

the ONE passing on all the Gossip

by Guru Mani H

Someone has just asked me
“is all this gossip true?”
but I don’t feel I should explain
my private life to you
so I will just say nothing
and leave you to decide
if you’ll believe the people that
I know to you have lied

What is gossip?

It’s something that no-one claims to like, and yet everyone does. It’s something we are happy to do to others, and yet never want done to us. It’s something that professional gossip writers do well, and yet any amateur can have a good go at it as well. It’s hearing something about someone, usually negative, and yet rather than keeping it to yourself, telling anyone else who’ll listen, with maybe a bit added or changed.

What is gossip?

It’s humanity forgetting the Golden rule:
to treat others as you want to be treated yourself.

**“Unless you have heard it from the person themselves,
don’t believe what you hear from someone else.”**

I used to try defend myself
from gossip that I heard

I wanted to correct the facts
and get the final word
but what I soon discovered is
things go from bad to worse
with misquotes flying everywhere
defence turned to a curse

Who is worse; the one who starts the gossip or the one who passes it on?

If the one who starts it is the match which gives the first spark, the one who passes it on is the oxygen which spreads the flames leading to so much destruction. If the 'starter' is the initial outbreak of the disease, the 'passer' is the air which carries the virus leading to so much death. If the one has the message written and ready, it is the other who clicks the button to post it for all to see. One starts, the other finishes. One pushes, the other punches. One discourages, the other destroys.

Who is worse; the one who starts the gossip or the one who passes it on?

Both!

***“What goes around comes around;
he who *delights* in gossip
will one day be *destroyed* by gossip.”***

An influential leader
spread gossip to the crowd
yet no-one stopped to question
“is talk like that allowed?”
the members followed blindly
regardless of the truth
exchanging age and wisdom
for foolishness of youth

Is there ever a time when gossip is good?

Is the doctor saying 'cancer' ever something to get excited about? Is financial debt ever something that brings peace to your life? Is dementia ever a dignified way to end one's life? How can that which kills the body ever be good? How can that which crushes the soul ever be good? How can that which attacks the mind ever be good?

Is there ever a time when gossip is good?

You decide...

**"He who can control his tongue
can indeed control his whole self."**

I used to love to gossip
I called it 'harmless fun'
I'd listen and then pass it on
and feel my job was done
but now the shoe's on other foot
I feel the power of hurt
it makes me think more carefully
before I 'dish the dirt'

Lighten up...

Gossip isn't really that serious is it?

You are playing both the judge and jury, without the accused person being there to defend themselves. You pass on what you've heard, without thinking of the source of information or the harmful consequences. You contribute to the mass abuse of another person's life, affecting their overall health and well-being, even to the potential point of suicide. Judge and jury. Harmful consequences. Abuse of another person's life.

Gossip isn't really that serious is it?

You bet it is!

**“Don't trust your secrets to a gossip,
for what you share in *private*
will be scattered about in *public*.”**

It's not so bad when strangers
pass on some juicy 'goss'
my path of life and theirs
will never even cross
but when it's those who know me
betrayal is so sore
the pain it wounds so deeply
and hurts me to the core

What shall I say about trying to stop gossip?

It is easier to halt an avalanche by holding out one hand, or dam a river with your little finger, or run and overtake race horses. Once started, gossip can't be stopped; it goes on and on, getting bigger like a snowball rolling down a mountain, destroying all in its path like a torrent of water. It's unstoppable until it reaches the end of its course.

What shall I say about trying to stop gossip?

You can't. So don't ever start it.

**“Gossip is lethal to the soul,
and should most certainly be included
in the list of 7 deadly sins.”**

I used to gossip all the time
until I hurt my friend
relationship was broken
and simply wouldn't mend
although I said my "sorry"
things never were the same
they said they couldn't trust me
that I'm the one to blame

Why gossip?

It's juicy. It's exciting. It's addictive. It helps me feel good about my own life, when compared to others. It helps me feel in control, at the expense of others. It helps me feel connected to those I gossip with, whilst disconnecting me from those I gossip about. Feel good. Feel in control. Feel connected.

Why gossip?

Why not?

**"Gossip is at best only a part of the whole truth,
and at worst a complete lie."**

There is the age old saying
not guilty until proved
but once some gossip has been spread
it's hard to be removed
now every time you show your face
it's met with judging look
regardless of your innocence
you're treated like a crook

So, how far does gossip travel?

It can be whispered in your ear but heard by someone in the next country. It can cross international borders with no customs control. It can be sent for free to anywhere in the world. It has no legs but can run a marathon. It has no wings but can fly a thousand miles. It has no fins but can swim across the widest ocean. It's got more air miles than Santa Claus. It's got more speed records than any person living or dead. It's got a first-class ticket to any destination; anywhere.

So, how far does gossip travel?

Absolutely no limit.

**“A person with no balls speaks words behind another's back;
a person with balls will say it to their face.”**