
White lies vs. black lies

Translated by Rasheed ibn Estes Barbee

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بِ هَلْ الدَّرَجِ مِنْ لِحْيَمِ

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

Question: The questioner asks O Shaykh; is there such thing as white lies and black lies?

Shaykh Saalih al-Fawzaan (حفظه الله)¹: All lies are black, there are no white lies; all of them are black and they are not permissible. Except in the three situations mentioned by the Prophet, (صلى الله عليه وسلم)²: Lying in order to make peace between people who have had a falling out; or the spouses lying to each other in an effort to mend the relationship; or lying in an effort to escape the oppressor, in order to escape from the oppressor. And this is called: Interpretation. Outside of this, lying is haraam; all of them. And lying is from the major sins and it is not permissible.

¹ (حفظه الله) May Allaah the Most High preserve him

² (صلى الله عليه وسلم) (sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him