

THE WEIGHT OF A SEED

*'Kibr'-Arrogance and Its Eternal
Cost*



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INTRODUCTION

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ ذِي الْعَظَمَةِ وَالْكَبرِيَاءِ، ذَلَّتْ لِعَظَمَتِهِ أَثُوفُ الْعُظَمَاءِ، وَدَانَتْ لِحَبْرُوتِهِ الْمُلُوكُ وَالرُّؤَسَاءُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، مَنْ نَازَعَهُ الْكِبَرُ صَيَّرَهُ مِنَ الْأَذْلَاءِ، وَمَنْ تَوَاضَعَ لِأَجْلِهِ أَنْزَلَهُ مَنَازِلَ السُّعْدَاءِ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ نَبِيَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولُهُ، سَيِّدُ الْمُتَوَاضِعِينَ، يَكْرَهُ وَيُبْغِضُ الْجَبَابِرَةَ الْمُتَكَبِّرِينَ، صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ، وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ الطَّيِّبِينَ الطَّاهِرِينَ، وَالتَّابِعِينَ وَمَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ، وَسَلَامٌ تَسْلِيمًا كَثِيرًا، أَمَّا بَعْدُ:

أيها المسلمون، إِنَّ مِنْ أَعْظَمِ الْأَمْرَاضِ الْقَلْبِيَّةِ الَّتِي تُهْلِكُ صَاحِبَهَا لَا يَخْلُو مِنْهُ كَثِيرٌ مِنَ الْبَشَرِ، لَا يَتَحَلَّى بِهِمَا إِلَّا أَرَادَ النَّاسَ وَهُوَ كَبِيرَةٌ مِنْ كِبَائِرِ الذُّنُوبِ، وَمُوجِبٌ لِعُصَبِ الرَّحْمَنِ، وَسَبَبٌ عَظِيمٌ مِنْ أَسْبَابِ الْجِرْمَانِ، إِنَّهُ الْكِبَرُ وَالْعُجْبُ وَالِاسْتِعْلَاءُ عَلَى الْخَلْقِ.

Praise be to Allah—the only true possessor of complete majesty, pride, and greatness—the One whom all creatures bow and submit before, willingly or unwillingly.

I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship but Allah alone, without partner—The One who humiliates those who contend with Him and falsely believe themselves to be self-sufficient, prideful, powerful, mighty, strong, and wealthy...and we praise Him who elevates his true servants to stations of elevated ranks and status who humble themselves for His sake; and debases and humiliates those who walk on the earth arrogantly, prideful, and self-conceited.

I also bear witness that our Prophet Muhammad is His servant and messenger, the master of the humble, the one who was never prideful or self-conceited, and despised and detested the tyrannical and the arrogant and those who belittled others. May

Allah's peace and blessings be upon him, his pure and noble family, his righteous companions, and those who follow them with excellence until the Day of Judgment.

Brothers and sisters in Islam today we are going to speak about a very dangerous type of sickness, an ailment and disease that many human beings suffer from, in varying levels, degrees and types. It is a sickness that blackens the heart and leads to a seal being placed upon it. This sickness is one of the major sins in Islam, and a cause that brings about the anger of the Allah, and a tremendous reason for deprivation of goodness, and even if a measurement of less than one gram is found in a Muslims heart, it will prevent him from entering the Paradise.

Indeed, this deadly disease is called 'kibr'-arrogance, self-pride, self-conceit, O servants of Allah.

'Kibr'-Arrogance or self-pride, and looking down upon others O servants of Allah, is foolishness and a sign of a corrupted and deficient mind, heart, and intellect.

The Prophet Muhammad described Al Kibr as:

"الْكِبْرُ بَطْرُ الْحَقِّ وَغَمْطُ النَّاسِ"

"Arrogance means ridiculing and rejecting the Truth and despising people." (Saheeh Muslim #91a)

Kibr is-Arrogance and pride, thinking that one is better than others. 'Kibr' is rejecting the truth and having contempt for the people. 'Kibr' is belittling others who have less money, less children, or a seemingly lower social status than you.

Be informed dear brothers and sisters that 99% of the time, the one who outwardly displays ‘kibr’-arrogance in their dealings with others and in their behavior is only doing so because of a sense of deficiency and weakness within himself/herself. Their hearts are filled with jealousy, envy, despise, weakness, doubts, love of showing off, and being praised by the creation, which are all directly related to one’s Iman-faith. This arrogance is outwardly manifested by belittling others, and deeming their deeds to be insignificant, and mocking what others do and considering it deficient compared to what the arrogant and prideful one does. He tries to conceal his pride and arrogance; but since it is rooted in his/her heart, it unwillingly exposes itself through the arrogant one’s behavior towards his employees, friends, neighbors, family, fellow Muslims, and subordinates...the arrogant one constantly needs to ridicule, mock and look down upon others, so that he feels strong, confident, and to build up his own self-esteem and hide his own weakness and deficiencies.

The arrogant one falsely imagines that through belittling others and being prideful he attains perfection, status, and respect from others. While in all actuality he is at the very height of disgrace and contempt, especially those whom he was once close to, but now have abandoned him because of his belittling acts and words, oppressive behavior, statements, and ideas. The sickness of pride and arrogance-which he is heedless about-slowly deprive his heart from guidance, light, and the ability to recognize right from wrong. He may be reciting Quran, praying, giving charity, making hajj and umrah; but because of

his arrogance and prideful way of dealing with others, speaking down to them, mocking them, ridiculing them, laughing at them, plotting and planning behind their backs to try and put obstacles in their path; he may have a lot of wealth in his Bank of America Checking account; but he will be from the ‘mufliseen’-bankrupt when he checks his account of deeds in the Hereafter.

