

## **Warning Against Disclosing Secrets**

### **First Sermon**

All praise is due to Allah; we praise Him, seek His help, and seek His forgiveness. We seek refuge with Allah from the evils within ourselves and from the consequences of our deeds. Whomever Allah guides will never be led astray, and whomever He leaves astray will never find a guide. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah alone, without any partners, and I bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and messenger, may peace and blessings be upon him and his family.

To proceed:

Fear Allah, be conscious of Him, obey Him, and do not disobey Him, O servants of Allah. Allah, the Exalted, has favored Islam over other false religions. There is no religion more complete or excellent than Islam; it addresses the needs of the individual, the community, the young, and the old. Allah, the Most High, says, "This day I have perfected for you your religion and completed My favor upon you, and have approved for you Islam as a religion." (Quran, 5:3)

Islam came to emphasize unity, to discourage division, and to reject hatred and animosity among Muslims. The Prophet, peace be upon him, said, "The example of the believers in their affection, mercy, and compassion for each other is that of a body. When any limb aches, the whole body reacts with sleeplessness and fever." (Bukhari and Muslim)

One of the noble virtues and commendable qualities that Islam emphasizes is the preservation of secrets. Secrets are trusts and commitments that must be safeguarded. Allah, the Exalted, commands, "Indeed, Allah commands you to render trusts to whom they are due." (Quran, 4:58) Ibn Kathir, may Allah have mercy on him, commented, "Allah has commanded their fulfillment, and whoever fails to do so in this world will be held accountable for it on the Day of Judgment." (Tafsir Ibn Kathir)

The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, encouraged the preservation and confidentiality of secrets. He said, "When a man talks and then turns away, it is a trust." (Reported by At-Tirmidhi, and deemed good by Al-Albani) The phrase "then turns away" implies that the person speaking is concerned about someone overhearing the conversation. Thus, turning away serves as an indication to keep the matter confidential.

Revealing a secret is a betrayal of trust, an infringement on privacy, and harm to the one entrusted with the secret. Allah has forbidden it, saying, "O you who have believed, do not betray Allah and the Messenger or betray your trusts while you know." (Quran, 8:27)

When gossip accompanies the disclosure of secrets, the sin becomes even greater. The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, said, "The gossipmonger will not enter Paradise." (Agreed upon)

Preserving secrets is a great character trait, achievable only by those with high moral standards who are mindful of Allah in their actions, adhere to His *Hudud* (limits), and fear His punishment.

The best of creatures after the prophets, the Companions, may Allah be pleased with them, held a high position in safeguarding secrets. Anas bin Malik, may Allah be pleased with him, narrated, "The Messenger of Allah, peace be upon him, came to me while I was playing with some boys. He greeted us and then sent me on an errand. When I delayed returning, my mother asked, 'What caused you to delay?' I replied, 'The Messenger of Allah, peace be upon him, sent me for a need.' She asked, 'What was his need?' I said, 'It is a secret.' She advised, 'Do not disclose the secret of the Messenger of Allah, peace be upon him, to anyone.' (Reported by Muslim)

Anas, may Allah be pleased with him, kept a secret from his mother despite the known importance of maternal rights in Islam. In this hadith, there is a lesson in etiquette regarding not prying into others' secrets and a keenness not to divulge them. When Anas, may Allah be pleased with him, mentioned to his mother that it was a secret, she advised, "Do not disclose the secret of the Messenger of Allah, peace be upon him, to anyone." (Narrated by Muslim)

Abdullah bin Jafar, may Allah be pleased with him, narrated that one day Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) mounted me behind him and narrated to me something in secret which I would narrate to none amongst people. (Narrated by Muslim)

Preserving secrets among people enhances love and brotherhood, extinguishing the flames of gossip and animosity. Hearts can only truly bond when secrets are kept. A neighbor cannot feel secure if trust is breached, secrets are exposed, and privacy is violated. A neighbor may know secrets that even a brother does not, and when people live close

without this great virtue of preserving secrets, hatred increases, animosity abounds, and the rights prescribed by Allah are neglected.

