

# HADITH

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**Subject:** The signs of a hypocrite

**Level :** Intermediate

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ " آيَةُ الْمُنَافِقِ ثَلَاثٌ إِذَا حَدَّثَ كَذَبَ، وَإِذَا وَعَدَ أَخْلَفَ، وَإِذَا أُؤْتِمِنَ خَانَ ". ((مُتَّفَقٌ عَلَيْهِ))

On the authority Abu Huraira, may Allah be pleased with him, that the Prophet ﷺ; said, "The signs of a hypocrite are three: Whenever he speaks, he lies; and whenever he promises, he breaks his promise; and whenever he is entrusted, he betrays ". [agreed upon].

## The Narrator:

Abu Hurairah's name is Abdul Rahman ibn Sakhr Al-Dawsi from the tribe of Daws. He came from Yemen to Medina in the 7th year AH to embrace Islam. He was known as Abu Hurairah because he used to carry a kitten in his sleeve. He narrated the most hadiths from the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and he was known of his sharp memory. He said about himself: "I divide the night into three parts: a third in which I sleep, a third in which I pray, and a third in which I recall the hadiths of the Messenger ﷺ." Abu Hurairah would pray for a third of the night, his wife for another third, and his daughter for another third. Abu Hurairah passed away in the year 59 AH at the age of 78, may Allah be pleased with him.

## Vocabulary

- آيَة: sign
- مُنَافِق : hypocrite
- ثَلَاث : three
- حَدَّث : talked
- كَذَبَ : lied
- وَعَدَ : promised
- أَخْلَفَ : break a promise
- أُؤْتِمِنَ : entrusted
- خَانَ : betrayed

## The Explanation:

The hadith highlights critical moral failings of some people, they contradict the values of honesty, reliability, and trustworthiness. It serves as a profound warning against hypocrisy, urging Muslims to self-reflect and avoid these ill behaviors. By promoting truthfulness, fulfilling promises, and maintaining trust, individuals can strengthen their integrity and contribute to a trustworthy and harmonious community. This hadith underscores the importance of aligning outward actions with inner faith and sincerity, as these traits are essential for spiritual well-being and social cohesion in Islam.

## Nifaq (Hypocrisy)

Hypocrisy in the Arabic language means *Nifaq*, this is when a person showing something different from what they conceal. The origin of the word comes from the "nafaq" (tunnel) that some animals, like rabbits, dig, which has two or more openings. When attacked by a predator, they escape through the other opening. A hypocrite is named as such because they have two faces, showing one according to the situation they face.

## The Categories of Nifaq (Hypocrisy)

### **1. Hypocrisy of Belief (Nifaq I'tiqadi):**

This type of hypocrisy is related to one's inner faith and is considered the more severe form. This is when someone pretends to believe in Islam while actually disbelieving. This person declares outwardly that he is a Muslim and declares that there is no god but Allah and Muhammad is His Messenger but harbors disbelief and enmity towards Islam in his heart. Such individual is a hypocrite and more dangerous than outright disbelievers because they can undermine the Muslim community from within. Allah said in the Quran,  
إِذَا جَاءَكَ الْمُنَافِقُونَ قَالُوا نَشْهَدُ إِنَّكَ لَرَسُولُ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ إِنَّكَ لَرَسُولُهُ وَاللَّهُ يَشْهَدُ  
إِنَّ الْمُنَافِقِينَ لَكَاذِبُونَ

"When the hypocrites come to you, they say, 'We bear witness that you are indeed the Messenger of Allah.' And Allah knows that you are indeed His Messenger, and Allah bears witness that the hypocrites are liars" (63:1).

## 2. Hypocrisy of Action (Nifaq 'Amali):

This type of hypocrisy is related to actions that are contrary to the teachings and ethics of Islam, even if the person genuinely believes in Islam. It involves committing acts that reflect traits of hypocrisy, such as lying, breaking promises, and betraying trusts, as mentioned in the hadith. While these actions are serious sins, they do not take a person out of the fold of Islam as hypocrisy of belief does.

### 1- Lying When Speaking:

The first distinctive characteristic of a hypocrite is lying. A hypocrite often tells lies to manipulate situations or to present a false image of themselves. Islam emphasizes truthfulness, and lying is considered a major sin and it leads the liar to the Fire. The frequent lying of a hypocrite reflects a deeper moral corruption. Allah said:

وَاللَّهُ يَشْهَدُ إِنَّ الْمُنَافِقِينَ لَكَاذِبُونَ

"and Allah bears witness that the hypocrites are liars" (63:1).

The Prophet ﷺ said: "Beware of lying, for lying leads to immorality, and immorality leads to Hellfire. A person continues to lie and persist in lying until they are recorded with Allah as a liar." [Al-Bukhari and Muslim].

### Breaking Promises:

The second characteristic of a hypocrite is that he does not honor his promise. Keeping promises is a significant aspect of trustworthiness in Islam. When a person consistently fails to fulfill their promises, it indicates a lack of integrity and reliability. A hypocrite makes promises with no intention of keeping them, breaking trust and causing harm to others. Islam commands its followers to fulfill their promises, Allah said in the Quran,

وَأَوْفُوا بِالْعَهْدِ إِنَّ الْعَهْدَ كَانَ مَسْئُولًا

"And fulfill the covenant. Indeed, the covenant will be questioned about."

(Al-Isra: 34).

## Betraying Trust:

The third characteristic of a hypocrite is that he is dishonest. Trustworthiness is a cornerstone of good character in Islam. When entrusted with something, whether it is property, a secret, or a responsibility, a hypocrite fails to uphold this trust. Betraying trust can lead to significant harm and loss, and it undermines social cohesion and relationships.

Allah the Almighty says:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُكُمْ أَنْ تُؤَدُّوا الْأَمَانَاتِ إِلَىٰ أَهْلِهَا

"Indeed, Allah commands you to render trusts to whom they are due"

(An-Nisa, 4:58).

Prophet Muhammad said: "Fulfill the trust for the one who entrusted you, and do not betray the one who betrays you." [Tirmidhi - Abu Dawud]

## LESSONS LEARNED

1. Avoidance of Hypocritical Traits
2. Importance of Virtuous Traits:
3. Deception of Hypocrites and Their Hidden Malice
4. The believer should stick with noble character traits and distance from the ill manners.