

In the name of Allah Most Gracious Most Merciful

Control your tongue

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All thanks be to Allah, and peace and prayers be upon our prophet Muhammad, and upon his family and all his companions. And I testify that there is no other God other than Allah, the one, the only, who has no partners with him. And I testify that Muhammad is His slave and His messenger.

Today's talk is about the manners of conversing and the control of the tongue. Slaves of Allah, be God fearing in all you say and in all you do. Allah says: **{and be fearful of a day on which you shall be returned to Allah, and each soul will be given in full what it had earned, and they shall not be wronged}** 2:281.

Slaves of Allah, our Islamic faith is a great religion complete and comprehensive in its regulations. It cared for forming the individual Muslim in faith, law, manners, ethics and morals. It is through this religion that Allah Has guidance to the highest level of morals, and led to the most comprehensive manners, and also through this faith that Allah Has deterred against the evil of deeds and against evil talk. One of what Islam called for is maintaining the proper manners during conversing and talking, and to maintain the good logic, and to control the tongue off being carried away talking. The tongue is one of Allah's great mercies upon us. It is the tongue that Allah has differentiated us from the rest of his creations or creatures. The tongue has become our tool which enabled us to make explanations and clarifications. Allah says: **{Did We not assign unto him two eyes (8) And a tongue and two lips, (9)}** 90:8-9. Allah also says: **{Does man not see that we created him out of a drop of seed, yet now he turns to be such a clear opponent}**

36:77. This mercy ought to be thanked for, and not be denied. The right of Allah ought to be considered and ought to be kept off the forbidden, and ought to be kept off sinning. The tongue is one of the most dangerous of our organs, and is the one that has the greatest effect. If used in what brings Allah's contentment, and benefits the slaves of Allah then it becomes a cause of happiness and success in this life and next for the individual. And if used in disobedience of Allah, and in what harms the slaves, then it becomes a cause of demise in this life and next. It is for that that Islam pays particular attention to the tongue. Allah says: **{Tell My slaves to speak the good. Satan sows discord among them. Satan is an open enemy for man}** 17:53. Allah in this verse (*Ayah*) commands His slaves to always pick and say the best they can at all times. That way they can avoid Satan destroying the worship and affection between them. Satan sows dissension among the brothers through an unintentional bad spoken word, and the reply which follows it. That taints affection and love with disagreement then estrangement and then hostility. A good word heals wounds and bruises in the hearts. A good word blocks gaps and ways for Satan to penetrate through, and protects the sanctity of brotherhood.

A believer should pick only the best of his or her words, just as he or she would pick the best of the fruits to eat. The messenger pbu said: **{on the day of resurrection the slave would look on his right and sees nothing but fire, and looks on his left and sees nothing but fire, let each of you get protection from fire even by donating as little as a piece of date fruit, and he who does not have to donate, then let them get protection by a good spoken word}**.

Allah says: **{Successful indeed are the believers (1) Who are humble in their prayers, (2) And who shun vain conversation, (3)}** 23:1-3. Allah also says: **{And when they**

hear useless talk they withdraw from it and say: Unto us our deeds and unto you your deeds. Peace be unto you! We do not desire those who are ignorant} 28:55. Holding on the tongue is the essence of straight religion, and the completeness of faith, and the balance in morals. The messenger ppbu said: **{faith for a slave only becomes perfected or straight when his heart becomes straight. And the heart will only become straight when his tongue becomes straight}**. The messenger ppbu placed a lot of emphases on the tongue more than on any other organ in the body when he said: **{when the morning time comes on to a son of Adam all the organs humble and begs the tongue by saying: fear Allah in us. We shall get the same fate as you, if you would go straight then so shall we, and if you go wrong then so shall we}**.

A wise man once said: “As the brain becomes complete, the spoken words become reduced”. And another said: “spoken words of an individual are a sign of his status and the interpretation of his mind. So, limit it to the beautiful, and keep it short”. Another poet said:

*Weigh your words when you speak,
for through words your flaws can be seen.*

A Muslim must through his faith care for what he/she says. Only speaks with good and favourable words. If the situation requires talking then he/she talks, otherwise, they opt for silence seeking peace and expecting Allah’s reward. The messenger ppbu said: **{whoever has faith into Allah and the day after then let them either say good words or let them be silent}**.

Soft talking and good spoken words are needed by all people. They work well with friends and with enemies. The most dangerous problems that develop in a family or in a society, in most cases originate from ill spoken words, which are said

without thinking in the rush of a moment. They fall on to the others, who frown upon and reject them and dislike who said them. Many unnecessary arguments and animosities develop, and of course Satan is always waiting and ready to take advantage and to inflame and exaggerate the situation further. Nothing blocks Satan's way like good spoken words. Allah says: **{Push forward with the one which is better, then he, between whom and you there was enmity (will become) as though he was an affectionate friend. (34) None is granted paradise except those who are patient, and none is granted paradise except the owner of a great fortune (35)}** 41:34-35.

The tongue has many diseases or problem and has real bad effects. It is an obligation for every Muslim to take care in the words they speak. He or she ought to be in constant vigil from slips of the tongue. Let them be people of many deeds and fewer words. Omar Ben Al-Khattab said: "whoever has many words makes many slips. And whoever makes many slips loses his/her modesty. And whoever loses modesty loses his/her devotion and whoever loses devotion then his/her heart dies".

A wise person once said: "the people with the longest misery and the biggest problems are those who are plagued with a loose tongue and a shut heart". Those who have faith ought to speak; only if it brings benefit for them in this life or the next life. Luqman advising his son said: "Son, if people become proud of how eloquent their spoken words are, then you be proud of how good your silence is". The messenger ppbu said: **{God bless this that speaks good words and wins, or stays silent and remains safe}**. Once a man came to the messenger ppbu and spoke for a long time. The messenger ppbu said: **{What barriers are there to hold your tongue?}** the man said: "my lips and teeth". The messenger ppbu said: **{Allah, the Almighty hates when one speaks with extreme length. May Allah bless (and keep fresh) the face of this who uses**

few words when speaking, this who limits his words to his needs}. The messenger ppbu was asked by Muath for a deed which would get him closer to paradise and gets him further away from hellfire. The messenger ppbu told him about the main matter and its peak, and then went on to say: **{and I shall tell you how you would win all that? Avoid this}** pointing at his tongue. Muath said: “and are we going to be judged for what we say?” The messenger ppbu said: **{What’s wrong with you Muath!!! Are people not going to be dumped into hell fire face down first, except because of what their tongs say!}**. yes, some of the problems tongs bring are: backbiting, and slandering, lying and fabrication and false testimonies and ill spoken words, and threats to others and rudeness and bad attitudes, and ridiculing other, and mockery of others and disdain or disregard to others, or talk of others pitfalls and failings, or spreading rumours. Remember what Allah says: **{and for any words he utters there is an ever ready diligent watching observer}** 50:18. The messenger ppbu said: **{Out of Allah’s anger the slave speaks a word for which he pays no attention but because of it he drops into hellfire}**.

Abdul-Allah ben Masood said: “by Allah, whom there is no other God except He, there is nothing on this earth that needs a longer prison term than the tongue”. Al-Hasan said: “hold on and lock your tong except when there is truth to be affirmed, or a wrong to be denied, or wisdom to be spread, or a blessing to be mentioned”

Slaves of Allah, fear Allah, and control and hold your tongs off what Allah forbade for you. And remember what Allah says: **{O you who believe! Guard your duty to Allah, and speak straight and proper words. He will fix your deeds for you and will forgive you your sins. Whosoever obeys Allah and His messenger, he verily has won a clear victory}** 33:70-71.