When Hafsa bint Umar's husband passed away, Umar approached Abu Bakr, saying, "If you wish, I can marry you to Hafsa bint Umar." Abu Bakr remained silent. Later, the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, proposed to Hafsa, and Abu Bakr said to Umar, "Perhaps you found me hesitant when you suggested Hafsa. I did not respond to you because I learned that the Prophet, peace be upon him, had mentioned her. I would not disclose a secret of the Messenger of Allah, peace be upon him. If he had left her, I would have accepted." (Narrated by Al-Bukhari)

Disclosing secrets and revealing people's flaws only lead to envy, hatred, resentment, and animosity. Safeguarding secrets is a trust, as Allah says, "And fulfill every commitment. Indeed, the commitment is ever [that about which one will be] questioned." (Quran, 17:34) The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, mentioned that treachery in fulfilling commitments is a characteristic of hypocrites. (Agreed upon)

Only a trustworthy person can keep secrets, and it is a sign of integrity and nobility. Those who preserve secrets find an increase in love among people and an elevation in their status before Allah.

`A'isha (may Allah be pleased with her) reported that all the wives of Allah's Apostle (ﷺ) had gathered (in her apartment) during the days of his (Prophet's) last illness and no woman was left behind that Fatima, who walked after the style of Allah's Messenger (ﷺ), came there. He welcomed her by saying: You are welcome, my daughter, and made her sit on his right side or on his left side, and then talked something secretly to her and Fatima wept. Then he talked something secretly to her and she laughed. I

said to her: What makes you weep? She said: I am not going to divulge the secret of Allah's Messenger (ﷺ). I (ʿA'isha) said: I have not seen (anything happening) like today, the happiness being more close to grief (as I see today) when she wept. I said to her: Has Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) singled you out for saying something leaving us aside? She then wept and I asked her what he said, and she said: I am not going to divulge the secrets of Allah's Messenger (ﷺ). (Agreed upon)

These are examples of safeguarding secrets during the time of the righteous companions, their hearts became pure, and they were obedient to Allah's command. Thus, they deserved Allah's praise for being truthful (*Sadiqeen*).

Allah presented an example in His Noble Book: "And Allah presents an example of those who disbelieved: the wife of Noah and the wife of Lot. They were under two of Our righteous servants but betrayed them" (Quran 66:10)

The betrayal of the woman to Lot was that she used to inform her people about the guest of Lot, peace be upon him, and Lot would secretly host them. (Tafsir al-Tabari)

When Yusuf (Joseph) informed his father, Prophet Ya'qub (Jacob), about his dream, Ya'qub advised him not to narrate it to his brothers. Yusuf kept the secret until he became a high-ranking official in Egypt. When he disclosed the interpretation, he mentioned that Allah had established it as true. Ibn Kathir explained, "This indicates the importance of keeping blessings secret until they are evident and revealed by Allah."

It is necessary to safeguard secrets, and revealing them is prohibited, except with the consent of the secret keeper or in the presence of a

significant benefit. The Companions, may Allah be pleased with them, informed about some matters after the death of the Prophet, fearing the concealment of knowledge.

Among the greatest betrayal and worst moral conduct is the disclosure of marital secrets, especially concerning intimate matters. Allah, Glorified be He, says: "So the righteous women are devoutly obedient, guarding in [the husband's] absence what Allah would have them guard." Spouses must preserve their secrets and keep each other's flaws confidential, even in the case of divorce and separation. It is never permissible to divulge secrets or expose faults unless there is a recognized benefit known to the people of knowledge, such as discussing issues in front of a judge for arbitration.

The Prophet, peace be upon him, warned against the severe consequences of a man revealing his wife's secrets: "Indeed, among the worst people before Allah on the Day of Resurrection is a man who is intimate with his wife, and she is intimate with him, then he spreads her secrets." (Reported by Muslim)

After this, O Muslim!

Prevention is better than cure. You should know that you are the most trustworthy regarding your secret, and people rely on you to keep their secrets. The Quran and Sunnah emphasize this; for instance, the Prophet, peace be upon him, would keep the destination of a military expedition a secret. Allah mentioned the story of Pharaoh, where a believer from his family concealed his faith.