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ " أَتَدْرُونَ مَا الْمُفْلِسُ " . قَالُوا الْمُفْلِسُ فِينَا مَنْ لَا دِرْهَمَ لَهُ وَلَا مَتَاعَ . فَقَالَ " إِنَّ الْمُفْلِسَ مِنْ أُمَّتِي يَأْتِي يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ بِصَلَاةٍ وَصِيَامٍ وَزَكَاةٍ وَيَأْتِي قَدْ شَتَمَ هَذَا وَقَذَفَ هَذَا وَأَكَلَ مَالَ هَذَا وَسَفَكَ دَمَ هَذَا وَضَرَبَ هَذَا فَيُعْطَى هَذَا مِنْ حَسَنَاتِهِ وَهَذَا مِنْ حَسَنَاتِهِ فَإِنْ فَنِيَتْ حَسَنَاتُهُ قَبْلَ أَنْ يُقْضَى مَا عَلَيْهِ أَخَذَ مِنْ خَطَايَاهُمْ فَطُرِحَتْ عَلَيْهِ ثُمَّ طُرِحَ فِي النَّارِ " .

Abu Huraira reported: The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said, “Do you know who are bankrupt?” They said, “The one without money or possessions is bankrupt.” The Prophet said, “Verily, the bankrupt of my nation are those who come on the Day of Resurrection with prayers, fasting, and charity, but also come with insults of others, slander of others, unlawfully consuming the wealth of others, and shedding blood unlawfully of others, and beating others. Those who he oppressed will each be given from his good deeds. If his good deeds run out before justice is fulfilled, then their sins will be cast upon him and he will be thrown into the Hellfire.” (Saheeh Muslim #2581)

The arrogant ones are ‘masakeen’-truly deprived of ‘baseerah’ and guidance, and have forgotten that it is because of those who have fewer material possessions, wealth, properties, and investments than him that he most likely is receiving provisions, as it was reported:

قَالَ رَأَى سَعْدٌ - رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ - أَنَّ لَهُ فَضْلاً عَلَى مَنْ دُونَهُ، فَقَالَ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ " هَلْ تَنْصَرُونَ وَتُرْزَقُونَ إِلَّا بِضَعْفَائِكُمْ "

Once Sa’d (bin Abi Waqqas) thought that he was superior to those who were below him in rank. On that the Prophet (ﷺ) said, "You gain no victory or livelihood except through (the blessings and invocations of) the poor amongst you." (Saheeh Al Bukhari #2896)

Do not be deceived by the material possessions and wealth that Allah has given you, and do not use it to be arrogant and prideful while belittling and ostracizing people from your ranks, Muslims from your masjid, in your community, or in your company and presence.

Allah the Most High strongly dispraised arrogance and the arrogant throughout the Quran and Sunnah, Allah tells us in the Quran:

سَأَصْرِفُ عَنْ آيَاتِيَ الَّذِينَ يَتَكَبَّرُونَ فِي الْأَرْضِ بِغَيْرِ الْحَقِّ

“I shall divert from My signs those who act arrogantly upon the earth without right.” (Al A’raaf:146)

The verse tells us that the arrogant and prideful are turned away from truth and guidance and they are not able to perceive it and

recognize the signs right in front of his eyes. Allah may be sending the arrogant one signs, but because of his sickness and disease, he deems himself saved and upon the truth, and he is not able to recognize them.

This is because Allah has placed a seal upon the arrogant one's hearts:

كَذَلِكَ يَطْبَعُ اللَّهُ عَلَى كُلِّ قَلْبٍ مُتَكَبِّرٍ جَبَّارٍ

“Thus does Allah seal the heart of every arrogant tyrant.”
(Ghafir:35)

The arrogant person is unaware he is acting arrogantly towards his Lord, towards himself, his family, his love ones, his Muslim brothers and sisters...His heart, mind, and soul cannot sense it, because they are diseased. Those who were once close to him, friends, employees, colleagues, Muslim brothers have now abandoned him, no longer talk to him, no longer visit him, message him, but he does not know why, nor does he care, or even ask himself: why is everyone leaving me? From the arrogant one's delusions is that he thinks the people around him love him, praise him, respect him, honor him; while in reality; they despise him, dislike him, and everything he does and says. The hypocrisy in his statements and actions have exposed him, and his arrogant behavior and demeanor just verifies what others have observed. He thinks that Allah has blessed him with wealth, investments, properties, cars, wives, children; but little does he know or realize that these are all tests and possibly punishments that Allah is setting him up for...This could be

‘Istidraaj’ from Allah. So will he pass or fail the test? Will he be humble and adorn himself with humility, repent, or continue to be arrogant and prideful. Many of the arrogant think that hoards of wealth, dollars, properties, cars, and children is a sign that Allah loves them...when it may actually be a punishment from Allah but they do not perceive it...they forgot that this Dunya and the worldly possessions in it do not even equal that of a mosquito wing. However, their arrogance and pride have blinded them from reality.

عَنْ سَهْلِ بْنِ سَعْدٍ، قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ " لَوْ كَانَتِ الدُّنْيَا تَعْدِلُ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ جَنَاحَ بَعُوضَةٍ مَا سَقَى كَافِرًا مِنْهَا شَرْبَةَ مَاءٍ

“If the world to Allah was equal to a mosquito’s wing, then He would not allow the disbeliever to have a sip of water from it.” (Jami At Tirmidhi #2320)

Beloved brothers and sisters, always remember that our beloved prophet was never worried about his followers and ummah being poor or impoverished. However, he was worried and fearful about them becoming rich, wealthy, and competing over material possessions of this wretched dunya most likely because many times this leads people to pride, arrogance, belittling others, and diverting them from the remembrance of Allah and repentance. The Prophet Muhammad said:

قَالَ اللَّهُ مَا الْفَقْرُ أَخْشَى عَلَيْكُمْ، وَلَكِنِّي أَخْشَى أَنْ تُبْسِطَ عَلَيْكُمُ الدُّنْيَا كَمَا بُسِطَتْ عَلَى مَنْ كَانَ قَبْلَكُمْ، فَتَنَافَسُوهَا كَمَا تَنَافَسُوهَا، وَتُهْلِكُكُمْ كَمَا أَهْلَكْتَهُمْ

