

Using Anonymous sources (The “People” say) is akin to lying

Abu Qalaabah said: Abu Masood said to Abu Abdullah, or Abu Abdullah said to Abu Masood:

What did you hear the Messenger of Allah peace be upon him saying about the statement “**the people say...**”?

He said: I heard the Messenger of Allah peace be upon him say:

بِئْسَ مَطِيئَةُ الرَّجُلِ زَعَمُوا

“It is an evil tool for a man to reach his objective by saying “The people say”!¹

Shaykh Al Albani said: Al Baghawi said in Sharh As Sunnah: This statement is disliked because most of the time it is based on speech **which has no chain of narration nor has it been verified** rather it is only something related from the peoples’ tongues. So the Prophet peace be upon him made a similitude between the man who begins his statement by saying ‘the people say’ to the riding beast which a man rides to reach his destination. Thus the Prophet peace be upon him commanded us to verify what we narrate and to be careful concerning what we transmit. Therefore do not narrate anything unless it is from a reliable source. The Prophet peace be upon him said: It is sufficient to be considered a liar, that a person narrates everything he hears. And the Prophet peace be upon him said: Whoever narrates a statement which he believes could be false then he is one of the two liars.

Silsila Hadith by Shaykh Al Albani Hadith 866

Translated by Rasheed ibn Estes Barbee

¹ Translation is based upon the explanation of the narration