

## THEME 42 - AVOID ARROGANCE

### تَجَنَّبُ غُرُورٌ

#### Learning objectives:

- To understand the meaning of arrogance –big headed.
- To learn that being arrogant is prohibited in Islam.
- To understand what is equality.
- To know how to avoid being arrogant.

#### In this theme, you will learn:

Arrogance is believing you are better than others, a negative feeling that leads to looking down on people, it is a major sin. Arrogance is a feature of the Satan who Allah ﷻ has cursed. A person can become arrogant because of their wealth, status, beauty or knowledge. The opposite of arrogance is to be humble, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ taught equality for all so that no one feels superior to the other.

قَالَ اللهُ تَعَالَى: ﴿ تِلْكَ الدَّارُ الْآخِرَةُ نَجْعَلُهَا لِلَّذِينَ لَا يُرِيدُونَ عُلُوًّا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَا فَسَادًا وَالْعَاقِبَةُ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ ﴾ [ القصص: 83]. وقال تعال : ﴿ وَلَا تَمْشِ فِي الْأَرْضِ مَرَحًا ﴾ [ الإسراء: 37].

Allah ﷻ says: “Such is the Final Abode; We grant it to those who desire neither grandeur nor wreak havoc in the land. And the best outcome is for those mindful of Allah” (28:83). “You shouldn’t walk about on Earth arrogantly” (17:37).

[1] عن عبد الله بن مسعود عن النبي قَالَ: « لا يَدْخُلُ الْجَنَّةَ مَنْ كَانَ فِي قَلْبِهِ مِثْقَالُ ذَرَّةٍ مِنْ كِبَرٍ ! » فَقَالَ رَجُلٌ : إِنَّ الرَّجُلَ يُحِبُّ أَنْ يَكُونَ نُؤْبَهُ حَسَنًا ، وَنَعْلُهُ حَسَنَةً ؟ قَالَ : « إِنَّ اللَّهَ جَمِيلٌ يُحِبُّ الْجَمَالَ ، الْكِبَرُ : بَطْرُ الْحَقِّ وَغَمَطُ النَّاسِ » رواه مسلم.

1. ‘Abdullah bin Mas’ud ﷺ reported: The Prophet ﷺ said, “He who has, in his heart, an ant’s weight of arrogance will not enter Jannah.” Someone said: “A man likes to wear beautiful clothes and shoes?” The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “Allah is Beautiful, He loves beauty. Arrogance means ridiculing and rejecting the truth and despising people.”

[2] عن سلمة بن الأكوع أَنَّ رَجُلًا أَكَلَ عِنْدَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ بِشِمَالِهِ ، فَقَالَ: « كُلْ بِيَمِينِكَ » قَالَ: لا أَسْتَطِيعُ ! قَالَ: « لا اسْتَطَعْتَ » مَا مَنَعَهُ إِلَّا الْكِبَرُ. قَالَ: « فما رَفَعَهَا إِلَيَّ فِيهِ » رواه مسلم.

2. Salamah bin Al-Akwa’ reported: A man was eating in the presence of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ with his left hand. He told him “Eat with your right hand.” He said: “I cannot.” The Prophet ﷺ said, “May you never be able to do that.” It was arrogance that prevented him from doing as told, and he could not raise his hand up to his mouth again.

COMMENTARY: The lesson to be derived from this hadith is the significance of cultivating humility and being open to following the guidance of those who possess wisdom and knowledge. The man's refusal was not due to any physical incapacity but rather stemmed from arrogance and defiance. By expressing this wish, the Prophet draws attention to the spiritual consequence of such arrogance. It serves as a reminder that a person's attitude and intentions matter just as much as their actions.

[3] عن حارثة بن وهبٍ قَالَ: سَمِعْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ يَقُولُ: «أَلَا أُخْبِرُكُمْ بِأَهْلِ النَّارِ: كُلُّ عَتَلٍ جَوَاطِ مُسْتَكْبِرٍ». متفقٌ عَلَيْهِ

3. Harithah bin Wahab رضي الله عنه reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “Shall I not tell you about the people of Hell? They are violent, disrespectful and arrogant.”