By Allah, I am not afraid that you will become poor, but I am afraid that worldly wealth will be given to you in

abundance as it was given to those (nations) before you, and you will start competing each other for it as the previous nations competed for it, and then it will divert you (from good) as it diverted them." (Saheeh Al Bukhari # 6425)

Many of the arrogant and prideful compete with each other over wealth, property, investments, businesses-that are not even equal to the wing of a mosquito in the sight of Allah. They arrogantly ignore Quranic verses and Prophetic hadiths that prohibit them from the haram, thinking that Allah will forgive them and pardon their intentional and consistent disobedience. They do not realize that Allah is actually punishing them by increasing their worldly possessions, and not blessing them at all. However, many times a sick or diseased person does not realize their sickness until they consult the doctor. But the arrogant person believes himself self-sufficient, independent of everyone, so he doesn't consult anyone, not the people of Islamic knowledge, nor his elders, nor his peers; because he believes he knows it all and has all the answers.

A statement that was ascribed to Eesa ibn Maryam who said:

طَالِبُ الدُّنْيَا مِثْلُ شَارِبِ مَاءِ الْبَحْرِ، كُلَّمَا ارْدَادَ شَرَبًا ارْدَادَ عَطَشًا حَتَّى يَقْتُلَهُ

“The seeker of worldly gain is like one who drinks water from the ocean: the more he drinks, the more his thirst intensifies, until it ultimately destroys him.” (Book of Zuhd by Ibn Abee Dunya #322)

The righteous predecessors, the companions, and the great scholars of the past would be worried and scared if they saw

that Allah was continuously giving them wealth, land, property, children, worldly possessions of this Dunya and making the attainment of them easy without any efforts, hardship, or difficulties.

They understood Allah's statement:

سَنَسْتَدْرِجُهُمْ مِنْ حَيْثُ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ

“We will gradually lead them to punishment where they do not even realize it.” (Al A'raaf: 182)

It is from Allah's wisdom that he will give someone- especially the arrogant and prideful ones-everything they want from worldly possessions so that the arrogant one's misguidance, ignorance, stubbornness, and pride continue to increase and increase until they deem themselves free and independent of everyone and everything, even Allah. That they are self-sufficient and everything they have earned is from their knowledge, experience, wealth, and children alone and not from Allah. They are so deeply immersed and drowning in an ocean of arrogance and pride, that they think they are in control of everything. Isn't this what led Firoun astray? Isn't this what lead Qaroon astray? How about Abu Lahab and the likes of him? Pride and arrogance have led many people from the past and present to forget about their Lord and Creator, and when they came to their senses it was too late for them. And we seek refuge in Allah from such a situation.

Don't fall victim to Al Istidraaj brothers and sisters!

Allah is telling us that He draws the heedless and careless slowly and gradually, into the pit and web of sins, one sin after the other, step by step, adorning for them the sins. Adorning their punishments for them as worldly possessions, wealth, and property; one thing after the next, until they reach the final punishment in the Hereafter. Following one's desires and taking a fatwa from someone about permissibility of Riba in non-Muslim lands, then another fatwa allowing the buying and selling Haram and intoxicants and drugs in non-Muslim lands. Then withholding salaries of workers, and them lying and cheating to get funds from the government and donors, one lie after the next. Until they are written in the sight of Allah as a compulsive liar. Indeed, the Shaytan has reeled them in and they are caught in his net and cannot break loose. Instead of following the footsteps of the Prophet Muhammad and His companions, they chose to follow the footsteps of Shaytan and his own desires.

This happens to the arrogant and prideful person by Allah lavishing endless material possessions upon them while they persist in denial, rejection, and disobedience to Allah, until they reach their appointed term in this lifetime and are then seized all at once, all of a sudden, surprisingly, unexpectedly, entrenched in an ocean of haram and sin; when they are not ready to meet their maker, Allah snatches their souls while they are indulging in their sins and luxuries that they earned from haram and impermissible ways and means.

Allah tells us in the Quran:

فَلَمَّا نَسُوا مَا ذُكِّرُوا بِهِ فَتَحْنَا عَلَيْهِمُ أَبْوَابَ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ حَتَّىٰ إِذَا فَرِحُوا بِمَا أُوتُوا
أَخَذْنَاهُمْ بِغُتَّةٍ فَإِذَا هُمْ مُبْلِسُونَ

“So when they forgot what they had been reminded of, So we opened to them the doors of everything for them. Until, when they rejoiced in what they were given, We seized them suddenly, and behold, they were plunged into despair.” (Al-An‘ām :44)

This is from the divine pattern of gradual enticement (istidrāj) through Allah’s subtle strategy. These arrogant and prideful individuals were punished by being made heedless, and negligent, and ignoring Allah’s commands. They ignored Allah’s signs, his verses, his prophet’s authentic hadiths, the advice of knowledgeable scholars; so Allah sealed their hearts and eyes so they could not see or realize what they were doing. They mistook the material possessions that came to them constantly- while they remained in sin and engaging in Haram- as a gift of favor from Allah and did not realize that it was really a punishment. Thus they persisted in disobedience, in Riba, in arrogance, in pride, in buying and selling haram, in belittling others, and rejoiced with the arrogant-only believing that Allah is all forgiving, and not remembering that Allah is also severe in punishment. Their insight, heart, and mind have been blinded from recognizing Allah’s punishment and plan. So the gates of all worldly possession were opened for them, and given to them; and they perceived it as blessings from Allah

while it was really a punishment, torment, and the result of sins upon sins.

