



The General Presidency for the Affairs of
the Grand Holy Mosque and the Prophet's Holy Mosque

Translation of the Two Holy Mosques Khutbahs
A Joint Project



Al-Imam Muhammad Ibn Saud Islamic University
College of Languages and Translation

[25-6-35 – B – Al Ash-Sheikh]

The Effects of Rumours on the *Ummah*

His Eminence Sheikh Hussein ibn Abdul-Aziz Al Ash-Sheikh, may Allah preserve him, delivered the Friday *khutbah* entitled, “The Effects of Rumours on the *Ummah*”, in which he talked about the phenomenon of rumours, which is becoming more widespread day after day. He warned against reporting or spreading any information without verifying it, noting that this is the right way that Allah has shown us and also the guidance of the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him.

Part One

Praise be to Allah. We praise Him and seek His help and forgiveness. We seek refuge in Allah from the evil within ourselves and from our wrong deeds. He whom Allah guides, none can misguide, and he whom Allah sends astray, none can guide. I bear witness that there is no god but Allah alone, Who has no partners, and I bear witness that our prophet, Muhammad, is His servant and messenger.

﴿O you who believe! Fear Allah (by doing all that He has ordered and by abstaining from all that He has forbidden) as He should be feared. [Obey Him, be thankful to Him, and remember Him always], and die not except in a state of Islam [as Muslims (with complete submission to Allah)].﴾ (Al ‘Imran: 102)

﴿O mankind! Be dutiful to your Lord, Who created you from a single person (Adam), and from him (Adam) He created his wife [Hawwa’ (Eve)], and from them both He created many men and women; and fear Allah through Whom you demand (your mutual rights), and (do not cut the relations of) the wombs (kinship). Surely, Allah is Ever an All-Watcher over you.﴾ (An-Nisa’: 1)

﴿O you who believe! Keep your duty to Allah and fear Him, and speak (always) the truth. He will direct you to do righteous good deeds and will forgive you your sins. And whosoever obeys Allah and His Messenger (peace and



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blessings be upon him), he has indeed achieved a great achievement (i.e. he will be saved from the Hell-fire and will be admitted to Paradise).﴾ (Al-Ahzab: 70-71)

O Muslims!

In view of the current developments in the media as well as the social changes and other transformations that the world is witnessing in various fields, a serious social phenomenon has emerged, namely, the phenomenon of rumours, which means spreading information among individuals and societies without having any clear or conclusive evidence as to its truth. News is sometimes broadcast without verification in conditions of uncertainty and confusion, thus causing fear, panic, and disturbance among people, which has negative effects on individuals, societies, and nations.

No wonder this is the case, O Muslims, for there are different reasons and motives behind the spread of rumours. The most serious of all these is that they are used by the enemies to fight the *Ummah*'s religion and worldly life, security and safety, and prosperity and stability in times of peace and in times of war. Such malicious rumours are spread when there is a fertile soil for their growth, circulating in the appropriate environment and under suitable circumstances, with a view to achieving evil goals and realising unscrupulous ends, especially in this day and age of ours. Therefore, false rumours are the weapon of hypocrites and alarmists, about whom Allah, Majesty and Glory be to Him, says:

﴿If the hypocrites, and those in whose hearts is a disease (evil desire for illegal sex), and those who spread false news among the people in Al-Madinah, stop not, We shall certainly let you overpower them: then they will not be able to stay in it as your neighbours but a little while. Accursed ...﴾ (Al-Ahzab: 60-61)

Fellow Muslims!

