

It is for this reason that spreading someone's evil and indecent actions is linked to condemning. And they are both from the affairs of the evildoer, since it is not the goal of the evildoer to put an end to the fault nor that the believer avoids that fault or defect. Rather his only goal is to spread and publicize the defects found in his believing brother, and to destroy his honor. So he initiates that and repeats it. And his intention is to belittle his believing brother by exposing his defects and bad qualities to the people so that some harm can fall upon him in this world.

But as for the person that is sincerely advising, his aim in doing that (advising) is to eradicate the faults found in his believing brother and to help him avoid it. This is what Allaah the Most High, has described His Messenger, *sallAllaahu' alayhi wa sallam*, with, saying:

لَقَدْ جَاءَكُمْ رَسُولٌ مِّنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ عَزِيزٌ عَلَيْهِ مَا عَنِتُّمْ حَرِيصٌ عَلَيْكُمْ  
بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ رَءُوفٌ رَّحِيمٌ

**“Verily, there has come unto you a Messenger from amongst yourselves. It grieves him that you should receive any harm or difficulty. He is anxious over you (to rid you of faults and sin), for the believers he is full of pity, kind and merciful.”**<sup>32</sup>

And He described his, *sallAllaahu' alayhi wa sallam*, Companions with that, saying:

مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ وَالَّذِينَ مَعَهُ أَشِدَّاءُ عَلَى الْكُفَّارِ رُحَمَاءُ بَيْنَهُمْ

**“Muhammad is the Messenger of Allaah. And those who are with him (i.e. his Companions) are severe with the disbelievers and merciful towards one another.”**<sup>33</sup>

And He described the believers with the characteristics of patience and mutual advising of one another towards mercy and compassion.<sup>34</sup>

But what drives the evildoer to propagate (his brother's) evil and to disgrace him is force and harshness, his love for abusing his believing brother, and (his desire) to inflict some harm upon him. These are the characteristics of the Devil – the one who beautifies disbelief, sin and

<sup>32</sup> Surat-ut-Tawbah: 128

<sup>33</sup> Surat-ul-Fath: 29

<sup>34</sup> As is found in Allaah's saying in Surat-ul-Balad (ayah no. 17): **“Then he became from among those who believed and recommended one another towards patience and recommended one another towards compassion.”**

disobedience to the children of Adam so that due to it they may become amongst the dwellers of the Hellfire, as Allaah says:

إِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ فَاتَّخِذُوهُ عَدُوًّا إِنَّمَا يَدْعُوا حِزْبَهُ لِيَكُونُوا  
مِنَ أَصْحَابِ السَّعِيرِ

**“Verily, the Devil is an enemy for you, so take him as an enemy. Verily, he only calls his party (of followers) to be from amongst the dwellers of the Hellfire.”<sup>35</sup>**

And He says, after telling us the story of Iblees (the Devil) when he was with the prophet of Allaah, Adam, and the evil plot that he unleashed on him, such that it brought him to be cast out from Paradise:

يٰۤاٰدَمُ لَا يَفْتِنَنَّكَ الشَّيْطٰنُ كَمَاۤ اَخْرَجَ اٰبَوَيْكَ  
مِنَ الْجَنَّةِ يَنْزِعُ عَنْهُمَا لِبَاسَهُمَا لِيُرِيَهُمَا سَوْءَاتِهِمَا

**“O Children of Adam! Let not the Devil deceive you, as he got your parents out of Paradise, stripping them of their garments, to show them their private parts.”<sup>36</sup>**

So what a difference there is between one whose intention it is to advise (*naseehah*) and one whose intention it is to disgrace (*fadeehah*)! And no one confuses one of these with the other, except someone who does not possess sound intellect.

<sup>35</sup> Surah Faatir: 6

<sup>36</sup> Surat-ul-A'araaf: 27