Allah reminds us in other verses as well:

أَيَحْسَبُونَ أَنَّمَا نُمِدُّهُمْ بِهِ مِنْ مَالٍ وَبَنِينَ (55) نُسَارِعُ لَهُمْ فِي الْخَيْرَاتِ بَلْ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ

“Do they think that what We extend to them of wealth and children. We are hastening to them as good things? Rather, they do not perceive.” (Al Mu’minoos: 55-56)

O you who have fallen into arrogance, rejected the truth, interpreted the Quran and Sunnah based upon your ‘hawa’-desires, rejected and refused sincere advice from the knowledgeable; O you who has constantly belittled people because of them having less wealth than you, less worldly possessions than you, less children than you...know that Allah despises and hates those who are arrogant and prideful in numerous verses in the Quran, from them is what Allah says:

إِنَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُسْتَكْبِرِينَ

“Indeed, Allah does not love the arrogant/prideful” (An Nahl:23)

Furthermore, if Allah despises those who are arrogant, then it is natural that others will not like them as well, even if the arrogant one thinks he is loved and adored by the people. As a fundamental of Iman, anything and anyone Allah dislikes and despises; the believers are also obligated to do so as well.

If the arrogant one, continues acting arrogantly and belittles others, and dies upon that, and doesn't repent, and doesn't truly regret his actions and statements, and doesn't restore the rights of those who he oppressed because of his arrogance and pride, then listen to what the Prophet Muhammad said:

لَا يَدْخُلُ الْجَنَّةَ أَحَدٌ فِي قَلْبِهِ مِثْقَالُ حَبَّةٍ خَرَدَلٍ مِنْ كِبَرٍ

“Anyone with a mustard seed weight of arrogance/pride will not enter the paradise” (Saheeh Muslim #91)

Brothers and sisters, arrogance, pride, self-conceit and believing that you are better than others based on having more material possessions, wealth, status, race, ethnicity, nationality, knowledge, or the likes is a very deadly sickness that we need to remove from our hearts, minds, behavior, and speech.

When we reflect over the past and present and observe the fate of those who were arrogant, we see that arrogance and pride only led to one's self destruction in the end. Arrogance destroyed high ranking individuals and nations long before us and humiliated all who believed themselves prideful, arrogant, better than this one or that one, invincible, indestructible, more intelligent, more technologically advanced, possessing more wealth, and the likes.

The first one to be punished for their arrogance was Iblīs, the most despised and arrogant to ever exist, was the first to display arrogance—**“I am better than Adam, because Allah created me from fire and He created Adam from clay”** (Saad: 76)....

Pride became the cause of his curse and expulsion from divine mercy...

So anyone who deems himself better than others, because of his race, ethnicity, genetical make-up, language, or where they are from; has resembled the accursed Iblees and his agents from the shayateen. Anyone who gives precedence to their own views and opinions over Quran and Sunnah has resembled Iblees. Anyone who gives precedence to reason over revelation has resembled Iblees as well.

The we find Firoun whom was so arrogant, self-conceited, prideful, and full of himself who declared himself to be the lord the most high, and he was humiliated and humbled by the true Lord and Creator of the heavens and earth and drowned in the Nile, and left as a sign and eternal lesson for all of the arrogant and prideful ones who come after him.

So those who have leadership positions, or authority positions over others, don't think that you acquired that position by yourself; it is Allah who has given you your status; the more you are grateful to Allah and humble; the more he will raise you; but the more you believe you are independent and did everyone by yourself; the more you will be humiliated. Do not think that you own the masajid of Allah and they are your personal property. Do not think that just because you are the board members, or Imam, or paying the bills of the Islamic center that you own the masjid and have complete autonomy alone. The Prophet Muhammad was the leader of the Muslims

and always consulted the knowledgeable and experienced of his companions. Are you better than him?

What about Qarun, one of the wealthiest individuals who ever set foot on the earth. His story in the Quran shows us how misuse of wealth, pride and arrogance can lead to one's destruction. He was known as the wealthiest men in history, rich in possessions but also in faith. He was a cousin of Prophet Musa and despite being a close relative to a Prophet, he chose pride and arrogance over humility, and hypocrisy over truth...He was known as someone who recited the Torah beautifully and he was a man of knowledge. However, as time passed, he succumbed to worldly temptations, believing that all of his wealth and possessions were from his own hard work and intelligence. He was slowly misled from the truth, and became a hypocrite and eventually rejected the message of Musa with arrogance and pride. Allah tells us about him in surah Al Qasas:

“Indeed, Qaroon was from the people of Moosa, but he behaved arrogantly towards them. We had granted him such treasures that even their keys would burden a group of strong men because of their weight. ‘Some of’ his people advised him, “Do not be prideful! Surely Allah does not like the prideful. Rather, seek the ‘reward’ of the Hereafter by means of what Allah has granted you, without forgetting your share of this world. And be good ‘to others’ as Allah has been good to you. Do not seek to spread corruption in the land, for Allah certainly does not like the corruptors.” (Qasas 76-82)

What led to Qaroon's destruction is his statement: **He replied, "I have been granted all this because of some knowledge I have."**

He boasted arrogantly and prideful, **"I was given this wealth because of my knowledge"** and his fate was that he was swallowed up by the earth along with his family, possessions, and all of his treasures.

Dear believers, Arrogance, pride, and self-conceitedness is a dangerous sickness that blinds the heart, prevents one from accepting truth, leads one to rejecting sincere true advice, leads one gradually astray, and drives one to belittle others based upon one's desires and whims.

Do not be like Qaroon who thought that his knowledge alone is what caused him to become wealthy. Do not believe that because you are a Physician, Surgeon, Dentist, or hold a PhD in a specific field that you do not need to consult Islamic scholars. Do not believe that because of your college degree alone, or experience you were given is why you have a nice house and car. Always remember it was Allah who facilitated all of those things for you. Always remember that without Him, we wouldn't have anything.

