عَوْفٍ، وَهَذَا لَفْظُهُ قَالَا: حَدَّثَنَا الْفَرِيَابِيُّ، عَنْ سُفْيَانَ، عَنْ ثَوْرٍ، عَنْ رَاشِدِ بْنِ سَعْدٍ، عَنْ مُعَاوِيَةَ، قَالَ: سَمِعْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَقُولُ: إِنَّكَ إِنْ اتَّبَعْتَ عَوْرَاتِ النَّاسِ أَفْسَدْتَهُمْ، أَوْ كِدْتَ أَنْ تُفْسِدَهُمْ

فَقَالَ أَبُو الدَّرْدَاءِ: كَلِمَةٌ سَمِعَهَا مُعَاوِيَةُ مِنْ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ نَفَعَهُ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى بِهَا

Narrated Mu'āwiyah (may Allāh be pleased with them both): I heard the Messenger of Allāh (peace and blessings of Allāh be upon him) say: **“If you search for the faults of the people, you will corrupt them, or will nearly corrupt them.”**

Abū Dardā' said: These are the words which Mu'āwiyah himself from the Messenger of Allāh (peace and blessings of Allāh be upon him), and Allāh benefited him by them.

Commentary by Ash-Shaykh Al-'Uthaymīn (may Allāh have mercy upon him): These aḥādīth are among the aḥādīth highlighting the prohibition of spying on one's Muslim brothers. He should not seek their secrets; rather, he should relate with them according to what is apparent from their lives. As for that which is not apparent, it is not permissible for a Muslim to spy or probe into other people's lives as contained in the hadeeth of of Mu'āwiyah (may Allāh be pleased with him) that a person who finds faults with Muslims will corrupt them or bring them close to destruction. This is because most matters are between a slave and his Lord, with the knowledge of no one. If none has found out some of those secrets, the veil of Allāh – the Mighty and Sublime – will remain on them and the person may be able to repent to his Lord – the Mighty and Sublime, and improve his condition. Thus, no one would have discovered his secrets.

However, when a person, refuge is with Allāh, seeks the faults of others by snooping, he will began to spy whenever a secret is mentioned to him. He may go about it in clear terms or employ cunning means by saying, for instance, ‘They said so-and-so said such-and-such,’ or ‘He did this-and-that.’ Thus, he will begin to spread the person's defects in the presence of the people, refuge is with Allāh.

It is reported in a ḥadīth that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allāh be upon him) said: **“O assembly of those who believe with their tongue with no faith in their hearts! You should not harm the Muslims and do not seek for their secrets. Whoever looks for the secrets of his brother,**

Allāh will look for his secrets. And whoever Allāh looks for his secrets will be exposed by Him even if he is in his house.” ⁽¹⁾

عَنْ أَبِي بَرزَةَ الْأَسْلَمِيِّ، قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: يَا مَعْشَرَ مَنْ آمَنَ بِلِسَانِهِ، وَلَمْ يَدْخُلِ
الْإِيمَانُ قَلْبَهُ، لَا تَغْتَابُوا الْمُسْلِمِينَ، وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا عَوْرَاتِهِمْ، فَإِنَّهُ مَنْ اتَّبَعَ عَوْرَاتِهِمْ يَتَّبِعِ اللَّهُ عَوْرَتَهُ، وَمَنْ
يَتَّبِعِ اللَّهُ عَوْرَتَهُ يَفْضَحْهُ فِي بَيْتِهِ

Allāh will look for the faults of the one who looks for other people's fault in order to expose them, we ask Allāh for well-being. Walls and curtains will not be of any benefit for such person. ⁽²⁾

Commentary by Ḥāfiz Ṣalāḥuddīn Yūsuf (may Allāh have mercy upon him): If a Muslim looks for the defects of another and hunts for his weaknesses, other Muslims will also adopt the same attitude towards him, and this situation will create dissension and conflict in society. This also will make them fall prey to sins and make them persistent in committing them. For this reason, spying and finding faults with Muslims has been prohibited by Sharī’ah. ⁽³⁾

Ibn Athīr (may Allāh have mercy upon him) said: “If you falsely accuse people and publicly announce them as probably guilty of offenses, that makes them do what they are accused of and they become corrupted.” Being cheerful to people rejects falsely accusing them and spreading evil about them while they are actually innocent. ⁽⁴⁾

Source: Sunan Abī Dāwūd 4888, Book 43, Chapter 44, Ḥadīth no. 116

Book [43]: Book of General Behavior (Kitāb Al-Adab)

Chapter [44]: Regarding spying

Takhrīj

- Musnad Abī Ya’lā (7389 (2019/1))
- Musnad Shāmīn (473 (272/1))
- Ṣaḥīḥ At-Targhīb (2342 (589/2))
- Ṣaḥīḥ Ibn Ḥibbān (5760 (72-73/13))
- Ṣaḥīḥ Mawārid Az-Zamān (1249 (59/2))
- Bayḥaqī’s Sunan Al-Kubrā (17623 (578/8))
- Shu’ab Al-Īmān (9212 (159-160/12))
- Al-Mu’jam Al-Kabīr (890 (379/19))
- Sharḥ As-Sunnah (106/13)
- Ḥilyat Al-Awliyā’ (117/6)
- Kanz Al-‘Ummāl (14356 (776/5))

(1) Sunan Abī Dāwūd (4880), Musnad Aḥmad (19776 & 19801), Ṣaḥīḥ At-Targhīb (2340 (589/2)), Ṣaḥīḥ Al-Jāmi’ (7984 (1322-1323/2)), and others.

(2) [(293-294/6), no. 1571-1572, Riyāḍ Us Ṣāliḥīn, Dārussalām (Eng)]

(3) [(1175/2), Riyāḍ Us Ṣāliḥīn, Dārussalām (Eng)]

(4) [(174-175/1), Al-Adab Al-Mufrad, Dakwah Corner Publications (Eng)]

- Kanz Al-‘Ummāl (14639 (16/6))
- Kanz Al-‘Ummāl (14784 (46/6))
- Al-Ādāb Ash-Shar’īyah (300/1)
- Al-Adab Al-Mufrad (248 (93/1))
- Mishkāṭ Al-Maṣābīḥ (3709)
- Riyāḍ Us Ṣāliḥīn (1571)
- Ṣaḥīḥ Al-Jāmi’ (2295 (455/1))
- Ghāyah Al-Marām (424 (242/1))

Grade

- **Ṣaḥīḥ** by Shaykh Al-Albānī (Sunan Abī Dawūd, Ṣaḥīḥ At-Targhīb, Ṣaḥīḥ Al-Jāmi’, Ṣaḥīḥ Mawārid Az-Zamān & Ghāyah Al-Marām)
- **Ṣaḥīḥ** by Ḥāfiz Zubāir ‘Alī Za’ī (Sunan Abī Dāwūd & Mishkāṭ Al-Maṣābīḥ)
- **Ṣaḥīḥ Isnād** by Shu’ayb Al Arna’ūt (Sunan Abī Dāwūd, Ṣaḥīḥ Ibn Ḥibbān & Al-Ādāb Ash-Shar’īyah)