[4] عن أبي سعيد الخدري عن النبي قَالَ: «اِحْتَجَّتِ الْجَنَّةُ وَالنَّارُ ، فَقَالَتِ النَّارُ : فِيَّ الْجَبَّارُونَ وَالْمُتَكَبِّرُونَ. وَقَالَتِ الْجَنَّةُ : فِيَّ ضِعْفَاءُ النَّاسِ وَمَسَاكِينُهُمْ ، فَقَضَى اللَّهُ بَيْنَهُمَا : إِنَّكَ الْجَنَّةُ رَحْمَتِي أَرْحَمُ بِكَ مِنْ أَشَاءِ ، وَإِنَّكَ النَّارُ عَذَابِي أُعَذِّبُ بِكَ مِنْ أَشَاءِ ، وَلِكُلِّيْكُمْمَا عَلَيَّ مَلُؤُهَا». رواه مسلم.

4. Abu Sa'id Al-Khudri رضي الله عنه reported: The Prophet ﷺ said, “There was a dispute between Hell and Paradise. Hell said: ‘The arrogant and proud are in me.’ Paradise said: ‘The weak and humble are in me.’ Then Allah ﷻ said: Paradise is like my kindness, and through it I shall show kindness to those whom I wish and Hell is my wrath to punish those amongst my slaves, and each of you will have its fill.”

[5] عن أبي هريرة أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ قَالَ: « لَا يَنْظُرُ اللَّهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ إِلَى مَنْ جَرَّ إِزَارَهُ بَطْرًا ». متفقٌ عَلَيْهِ.

5. Abu Hurairah رضي الله عنه reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “On the Day of Resurrection, Allah will not look at him who trails his lower garment out of pride.”

COMMENTARY: This hadith serves as a reminder of the value of humility, modesty, and sincerity in the sight of Allah. It urges us to prioritise internal virtues and pure intentions in our actions and to refrain from seeking worldly recognition or displaying arrogance. By embodying these qualities, we can strive to become better Muslims and strengthen our relationship with Allah, both in this life and in the Hereafter.

[6] عن أبي هريرة قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ : « ثَلَاثَةٌ لَا يُكَلِّمُهُمُ اللَّهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ ، وَلَا يُزَكِّيهِمْ ، وَلَا يَنْظُرُ إِلَيْهِمْ ، وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ : شَيْخٌ زَانٍ وَمَلِكٌ كَذَّابٌ ، وَعَائِلٌ مُسْتَكْبِرٌ ». رواه مسلم.

6. Abu Hurairah رضي الله عنه reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “There are three types of people to whom Allah will not speak on the Day of Resurrection, nor will He purify them, nor look at them, and they will have a painful punishment. These are: An elderly man who commits adultery, a ruler who lies and an arrogant poor person.”

[7] عن أبي هريرة قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ: « يَقُولُ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى : الْعِرُّ إِزَارِي ، وَالْكَبْرِيَاءُ رِدَائِي ، فَمَنْ يُنَازِعُنِي عَذَّبْتُهُ » رواه مسلم.

7. Abu Hurairah رضي الله عنه reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “Allah ﷻ says: ‘Honour is my shawl and pride is my cloak. Whoever challenges me regarding them shall be punished.’”

**Activities:**

- Role-playing scenarios where you can act out different situations involving arrogance and humility. Highlight the outcomes of arrogant behaviour versus humble actions.
- Find synonyms and then opposites of the word arrogance.
- Discuss what the causes of arrogance are and how to overcome them. For example; over-praising yourself, being obsessed with looks, clothing and wealth.

**In this theme you have learnt:**

- Power, honour, greatness and grandeur are attributes of Allah ﷻ and no one should imitate them.
- On Judgement Day Allah ﷻ will not speak to or purify a person who was arrogant.
- Be aware of self-praise and arrogance, which may penetrate your hearts through fine clothes and physical beauty.
- Arrogance and pride start as a habit of showing off until it becomes distinctive of a person’s character.