Don't be like the people of Aad who thought they were the mightiest and strongest people on the face of the earth, as Allah tells us about them:

"As for 'Âd, they acted arrogantly throughout the land with no right, boasting, "Who is superior to us in might?" Did

they not see that Allah 'Himself', Who created them, was far superior to them in might? Still they persisted in denying Our signs. So We sent against them a furious wind, for 'several' miserable days, to make them taste a humiliating punishment in this worldly life. But far more humiliating will be the punishment of the Hereafter. And they will not be helped.” (Fussilat: 15-18)

Or reflect over the people of Thamud and Shua'ib who also fell into arrogance and pride and were destroyed and punished with a severe punishment.

Let us reflect upon ourselves and let us remove arrogance and pride from our hearts and behavior:

How many times have we felt superior to others because we have more wealth than them, better clothes than them, or better cars than them?

How many times have we despised someone because of wealth, lineage, knowledge, or status?

How many times has pride prevented us from accepting advice, following the truth, admitting a mistake, or offering an apology?

How many times has pride and arrogance led us to abandoning a Quranic verse or an authentic hadith, because it goes against our personal desires, whims, or business plans?

May Allah remove the sickness of arrogance and pride from our hearts and guide us to be humble, grateful, and obedient to Him.

O Muslims, among the most destructive diseases of the heart—one from which many of us are not free, and which only the worst of souls adopt—are those qualities that rank among the major sins, that incur the anger of the Most Merciful, and that lead to severe deprivation. These are ‘kibr’, arrogance, “pride”, self-conceit, and looking down upon and humiliating other people.

‘Kibr’-arrogance, pride, self-conceitedness has three levels:

1. The worst form is ‘kibr’ towards Allah by rejecting His commands in the Quran and Sunnah and behaving as if you are above Allah’s Laws.
2. ‘Kibr’ towards the Prophets and Messengers, by refusing to follow them and rejecting the Sunnah.
3. ‘Kibr’ towards other people, which is the most common form found amongst us. It includes belittling and looking down on others because of : knowledge, wealth, lineage, physical strength or beauty, amount of followers or social status, apparent piety.

How can someone who was created from a despised seminal fluid act arrogantly and belittle others? How can someone who was created in weakness upon weakness, who came in wearing diapers and will leave out wearing diapers have pride and self-conceit? How can someone who passed through the passage of urine three times and remained enclosed inside the womb with feces, urine, blood, embryonic fluid for 9 months consider himself to be the Proudful one, Mighty, Strong, The Best, Powerful, The Free and Independent?

It is truly unbecoming for a weak and fragile human being to show arrogance toward others, or to be impressed with himself, or his worldly possessions, or to boast of his wealth, knowledge, or status, when we reflect over where we came from and where we are headed.

Allah has declared concerning him:

“And humankind was created weak.” (An Nisaa:28)

And He said:

“He began the creation of man from clay. Then He made his progeny from an extract of a despised fluid.” (32:7–8)

Al-Ahnaf ibn Qays, may Allah have mercy on him, once said:

عَجِبْتُ لِمَنْ يَجْرِي فِي مَجْرَى الْبَوْلِ مَرَّتَيْنِ، كَيْفَ يَتَكَبَّرُ!

“I am amazed at one who passes twice through the passage of urine—how can he be arrogant?” (Tarikh Dimishq by Ibn Asakir 24/328, Seer A’laam 5/43)

One of the leaders once walked past by Mālik ibn Dīnār—strutting proudly and arrogantly. Mālik said:

أما علمت أنها مشية يكرها الله إلا بين الصّفين؟ فقال المهلب: أما تعرفني؟ قال: بلى، أولك نطفة مدرة، وأخرك جيفة قذرة، وأنت فيما بين ذلك تحمل العذرة، فانكسر، وقال: الآن عرفتني حق المعرفة

“Do you not know that such a walk is detested by Allah, except between the rows of battle?”

The man retorted, “Do you not know who I am?”

Mālik replied, “Indeed I do: your beginning is a filthy drop of despised fluid, your end is a decaying corpse, and you carry impurities in your intestines.”

The governor’s pride broke, and he said: “Now I truly know myself.” (Seer A’laam An Nubulaa 5/362)

O you in whose heart pride, arrogance, self-conceit, or vanity stirs...always remember that you are weak, poor, deficient, helpless in the sight of Allah...

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ أَنْتُمُ الْفُقَرَاءُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ هُوَ الْغَنِيُّ الْحَمِيدُ

“O Mankind you are all poor/needy in the sight of Allah, and Allah is the Self Sufficient and Praiseworthy” (Fatir:15)

Be reminded that only Allah alone is the only one who can be described as being Al Mutakabir-Most Powerful, All Mighty, Most Great, Perfect, Complete, the Prideful one.

Al-Mutakabbir means the One to Whom belongs all Kibriyaa’ (pride/grandeur), The Sovereign, or The Superior Who sees others as inferior to Him. He regards others in the same way a master regards his slaves, and it is inconceivable that this attribute should be ascribed to other than Allah, The Exalted (in this sense). To Him alone belongs greatness and grandeur in all respects and from all aspects, and therefore this attribute cannot be used in reference to other than Allah, The Exalted, except in a context of dispraise.

Pride is an exclusive attribute that only befitting for Allah, solely because Allah is perfect, complete, all knowledgeable, and has no deficiencies. However, human beings are weak, deficient, incomplete, and ignorant so it is never befitting for something weak to be prideful or arrogant at all. Whoever seeks to compete with Allah in that, Allah will destroy him, wreak vengeance on him, and make things difficult for him. The Prophet Muhammad said:

قَالَ اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ: الْكِبْرِيَاءُ رِدَائِي، وَالْعِظَمَةُ إِزَارِي، فَمَنْ نَازَعَنِي وَاحِدًا مِنْهُمَا، قَذَفْتُهُ فِي النَّارِ

Allah (mighty and sublime be He) said: Pride is my cloak and greatness is My robe, and he who competes with Me in respect of either of them I shall cast into Hell-fire. (Sunan Abee Dawood #4090)

Everyone who tries to be arrogant and put himself above others, Allah will bring him down amongst the lowest of the low, and will humiliate him, because he is going against his true nature and reality. The punishment is just and fits the crimes and wrongdoing. Just as Allah did with Iblees, Firoun, Qaroon, and many other nations and individuals in the past.

