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Lying

Eighth question of Fatwa no. 6355

Q 8: What is the ruling on telling lies that do not harm anyone?

A: Telling lies is absolutely Haram (prohibited) except regarding cases that are excluded by Shari`ah (Islamic law). However, what is mentioned in the question does not fall under any of the cases referred to above. Evidence for this is the generality of the proofs, such as Allah's statement: ﴿ O you who believe! Fear Allâh, and be with those who are true (in words and deeds). ﴾ Moreover, it is related in the Two Sahih (authentic) Books of Hadith (i.e. Al-Bukhari and Muslim) and other books of Hadith on the authority of `Abdullah ibn Mas`ud (may Allah be pleased with Him) who said that the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) said: ﴿ Adhere to telling the truth, for telling the truth leads to righteousness and righteousness leads to Jannah 'Paradise'; a person continues to speak the truth and endeavors to tell the truth until they are eventually recorded as truthful with Allah. Beware of telling lies for telling lies leads to obscenity and obscenity leads to Hell-Fire; a person keeps on telling lies and endeavors to tell a lie until they are recorded as liars with Allah. ﴾ Likely, it is narrated that `Abdullah ibn Mas`ud said: "Telling lies is Haram whether in seriousness or in jest, read if you wish:" ﴿ O you who believe! Be afraid of Allâh, and be with those who are true (in words and deeds). ﴾ he read

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the Ayah (Qur'anic verse) and said: "Do you then find any Rukhsah (concession) for any one to tell a lie?"

May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and Companions!

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