

Is speaking about people of innovation considered backbiting?

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Translated by Raha ibn Donald Batts

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بِ هَلْ الرَّحْمَنُ لِحَيْمٍ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Question: May Allaah treat you well; is speaking about the people of innovation, such that it is said for example: They make Ta'weel (i.e. falsely interpreting) the verses and the Ahadeeth...or (saying): They believe such and such; is this considered Gheebah (backbiting) when this happens between students?

Shaykh al-Uthaymeen (رَحْمَهُ اللهُ):¹ Is it considered what?

Questioner: Gheebah

Shaykh al-Uthaymeen (رَحْمَهُ اللهُ): Ghaybah or Gheebah?

Questioner: Gheebah.

Shaykh al-Uthaymeen (رَحْمَهُ اللهُ): Speaking about the people of innovation and what they have of incorrect ideologies or a Minhaj which is not upright, this is from Naseehah (sincere advice) and not from Gheebah (backbiting). Rather, it is from Naseehah to Allaah, to His Book, to His Messenger, and to the Muslims. So if we see someone who is an innovator spreading his innovation, then it is upon us to clarify that he is an innovator so that the people will be safe from his evil. If we see a person having statements which oppose that which the Salaf were upon then it is upon us to clarify that so that the people will not be affected by it. If we see a person who has a specific Minhaj and its end results are evil then we must clarify that so that the people will be safe from his evil. This is from the perspective of Naseehah to Allaah, to His Book, to His Messenger, to the leaders of the Muslims and their commoners.

¹ (رَحْمَهُ اللهُ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him

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