The one who is arrogant towards the people will be trampled beneath the feet of the people on the Day of Resurrection, as a punishment for his arrogance. Just as he arrogantly trampled on people's honor and rights by belittling them, humiliating them, and looking down upon them and mistreating them in this

Dunya, their recompense will be them being humiliated in the hereafter.

Be reminded brothers and sisters, that no matter how much wealth, status, material possessions you've acquired in this Dunya, do not think that you did it all by yourself, or because of your degree, or work ethic, or intelligence; indeed those were means and causes, but it was given to you by Allah to test you; and see how will you utilize that wealth and those possessions.

Do not ever forget that Your wealth, your children, your worldly possessions will not benefit you at all unless they are used in obedience to Allah; and the arrogant will definitely find out on the day of resurrection and many of them will be saying:

مَا أَغْنَىٰ عَنِّي مَالِيهِ^س (28) هَلَاكَ عَنِّي سُلْطَانِيَّةٌ

“My wealth has not benefitted me at all. My authority has been stripped from me.” (Al Haqqah:28-29)

Many of the arrogant and prideful believe that they permanently own buildings, properties, investments, and businesses and with these things try to use them to place themselves in authority positions over other people; while belittling others who don't own as much as them, and use those possessions-that aren't even equal to a mosquito wing- to brag and boast to kuffar, and oppress other Muslims and take advantage of them...remember Allah's statement O heedless one:

يَوْمَ لَا تَمْلِكُ نَفْسٌ لِنَفْسٍ شَيْئًا وَالْأَمْرُ يَوْمَئِذٍ لِلَّهِ

“It is’ the Day no soul will be of ‘any’ benefit to another whatsoever, for all authority and ownership on that Day belongs to Allah ‘entirely’. (Al Infitar: 19-20)

Allah will ask on the day of resurrection, those who thought they really owned things in this Dunya and deemed themselves to have some sense of authority over other Muslims, and used those things to belittle and mock and humiliate others, and build up a fake social network and praise amongst the kuffar, that Allah will ask them:

لَمَنِ الْمُلْكُ الْيَوْمَ ۖ لِلَّهِ الْوَاحِدِ الْقَهَّارِ

“Who does all authority belong to this Day? To Allah—the One, the Supreme! (Ghafir:16-17)

Allah he is Al Ghanee-self-sufficient, not you O arrogant one. Did you forget that you need Allah for everything, you need him to eat, to drink, to breathe, to digest food, to sleep, to wake, and even to defecate...Wake up and remind yourself that only Allah alone is Al Mutakabir-the sublime, the prideful, the supremely great, not you... you are a weak creature that cannot even stop a mosquito from sucking your blood, or stop an ant from taking some of your food, or stop a bird from urinating on your car. Be reminded O arrogant one that it is Allah who is Ar-Razzaq, not you, and people are not your slaves and servants.

So take account of yourself, before you are taken account of by Allah... That status that you were given is a test to see how you

will treat others. Will you belittle those who have less than you? Or will you treat them with respect, honor, and dignity the way the Prophet did? Be reminded that the wealth that you have been given, if earned in a halal way-is a test and Amanah- from Allah to see if you will utilize that wealth in the permissible causes and means of spreading Islam. And be reminded, that the wealth and material possessions that you are given while being immersed and engaged in constant haram, and earning it through haram means; know and be assured that those possessions and wealth are a punishment for you, and definitely not a blessing from Allah. As Allah will never reward His creatures with good for doing acts of disobedience. So take heed and wake up from your sleep and slumber and negligence o arrogant one.

The choice is yours...Will you use that halal wealth, that social status you earned to help Allah's cause, and help his servants, and spread the cause of Islam on earth? Or will they be proofs against you in the Hereafter and evidence of your arrogance and pride for all the world to see in this Dunya?

O you arrogant one who is consuming and earning haram...Will you cease from earning haram based upon Riba, lying, cheating, selling, and buying intoxicants and harming people, neighborhoods, and spreading corruption, crime, and drugs in communities? Will you get rid of that filth, that dirty money- or will you hold tightly to it and allow it to tarnish and toxify all the possessions you may have. Will you allow the 'khabeeth' (filthy) to mix with the 'Tayyib' (pure) until it

affects your health, your family, your children, your spouse, your possessions? Repent now, O you arrogant one who is drenched, immersed and swimming in an ocean of haram and prohibited things.

O you arrogant one, who earns a living through permissible means and halal ways; will you utilize that wealth to try and make other Muslims subservient to you and brainwash them into thinking that they are your slaves and servants, and you are their lord like Firoun did with his followers?

Will you bait needy Muslims with your wealth, telling people it is ‘sadaqah’-charity, but in all actuality it is just bait to try to make people be completely obedient to you, and work for, and serve you only; as if You are their Lord and Savior, and through you and being obedient to you lies all goodness, and being disobedient to you lies all misfortune and loss? If you are behaving like this, then indeed you are the Firoun and Qaroon of the 21st century.

Be informed, brothers and sisters that some of the main causes for arrogance, pride and belittling others are four:

1. Al Ujab: self-amazement, self-conceit
2. Al Hiqd: dislike and despising others
3. Al Hasad: jealousy and envy of others and what they have
4. Ar Riyah: showing off and doing actions of worship to please the creation and acquire their praise.

