

## THE TONGUE

The Messenger of Allaah (saw) said, ***“The son of Adam (as) wakes up, and the whole body makes takfeer (ie warns of error) upon his tongue saying ‘Fear Allaah concerning us, for indeed we are upon you, so if you are upright, then we will be upright and if you are corrupt, then we will be corrupt’”***

[Tirmidhee, Riyadh-us-Saliheen]

The action of every person stems from the heart. A good believing heart inevitably results in good actions and good speech and a hard, corrupt heart will result in bad speech and actions.

Allaah (swt) says in the Qur’aan

***‘Not a word is said, except that there is a watcher by him, ready to record it’*** [Qaaf: 18]

Ibn Katheer (rh), as regards to this ayah said, “This means that Allaah is aware of all that a person has done and He (swt) will call him to account with what he has done with justice, not with oppression”.

It is clear then that whatever we say, Allaah has placed upon us angels ready to record each utterance –good or bad - and there is no escape from it being recorded.

If we pause for a moment, to reflect, what do we see? Indeed we will find people have become excessively indulged in idle chitchat, vain talk and too much joking followed by too much laughter! SubhanAllaah, where is the humility we all desire? The modesty we all require? And the piety we all ask for?

The Messenger of Allaah (saw) said, ***“Taqwa is here”, and He (saw) pointed to his chest.***

[Muslim]

But if the heart has become so hard – how will Taqwa be attained? Where will it stem from? Indeed that is something we must always ask ourselves.

Umar ibn Abdul-Azeez (rh) used to say, ***“None can reach the station of Taqwa until he possesses neither action nor words that can be exposed to his embarrassment either in this world or the hereafter”.***

He was once asked “When does the worshipper reach the peak of Taqwa?” He replied, “If he puts all the thoughts and desires in his heart on a plate and then wandered around in the market, he should not feel ashamed of anything there”.

One of the biggest problems that Muslims have today is not leaving that which does not concern them. It is apparent that backbiting and slandering - both major sins in Islaam, have become so widespread that brothers and sisters commit these major sins without a second thought.

Allaah (swt) says:

***“Do not backbite each other, would any of you wish to eat the flesh of his dead brother? No, you would hate it, so fear Allaah and Allaah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful’*** [Hujuraat: 12]

Indeed if we would hate to eat the flesh of our dead brother, then, by Allaah, we should keep away from backbiting and know that slandering is far worse than backbiting.

In the chapter ‘Forbiddance of backbiting and mischief spreading’, Imaam An-Nawawee (rh) says that backbiting can be: “In the worldly issues, in religion, about someone’s outer actions, about someone’s inner actions. It could be about someone’s manners, creation, wealth, parents, children, wife, worker, master, turban, clothes, walking or any other actions. It can be done in book form, by the eyes, by speech, by the hands or by the head”.

On the authority of Abu Hurairah (ra) that he heard the Messenger of Allaah (saw) say,  
*“Indeed a servant may say a word which he doesn’t realise and it will make him fall in the fire further than the east and west”* [Bukhaaree]

SubhanAllaah, one word, just one single word, can land us in the Hell Fire.

Remember the man who was one of the worshippers of Allaah from Banu Isra’eel. He was a good man. There was another man in his youth who disobeyed Allaah, a sinner. This good man would tell the sinner not to indulge in sinful actions and would remind him of Allaah, but the youth would say ‘Leave Me!’ One time the good man witnessed the youth committing a great Munkar (bad) and he said, “By Allaah, Allaah will never forgive you!” So Allaah (swt) replied to this man saying “Who is this that swears by Me that I will not forgive so and so? I have forgiven him and nullified your actions”.

On the authority of Uqbah ibn ‘Aamir (ra) who said, “O Messenger of Allaah (saw), how can I be saved?” He (saw) replied,  
*“Guard your tongue, stay in your home and weep over your sins”.* [Tirmidhee]

Do we even try to guard our tongues?, Perhaps our hearts have become so hard that we cannot even remember the last time we wept over our sins.

On the authority of Abu Sa’eed al-Khudri (ra) that the Messenger of Allaah (saw) said,  
*“The son of Adam (as) wakes up, and the whole body makes takfeer (ie warns of error) upon his tongue saying “Fear Allaah concerning us, for indeed we are upon you, so if you are upright, then we will be upright and if you are corrupt, then we will be corrupt”* [Tirmidhee, Riyadh-us-Saliheen]

On the authority of Fujani (ra) – *“I said, O Messenger of Allaah (saw), tell me something that I may be firm upon?” He (saw) said, “Say, My Lord is Allaah then be upright concerning it” I Said “What is the thing you fear most?” So the Messenger of Allaah (SAW) took hold of his (own) tongue and said, “This!”* [Ahmad, An-Nisaice, Ibn Maajah Tirmidhi]

It is only from the good character of the believers that we should refrain from misusing our tongues. If we look to the Salaf, there is a great deal to be learnt.