Beware of sharing your secret with anyone. Ibn al-Jawzi said, "A strong person is one who does not exceed the boundaries of his secret and does not reveal it to anyone." He also said, "Many a secret led to destruction when revealed."

If one needs consultation, it should be sought only from a trustworthy person whose faith prevents them from disclosing secrets. Consultation should only be with someone of sound judgment and clear mind. If one cannot find a trustworthy person to consult, then keep the secret within and seek help from Allah in fulfilling one's needs and relieving distress.

May Allah bless you and us with the guidance of the great Quran and benefit us with the teachings of the leader of the messengers. I say what you hear, and I seek forgiveness from Allah for myself, you, and all Muslims, so seek His forgiveness, for He is the Most Forgiving, Most Merciful.

## Second Sermon

All praise is due to Allah for His goodness, and thanks to Him for His guidance and blessings. I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, alone, without partners. In glorification of His Majesty, I also bear witness that our Prophet Muhammad is His servant and Messenger. May Allah's peace and blessings be upon him, his family, his Companions, and those who follow them in righteousness until the Day of Judgment.

Now, to proceed:

If a servant's secret is a sin between him and Allah, it is imperative upon him to keep it concealed, and it becomes forbidden for him to speak about the sin to anyone, as Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said, "Every one of my followers will be forgiven except those who expose (openly) their wrongdoings. An example of this is that of a man who commits a sin at night which Allah has covered for him, and in the morning, he would say (to people): 'I committed such and such sin last night,' while Allah had kept it a secret. During the night Allah has covered it up but in the morning he tears up the cover provided by Allah Himself." (Agreed upon)

So, guard your secrets, and know that, as long as it remains in the heart and is not uttered by the tongue, it is within the servant's control. However, once the secret leaves the heart and is spoken by the tongue, the servant loses control over it. Therefore, strive to never disclose your secrets. If necessary, seek someone trustworthy to confide in.

If someone entrusted with people's secrets betrays that trust or causes harm to them, they fall under the severe warning of Allah. The Prophet,



peace be upon him, said: "Every Muslim is inviolable to another Muslim: his blood, his property, and his honor." (Agreed upon)

O servants of Allah!

Is there in the world a religion that cares about the details of people's lives, respects their feelings, and preserves their bonds like the religion of Islam? Allah, the Most High, says: "So is it other than the religion of Allah they desire, while to Him have submitted [all] those within the heavens and earth, willingly or by compulsion, and to Him they will be returned?" (Quran, 3:83)

Then know that Allah has commanded you to send blessings and peace upon His Prophet, as He said: "Indeed, Allah and His angels send blessings upon the Prophet. O you who have believed, ask [ Allah to confer] blessing upon him and ask [ Allah to grant him] peace." (Quran, 33:56)

O Allah, send blessings, peace, and grace upon our Prophet Muhammad. O Allah, be pleased with the righteous Caliphs, the companions, the followers, and those who follow them in excellence until the Day of Judgment. O Allah, strengthen Islam and the Muslims, humiliate disbelief and the disbelievers, destroy the enemies of the religion, and make this city secure and peaceful, as well as all the lands of the Muslims. O Allah, make us secure in our homelands, rectify our leaders and those in authority.

O Allah, guide our leader to what You love and are pleased with, and hold him firmly to righteousness and piety.

O Allah, relieve the distress of the afflicted among the Muslims. O Allah, alleviate the suffering of our brothers everywhere. O Allah, grant them victory and support. O Allah, have mercy on our brothers in Gaza. O Allah, deal with their enemy and their enemy's enemy. O Allah, disperse their gathering, divide their unity, and sow discord among them. O Allah, protect the lives and honor of the Muslims.

{سُبْحَانَ رَبِّكَ رَبِّ الْعِزَّةِ عَمَّا يَصِفُونَ، وَسَلَامٌ عَلَى الْمُرْسَلِينَ، وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ}

[Glory be to Your Lord, the Lord of Honor, above what they describe, and peace be upon the messengers. Praise be to Allah, the Lord of all the worlds.]