Some of the modern-day signs of the arrogant and prideful amongst the Muslims is:

-Those who fund, facilitate, purchase buildings, and apparently convert them to places of worship and label them masajid; but if you differ with them, they say ‘This is my property, I own it, if you don’t like my rules, you can leave’...Since when are masajid people’s personal property Allah tells us:

وَأَنَّ الْمَسَاجِدَ لِلَّهِ فَلَا تَدْعُوا مَعَ اللَّهِ أَحَدًا

“And indeed the ‘Masajid’ are for Allah, so do not call upon anyone with Him” (Jinn:18)

Some claim to have opened masajid or centers of worship for Allah, but they really just opened it to have control and power over the people, or to gain social-status, and dictate to the people what you think Islam is; based upon their desires and whims, without any formal Islamic education, or studies. Many have just opened masajid and Islamic centers as a means and way to hide their business profits and personal assets.

Indeed, such individuals who think like this are delusional, following their desires, and have seals upon their hearts, and need the guidance and aid of Allah to come back to the truth, and have fallen into some of the deepest depths of pride and arrogance.

-Other forms of modern-day arrogance and prideful behavior towards people, are those who take advantage of the weak, impoverished, refugees, women, and unknowledgeable by

fabricating hadiths or interpretations of the texts based upon their person whims and desires. Many of the arrogant sit with the Jews and Christians and other ‘interfaith counsels’ mocking, laughing at, and belittling their fellow Muslims who have less possessions than them.

-Another form of arrogance, is by mocking people or making fun of them because of where they are from, the way they look, their social status, or worldly possessions. Mocking men who have full beards, or women who wear proper niqab or hijab, or brothers who wear short sharwal and khamees or thawb; and do not keep it dragging on the ground in imitation of the Prophet Muhammad. Or mocking someone because of his complexion, race, or nationality; thinking that you are superior because you were a born Muslim or follow a certain madthab or follow a certain sheikh or school of thought.

-Another form of arrogance is Claiming that the Quran is sufficient for a Muslim to follow to understand and implement his deen. That the sunnah is not obligatory to follow. And following the prophet in his statements, actions, appearance, and tacit approvals is acceptable, and not recommended nor necessary. Or claiming that the Masjid does not need an Imam or Islamic scholar because we have Google and ChatGPT now.

-Another form of arrogance is becoming happy and joyful when observing other Muslims go through hardships, calamities, business difficulties or bankruptcy; instead of helping them and lending them a hand. These arrogant ignoramuses believe that now they will become more

successful because their competition is removed. These masakeen, are so far from Allah that they believe their sustenance is dependent upon people, and the market, and prices, and customers.... and not upon Allah... Indeed, this is an extremely bad sickness and disease, and they have deemed the people to be the providers and not Allah.

Servants of Allah, from the most despicable of sins and worst of them, is the arrogance and pride that people have without any justification or means; those who act this way will have the worst of ranks in the Hereafter, as the Prophet said:

ثَلَاثَةٌ لَا يُكَلِّمُهُمُ اللَّهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ وَلَا يُزَكِّيهِمْ - وَلَا يَنْظُرُ إِلَيْهِمْ - وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ
شَيْخٌ زَانٍ وَمَلِكٌ كَذَّابٌ وَعَائِلٌ مُسْتَكْبِرٌ

The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said, "There are three (types of) people to whom Allah will not speak to on the Day of Resurrection, nor will He purify them, nor will he even look at them, and they will have a painful punishment. These are: An elderly man who commits Zina (illicit sexual act), a ruler who lies, and an arrogant poor person." (Saheeh Muslim #107)

O servants of Allah we need to ask ourselves;

Why do people show arrogance when all are created from dust?

How can people think that because they have more worldly possessions that Allah favored them and blessed them?

How can people who are engaging in constant and consistent haram, think that the worldly possessions and wealth that is given to them are blessings and not punishments from Allah?

How can a human being be arrogant when he is weak, needy, and deficient in every respect?

His beginning is a despicable drop of fluid, his end is a decaying corpse, and everywhere he walks he carries feces and urine inside his stomach and intestines.

One of the righteous predecessors used to say:

لَوْ كَانَ لِلذُّنُوبِ رِيحٌ؛ مَا قَدَرَ أَحَدٌ أَنْ يَجْلِسَ إِلَيَّ

“If sins had a scent, no one would be able to sit next to me.”

So imagine bros and sisters, ‘kibr’-arrogance, pride, belittling others, self-conceit one of the major sins in Islam, one of the greatest forms of one oppressing oneself-how terrible of a scent, how repugnant of a smell would it give off if Allah allowed others to smell our sins...It would definitely be something unbearable and destructive, where no human or animal would even be comfortable with getting close to us.

Furthermore, just how the arrogant took advantage of the weak in this world, oppressed them, manipulated them with their arrogance, pride, deceit and gathered the weak and needy as their followers by baiting them with their wealth, status, and sweet words; they will be gathered on the day of resurrection as the Prophet Muhammad said:

" يُحْشَرُ الْمُتَكَبِّرُونَ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ أَمْثَالَ الذَّرِّ فِي صُورِ الرِّجَالِ يَغْشَاهُمْ الذُّلُّ مِنْ كُلِّ مَكَانٍ فَيُسَاقُونَ إِلَى سِجْنٍ فِي جَهَنَّمَ يُسَمَّى بُولَسَ تَغْلُوهُمْ نَارُ الْأَنْيَارِ يُسْقَوْنَ مِنْ عَصَارَةِ أَهْلِ النَّارِ طِينَةَ الْحَبَالِ "

"The proud/arrogant will be gathered on the Day of Judgement resembling tiny particles (or ants) in the image of men. They will be covered with humiliation everywhere, they will be dragged into a prison in Hell called Bulas, the hottest of fires will rise over them. They will have to drink the pus of the people of the Fire, the foul fluid that their skins excrete, the mud of arrogance." (Jami At Tirmidhi #2492)

