

The definition of *gheebah* (backbiting)

Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan *hafidhahullaah* stated in his book *wujoob ut tathabbut min al akhbaar wa ihtiraam il 'ulemaa* (page 21):

And *gheebah* is just as the Prophet *sall Allaahu 'alaihi wa sallam* explained when he said:

Do you know what gheebah is?

They said, "*Allaah and His Messenger know best.*"

He said:

Your mentioning that about your brother which he dislikes.

It was said, "What about if there is (indeed) in my brother that which I say (about him)?"

He said:

If there is in him that which you say (about him) then you have backbitten him. And if there is not (that) in him, they you have slandered him."¹

¹ Reported by Muslim (6/16/142) and Ahmad in his Musnad and at Tirmidhee who said it is a hadeeth *hasan saheeh* and Abu Dawud