Many are those rumours that have worn away the body of the Muslim *Ummah* and damaged its activities, thus helping achieve the aims of the enemies of Islam and serve their evil goals and malicious objectives. It is for this reason that Islamic law set forth clear guidelines to protect society against whatever is bound to cause harm to it or give rise to its corruption. These include fighting the various types of false rumours and combating the broadcast of false news. To this end, Islam commands its followers to avoid saying or writing anything without having evidence for its truth or authenticity. Allah, Majesty and Glory be to Him, says:



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﴿And follow not (O man i.e., say not, or do not or witness not) that of which you have no knowledge. Verily! The hearing, and the sight, and the heart, of each of those one will be questioned (by Allah).﴾ (Al-Isra': 36)

Religious texts have warned against all kinds of lies, including reporting rumours while one knows they are false, and reporting information that is based on mere lies, conjecture, and doubts. Allah, Exalted be He, says,

﴿O you who believe! Be afraid of Allah, and be with those who are true (in words and deeds).﴾ (At-Tawbah: 119)

The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, said, "... and telling lies leads to wickedness, and wickedness leads to Hellfire."

Brothers in Islam!

Spreading information without verifying its truth is forbidden in Islam and abhorred by human nature and social norms. So many are those incidents where the circulation of false news has given rise to serious damage and great evils; hence the decisive Divine warning against circulating unfounded information for which there is no evidence or proof:

﴿Not a word does he (or she) utter, but there is a watcher by him ready (to record it).﴾ (Qaf: 18)

Our Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, said, "He has committed enough sins who relates all that he hears" (Reported by Muslim). Another version of the *hadith* reads, "He has told enough lies who relates all that he hears."

Fellow Muslims!

Beware of helping circulate any information whose truth has not been proved and whose correctness has not been ascertained. Doing so is a type of spreading falsehood. Describing the obedient servants of the Most Gracious, Allah, Majesty and Glory be to Him, says:

﴿And those who do not bear witness to falsehood ...﴾ (Al-Furqan: 72)

Our Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, said, "Shall I not inform you about the gravest of all the major sins?" The companions replied, "Yes, O Allah's Messenger!" He said, "Associating partners with Allah and showing disobedience to parents." He was reclining, then he sat up and added, "And giving false testimony,



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and making false statements.” He kept repeating this so much so that the Companions wished that he had stopped (out of compassion for the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him).

Reporting false news and spreading unfounded stories only serve to delude Muslims and deceive the believers. Our Messenger, peace and blessings be upon him, said in an agreed upon *hadith*, “A Muslim is the one from whose tongue and hands the Muslims are safe.”

O Muslims!

Passing on news by way of hearsay is a practice that is totally rejected in Islam, no matter under which circumstances or in what manner it is done. It is reported in *Sahih Al-Bukhari* and *Sahih Muslim* that the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, forbade useless talk based on hearsay. One version of the *hadith* reads, “... He [Allah, Glorified be He] disapproves for you useless talk based on hearsay ...” (Reported by Muslim).

Therefore, O Muslims, beware of saying or writing anything that is bound to spread unfounded information so that you may be safe and earn reward; otherwise, you will be committing an obvious sin and telling a great lie, which will not benefit you in your worldly life and will negatively affect your religion.

It is reported in *Sunan Abi-Dawud* with an authenticated chain of transmission that the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, said, “How bad it is for a man to keep saying, ‘*They claim...*!’” It is also reported in *Sahih Muslim* that the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, said, “He who attributes a *hadith* to me which he deems false [i.e. which he believes to be false] is one of the liars.”

Brothers in Islam!

A Muslim should adopt a firm stance on rumours which are passed on without evidence and should take the right course of action in this regard. He must take care not to circulate the various statements whose truth he cannot verify. The stance he ought to take is to follow the way that Allah, Exalted be He, has shown us and abide by the guidance of the Chosen Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, in this respect. Allah, Majesty and Glory be to Him, says:

«Had it not been for the Grace of Allah and His Mercy to you in this world and in the Hereafter, a great torment would have touched you for that whereof you had spoken. When you were propagating it with your tongues, and uttering with your mouths that whereof you had no



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knowledge, you counted it a little thing, while with Allah it was very great.﴾ (An-Nur: 14-15)

Allah, Majesty and Glory be to Him, also says:

﴿When there comes to them some matter touching (public) safety or fear, they make it known (among the people); if only they had referred it to the Messenger (peace and blessings be upon him) or to those charged with authority among them, the proper investigators would have understood it from them (directly). Had it not been for the Grace and Mercy of Allah upon you, you would have followed *Shaitan* (Satan), save a few of you.﴾ (An-Nisa': 83)

O Muslims!