Be reminded, O you whose heart is sick with arrogance, filled with pride, and belittling others that any apparent praise or affection shown to you from others, is nothing but a show and completely fake. Many only deal with you because you have baited them with your wealth, false promises of success, and your cunning and conniving ways of manipulating them by using the deen to support your arrogant behavior and demeanor. The arrogant and prideful who laugh, mock, and belittle those who have less possessions than them, their faces will be gloomy on the day of resurrection as Allah says:

وَيَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ تَرَى الَّذِينَ كَذَبُوا عَلَى اللَّهِ وُجُوهُهُم مُسْوَدَّةٌ أَلَيْسَ فِي جَهَنَّمَ مَثْوًى لِّلْمُتَكَبِّرِينَ ٦٠

“On the Day of Judgment you will see those who lied about Allah with their faces gloomy. Is Hell not a ‘fitting’ home for the arrogant?” (Az Zumar:60)

Take heed to this reminder, listen closely, and do not be like the arrogant and ignorant people during the time of Prophet Nooh; who put their fingers in their ears and disregarded the call to return back to Allah and board the ship of salvation.

وَإِنِّي كُلَّمَا دَعَوْتُهُمْ لِتَغْفِرَ لَهُمْ جَعَلُوا أَصَابِعَهُمْ فِي آذَانِهِمْ وَاسْتَغْشَوْا ثِيَابَهُمْ
وَأَصْرُوا وَاسْتَكْبَرُوا اسْتِكْبَارًا

“And whenever I invite them to be forgiven by You, they press their fingers into their ears, cover themselves with their clothes, persist ‘in denial’, and act very arrogantly.”

(Nuh:7)

O you arrogant and prideful one, who is taking advantage of other believers and belittling them and thinking that people are obliged to repay a favor to you, or owe you absolute allegiance, and that you are better than all of them, and you are wealthier than them, and smarter than them, and more cunning than them, and more appealing than them; soon you will find out that you will be left alone with your arrogance and pride... you may think that Allah is opening up the doors of opportunity for you, but in all actuality; when you are constantly indulging in haram, belittling others, oppressing others; know that Allah is only opening these doors of worldly opportunities for you as a punishment for you, a punishment in this world, before the punishment in the hereafter, but you are heedless and cannot recognize it because of the seal upon your eyes, ears, heart and mind. Know that if you do not repent, and do not restore the rights of those you have wronged, then you will soon come to

find out on the day of resurrection that there will be only one door that you will be entering into, as Allah says:

أَدْخُلُوا أَبْوَابَ جَهَنَّمَ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا فَبِئْسَ مَثْوًى الْمُتَكَبِّرِينَ ٧٦

“Enter the gates of Hell, to abide therein forever—how wretched is the abode of the arrogant.”(Ghafir:76)

May Allah purify our hearts, minds, souls, actions, statements, and beliefs from arrogance, pride, self-conceitedness, and belittling others. May Allah not gradually mislead us by constantly giving us worldly possessions while we are committing haram into thinking they are blessings. May Allah aid us in removing pride and arrogance from our communities and adorn us with ‘tawaadu,’ (humility, humbleness, and gratefulness to Allah and others).

Arrogance and pride breed a sense of superiority, blinding individuals to the inherent worth, value, respect, and dignity of others. In our pursuit of worldly accomplishments, we often forget that true success lies in recognizing the greatness and perfection of the Creator and our own limitations and deficiencies as human beings. Islamic teachings remind us that Allah does not favor those who are arrogant or boastful, as arrogance stems from a false sense of self-importance and denies the equality and interdependence of all human beings.

The curse of arrogance and pride manifests in various forms within our social and cultural setups. It manifests as elitism, where individuals perceive themselves as superior based on wealth, social status, or lineage. It fuels tribalism and racism,

creating divisions based on ethnicity, race, or nationality. It fuels intolerance, leading to sectarianism and partisanship.

Some statements of the righteous predecessors dispraising ‘Kibr’

Abū ‘Uthmān al-Nīsābūrī said:

-وقال أبو عثمان النيسابوري: "ما ترك أحد شيئاً من السنّة إلّا لكبرٍ في نفسه، ثمّ هذا مَظَنَّةٌ لغيره، فينسلخ القلب عن حقيقة اتّباع الرّسول صلّى الله عليه وسلّم، ويصيرُ فيه من الكبرِ وضَعْفُ الإيمانِ ما يفسدُ عليه دينه، أو يكادُ، وهم يحسبون أنّهم يُحسنون صنْعاً"

“No one abandons any aspect of the Sunnah except due to arrogance within himself. This then becomes a cause for further neglect, until the heart is stripped of the true essence of following the Messenger—peace and blessings be upon him—and arrogance and weakness of faith take root within it, corrupting a person’s religion or nearly so, all while they assume that they are doing good.” (See Iqtidaa Siratul Mustaqeem by Ibn Taymiyyah 2/120)

Muhammad ibn Al Hasan ibn Ali said:

"ما دخل قلب امرئ شيء من الكبر قطّ إلّا نقص من عقله بقدر ما دخل من ذلك قلّ أو كثر"

“Whenever any amount of arrogance enters a person’s heart—no matter how little or how great—it diminishes his intellect in proportion to the arrogance that has entered.” (Ibn Abee Dunya in At Tawaadul Wa Al Khumool #226)

Ibunul Mu'taz said:

"لَمَّا عَرَفَ أَهْلُ النَّقْصِ حَالَهُمْ عِنْدَ ذَوِي الْكَمَالِ، اسْتَعَانُوا بِالْكِبَرِ، لِيُعْظَمَ صَغِيرًا،
وَيَرْفَعَ حَقِيرًا، وَلَيْسَ بِفَاعِلٍ"

“When those of deficient character recognized their standing in the sight of people of true excellence, they sought assistance in acting arrogantly thinking that it might magnify their deficiencies and elevate their insignificance—yet it is incapable of doing so.” (At Tamtheel wal Muhadarah by Ath Tha'alabee 444-445)



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