



Arrogance [*kibr*] and conceit [*khilā*]¹

Shaykh Muḥammad b. ‘Alawī al-Mālīkī al-Ḥasanī ﷺ

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Arrogance is an attribute of the devil. Allah, the Exalted, says concerning Iblīs, the cursed: **“And behold: We said to the angels: “Bow down to Adam!” and they bowed except Iblīs- he refused and was haughty and he was of those who reject faith.”** [2:34]

The arrogant one is odious to Allah, the Exalted, as He says: **“most certainly Allah does not love the arrogant.”** [16:23]. Furthermore, conceit and pride are associated characteristics of arrogance. The arrogant one finds himself exposed as his heart has been sealed by Allah. Allah says: **“Thus Allah seals the heart of every arrogant tyrant.”** [40:35] The arrogant one is also turned away from the signs of Allah. The Exalted says: **“For Allah loves not any arrogant boaster”** [31:18]. And: **Those who behave arrogantly on the earth in defiance of right – them I will turn away from My signs.”** [7:146].

The Messenger of Allah, the Salutations and Peace of Allah be upon him, said: “Allah (mighty and sublime is He) said: ‘Loftiness [*al-kibriyā*] is My support and Exaltedness My covering. Whoever attempts to wrest either one from Me, I will throw him into the fire.’”

And he, upon whom be the Salutations and Peace of Allah, said: “The arrogant will be resurrected on the Day of Judgment like tiny particles in the image of men, humiliation overwhelming them from every side.” Narrated by Tirmidhī.

He, the Salutations and Peace of Allah be upon him, said: “Whoever is proud of himself and is conceited in his bearing, Allah meets him angrily.” Narrated by Ṭabarānī and Ḥākīm, who said it was *ṣaḥīḥ* according to Muslim’s conditions.

He, the Salutations and Peace of Allah be upon him, said: “There was a man before you, tyrannous and dripping with conceit. Allah caused the earth to sink in under him, and he will be shaken in it until the Day of Judgment.” Narrated by the *Shaykhayn*, Naṣā’ī and others.

He, Salutations and Peace be upon him, said: “No one who has an atom’s weight of pride will enter Paradise.” A man said: “Oh Messenger of Allah! What about a man who loves to wear

¹ Shaykh Muḥammad b. ‘Alawī al-Mālīkī al-Ḥasanī; *Qul: Hādhihi Sabīlī* [Eng. Say: This Is My Way]

a beautiful cloak and sandals?” He, upon whom be Salutations and Peace, replied: “Allah is Beautiful and loves beauty. Pride disregards truth- [that is, opposes it]- and belittles people.” Narrated by Muslim.

The odiously arrogant one is proud of himself and scorns and belittles people.

Pride is located in the heart. But it has various outward indications that manifest its presence. Among these are: to love being at the head of people and parade one’s status over them. It is also to love sitting at the front of gatherings, strutting about or having a haughty bearing. Another way it is manifested is in loathing those who oppose your arguments- even those arguments you know are invalid- and in refusing to admit your error. It is also manifested by the disdain one shows for weak or poor Muslims and in self-praise. It is also to flaunt one’s genealogy, especially one’s virtuous and scholarly ancestors- a very ugly and sinful quality. This quality afflicts some descendants of such great ancestors- descendants who have no insight into religious truths. Whoever becomes conceited because of his ancestors loses their blessings. Such conceit invalidates one’s own virtues.

The Prophet, the Salutations and Peace of Allah be upon him, said: “Whoever is tardy in good acts is not expedited by his ancestry.” Narrated by Muslim. He, the Salutations and Peace of Allah be upon him, also said: “Oh Fātimah, the daughter of Muhammad, and Ṣafiyah, aunt of the Messenger of Allah, the Salutations and Peace of Allah be upon him : I am not at all able to spare you from Allah. Purchase your selves from the Fire.” Narrated by Muslim.

The Prophet, the Salutations and Peace of Allah be upon him, said: “There is no superiority of white over black, or Arab over non-Arab, except in fearing Allah. You are all from Adam and Adam was created of dust.” Narrated by Tirmidhī and Abū Dāwūd.

He, the Salutations and Peace of Allah be upon him, said: “Nations will end because of pride in their ancestors or because they become more contemptible in Allah’s sight than dung beetles.” Narrated by Abū Dāwūd and Tirmidhī.

Thus excellence and honour is established through God-consciousness and not through lineage. As Allah, the Exalted, says: **“The most honoured of you is the most God-conscious.”** [49: 13] However, if one is conceited because of one’s knowledge, piety and devotion, the reward accruing from these is annulled. If this is the case with regard to the conceit of the pious, then what must the case not be with regard to an ignoramus who prides himself with a piety and righteousness that is not his, but belongs to his predecessors! Is this not enormous and repulsive stupidity?! Good lies only in humility, submissiveness and obedience.

He, the Salutations and Peace of Allah be upon him, said: “Whoever is humble is elevated by Allah; whoever is proud is debased by Allah.”

The love of obscurity and anonymity, and despising show and fame, are characteristics of pious believers. They are satisfied with that which is lowly, be it in gatherings, eating, clothes and all the enjoyments of the world. So, fellow Muslims, seek that lowliness!