Your stance should be based upon the principle of ascertainment and verification and you must not hasten to disseminate any information for which there is no evidence. Allah, Majesty and Glory be to Him, says:

﴿O you who believe! If a *Fasiq* (liar – evil person) comes to you with any news, verify it, lest you should harm people in ignorance, and afterwards you become regretful for what you have done.﴾ (Al-Hujurat: 6)

It is authenticated that the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, said, "Deliberation is from Allah, and haste is from Satan." Al-Hasan Al-Basri, may Allah have mercy upon him, said, "A believer reserves judgment until he verifies things."

For a Muslim to achieve full safety and security, he should avoid indulging in spreading lies and passing on false information. As for the rumours that are spread about fellow Muslims, particularly those who are known for their integrity, the Muslim community is required to act upon the teachings of the Qur'an and adhere to its prudent instructions in this regard.

﴿Why then, did not the believers, men and women, when you heard it (the slander) think good of their own people and say: "This (charge) is an obvious lie?"﴾ (An-Nur: 12)

Allah, Majesty and Glory be to Him, also says:



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﴿And why did you not, when you heard it, say: "It is not right for us to speak of this. Glorified are You (O Allah)! This is a great lie.﴾ (An-Nur: 16)

A Muslim must avoid all the means of spreading evil statements or passing on scandalous news, especially nowadays, when almost every Muslim has access to these devices that have spread among people, and when Satan may tempt him into abusing such devices to the detriment of his religion and worldly affairs.

Therefore, O Muslims, fear Allah, for you have only been created to obey Allah, Majesty and Glory be to Him. A Muslim can only be safe from committing great sins and perpetrating grave errors when all his body parts, including the tongue, are watchful and fearful of Allah, Majesty and Glory be to Him, and when he realizes that every word he utters is recorded in his book of deeds. Allah, Majesty and Glory be to Him, says:

﴿Verily, those who like that (the crime of) illegal sexual intercourse should be propagated among those who believe, they will have a painful torment in this world and in the Hereafter. ...﴾ (An-Nur: 19)

Scholars say, "This verse is one of the fundamentals whereby all types of evil can be blocked and prevented from spreading so that no eye may see them, no ear may hear them, and no tongue may utter them." This is the kind of community that Allah, Glorified and exalted be He, likes Muslims to live in.

Therefore, O Muslims, fear Allah, Majesty and Glory be to Him, and adhere to the rules of His Words (the Qur'an) and the guidance of His Messenger, peace and blessings be upon him, and you will attain happiness in this world and in the hereafter.

May Allah bless you and me with the Qur'an and make us benefit from its verses and clear guidance. I have said what you have heard, and I ask forgiveness of Allah for myself, for you, and for all Muslims, for any sin we have committed. Ask Allah for forgiveness. He is the Oft-Forgiving, the Most Merciful.



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Part Two

Praise be to Allah alone. I bear witness that there is no god but Allah alone, Who has no partners in this life or in the afterlife, and I bear witness that our prophet, Muhammad, is His servant and messenger, through whom Allah has opened closed hearts, blind eyes, and deaf ears. O Allah! Bestow Your prayers, peace, and blessings upon him and upon his family and faithful, pious Companions.

O Muslims!

Fear Allah as He should be feared. Fear Allah, for Allah protects those who fear Him, grants them happiness, and never makes them miserable.

O Muslims!

The phenomenon of rumours is in fact a disease that threatens the life of society. The creation of rumours has now become an organized activity that is based on well-calculated foundations and that has well-defined goals, using modern media to make rumours spread like wildfire. The duty of the Muslim community, to which the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, showed the way of salvation and success, is to combat all types of rumours and nip them in the bud according to the above-mentioned Islamic instructions.

