

## Don't Protect a Molester's Secrets

If you know for a **fact** with evidence you can stand before Allah with – that someone is harming a child it is not permissible to conceal their secret. Such as a parent who is aware their spouse or other children are harming a child in the home. This secret must be disclosed in order to protect the victim. The Messenger of Allah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ said:

الْمَجَالِسُ بِالْأَمَانَةِ إِلَّا ثَلَاثَةً مَجَالِسَ سَفَكِ دَمٍ حَرَامٍ أَوْ فَرْجٍ حَرَامٍ أَوْ اقْتِطَاعِ مَالٍ بَغَيْرِ حَقٍّ

The gathering is a trust except for three gatherings: The gathering where the person speaks of spilling blood which is protected, or having sexual intercourse with someone impermissible for them, or acquiring wealth unjustly. (Sunan Abi Dawud 4869)

**Shaykh Abdul Muhsin al Badr** said in his explanation of this narration: The gathering in which the people speak with one another must be protected and not disclosed, especially if you are asked not to disclose the conversation, such as when sitting in private gatherings discussing specific topics. The gatherings are a trust and it is not permissible for anyone present in the gathering to spread the conversation spoken within it.

But if within the gathering someone says he is going to do something evil and he is intending to fulfil this evil, then this can be disclosed so he can be prevented from fulfilling his intent. **For example if someone wants to kill an individual or fornicate with someone, this type of secret is disclosed.** Before this you advise and warn them **but along with** this you reveal that information to someone in authority. Or you tell someone connected to the individual whose life is threatened or the woman the person intends to fornicate with. This is so they can be warned and take precaution.

In general the gatherings are a trust, but the exception is when someone intends to do an affair which is evil and dangerous. It is not possible to be silent about this, and it is not proper to remain silent about this because it will result in great harm. Thus this information is not kept secret because the person has openly stated his determination towards evil so it is no problem in divulging those in authority or those connected to the affair. This applies to the case where murder, fornication or other evils are intended. Shaykh al Albani declared this Hadith Hassan and it is strengthened by a narration from Ali, may Allah be pleased with him.

Explanation of the Hadith 'The gathering is a trust' by Shaykh Abdul Muhsin

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