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## Can I backbite if I don't mention their name?

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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

**Question:** May Allaah grant you good O noble Shaykh, the questioner says: 'What is the ruling on backbiting an unknown person, such that I backbite a person in the company of people who do not know him, and I do not mention his name?'

**Shaykh Saalih al-Fawzaan** (حفظه الله)<sup>1</sup>: Even if this is the case, do not get your tongue accustomed to this. And you will be taken to account for your intention and objective; you will be called to account for you intention and objective. Thus never involve yourself in this. And what is the benefit from this action? Backbiting is permissible in the case of necessity sometimes. As in the case where a person complains to the judge; saying so and so oppressor took my right. He does this in order for the person to leave him alone. There is no problem with this. This is backbiting but this is necessary, he only spoke about him due to necessity. Or (it is permissible) in the case where a person mentions a criminal to those in charge, or to the religious police; mentioning this person so he can be apprehended and to bring about an end to his evil. This is backbiting but the benefit is greater. The benefit is to bring an end to his evil, and to protect the people from his evil.

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<sup>1</sup> (حفظه الله) May Allaah the Most High preserve him