Those in charge of the Muslim media should also fear Allah, Majesty and Glory be to Him, and adhere to the right standards by reporting only accurate news and by verifying it before it is broadcast. Media men are answerable to Allah, Majesty and Glory be to Him, for this *Ummah* and are entrusted with the thoughts, minds, safety, and security of Muslims, and whoever neglects the trust placed in him will certainly fail and lose everything:

﴿O you who believe! Betray not Allah and His Messenger, nor betray knowingly your *Amanat* (things entrusted to you, and all the duties which Allah has ordained for you).﴾
(Al-Anfal: 27)

Allah, Majesty and Glory be to Him, has commanded us to do a glorious deed, namely, to invoke His peace and blessings upon the Noble Prophet.

O Allah! Bestow Your peace and blessings upon our beloved prophet and the joy of our eyes, Muhammad. O Allah! Be pleased with the Rightly-Guided Caliphs and Imams, Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman, and Ali, along with Your Prophet's family and all his Companions, the Muslim contemporaries of the Companions after the death of the Prophet (*Tabi'un*), and those who follow them in righteousness until the Day of Judgment.



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O Allah! Guide all Muslims to what You love and accept. O Allah! Guide all Muslims to what You love and accept. O Allah! Keep all Muslim societies firm on the *Sunnah* of Your Chosen Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him.

O Allah! Make whoever harbours evil intentions towards us and towards Islam and Muslims preoccupied with his own problems. O Allah! Make whoever harbours evil intentions towards us and towards Islam and Muslims preoccupied with his own problems.

O Allah! Grant safety and security to all Muslims. O Allah! Grant safety and security to all Muslims. O Allah! Grant safety and security to all Muslims, O Most Merciful! O Most Gracious! O Allah! Guide them to do what serves their religion as well as their worldly affairs, O Ever-Living! O Self-Subsisting! O Allah! Gather them around the word of truth. O Allah! Gather them around the word of truth. O Allah! Help those who have gone astray among them return to the Qur'an and the *Sunnah*. O Allah! Help those who have gone astray among them return to the Qur'an and the *Sunnah*. O Allah! O Ever-Living! O Self-Subsisting!

O Allah! Forgive the sins all believers, men and women, and the sins of all Muslims, men and women, living and dead.

O Allah! Make the best among Muslims the ones who rule them. O Allah! Make the best among Muslims the ones who rule them. O Allah! Make the best among Muslims the ones who rule them.

O Allah! Guide our ruler to what You love and accept. O Allah! Guide him and guide his two Deputies to what You love and accept.

O Allah! Protect this country. O Allah! Protect this country. O Allah! Protect this country and all Muslim Countries. O Allah! Protect it and all Muslim countries from the enemy's plots. O Allah! Protect it from the enemy's plots. O Allah! Protect all Muslim countries from the enemy's plots.

O Allah! Protect Muslims. O Allah! Spare their blood and protect their property and honour. O Allah! Confer Your favour upon us by sparing the blood and protecting the safety of all Muslims. O Allah! Confer Your favour upon Muslims by sparing their blood and protecting their property and safety, O Ever-Living! O Self-Subsisting! O Owner of Majesty and Honour!

O Allah! Muslims have been inflicted by harm in some countries. O Allah! relieve their distress. O Allah! You know that better than we do, so relieve their distress. O Allah! Relieve their distress. O Allah! Remove their afflictions. O Allah! Remove their afflictions, O Owner of Majesty and Honour!



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O Allah! Give us in this world that which is good and in the Hereafter that which is good, and save us from the torment of the Fire.

O Allah! Send down rain upon us. O Allah! Send down rain upon us. O Allah! Send down rain upon all Muslims. O Allah! Send down rain upon all Muslim lands. O Allah! Grant us rain. O Allah! Grant us rain. O Allah! Grant us rain. O Allah! Let the rain bring forth mercy with it. O Allah! Let the rain bring forth mercy with it. O Allah! Let the rain bring forth mercy with it, O Ever-Living! O Self-Subsisting! O Owner of Majesty and Honour! O Free from all wants! O All-Praiseworthy!

Servants of Allah!

Remember Allah much and glorify Him morning and evening.