

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

Different forms of Humility Overcome Pride

Allah (swt) in the Holy Qur'an relates to us:

And lower to them the wing of humility out of compassion and saying, "My Lord, have mercy upon them, they brought me up when I was small."

Also, Allah (swt) says:

And do not scornfully turn your cheek away from people, and do not walk arrogantly upon this earth. Surely Allah, does not love anyone who is a self-deluded boaster. And be modest in your bearing and lower your voice. Surely the harshest of all is the voice of the donkey.

Asalāmu aleikum. Allah also says in Surah al-Baqarah, **"And lower your wing in kindness unto those believers who follow you."** In the outer aspect of the inner part of the subject I'll be talking on today, there is much to be learned. It is the topic of *kabriya* / pride and *tawazu* / humility, which is the cause of our success and our happiness. At least in the history of humankind, the ones who are the most humble seem to be those who are most happy. Those who are humble and who have the sincerest love of Allah, Allah will protect them even in ways they don't understand. When we have no humility, there are catastrophes and there are miseries that accompany us everywhere we go throughout the world. Indeed, some would say, throughout the universes. If you go to the far reaches of this universe on great journeys, but without humility and with pride, you would find misery.

Tawazu /humility is very interesting, because it is not mentioned in Qur'an. It is mentioned in different ways. The other word is "*dhul*." Meanwhile, the word pride is mentioned 66 times in the Qur'an in different forms. This word for pride is used in many ways. Sixty-six times against zero. Why do you think that is? The best type of humility is the one Allah (swt) recommends to the Prophet (sal). In this regard, Allah says: **"And lower your wing in kindness unto those believers who follow you."** He also advises Prophet Mohammed (sal) to be humble in Surah al-Hijra, **"And lower your wings in tenderness."** In other words, the manner in which a Muslim should behave to one another is in kindness, covering, protecting with your wings those who need your protection. These are forms of humility. In Surah al-Mā'idah, Allah says:

And those of you who become a renegade from his *dīn*, know that Allah will bring in your stead a people whom He loves and who love Him, humble toward believers, stern toward disbelievers, striving in the way of Allah, fearing not the blame of any blamer. Such is the grace of Allah (swt) that He gives unto whom He wills. Allah is All Embracing, All Knowing.

This is an extremely important *āyat*: **"Allah loves those who love Him, and the believers are humble toward Him."** This is how we should be. We should love Allah and be humble toward Him, and strive in the way of Allah. We should not fear blame or blamers, because the grace of Allah is with us. Allah (swt) commands us in many ways. He tells believers to treat parents and believers with kindness, to be kind to all people, and to be humble and merciful to all people. **"And lower unto them the way of humility and mercy, and say, 'My Lord have mercy on them both as they did care for me when I was little.'"**

At the same time, Allah wants from the believers something else. He wants the person who believes to be also called one who is humble. A person who doesn't boast would

therefore be humble. In this sense, we understand what humility is. He doesn't like those who boast or brag about things. Standing, quoting 'āyat after 'āyat to prove this and that, showing knowledge and boasting about themselves instead of turning their attention toward Allah. He doesn't want us to have this kind of *kibr*, to be proud of ourselves. We shouldn't claim we are totally pure or innocent. We shouldn't claim we are angelic. But humility comes when we admit our shortcomings, repent our mistakes and admit our mistakes and our faults.

We should then turn to Allah (swt), and we should share our ideas, creativity, and hopes with others, whether young or old. We should be encouraging them to a high position of knowledge and service to humanity. At the same time, whether a person is ignorant or brilliant academically, whether they are creative or common in their way of life, whether they have power or they are powerless, we should treat everyone in the same way. Allah hates those who are proud and arrogant and boastful. In this regard, Allah says about people: **“Your God is one God, but as for those who believe not in the Hereafter, their hearts refuse to know. They are proud. Assuredly, Allah knows what they keep hidden and what they proclaim. Lo, He loves not the proud.”** These are things that by implication teach us about al-Wadud.

It's also mentioned in Surah ar-Rahman, **“Turn not your cheek in scorn toward the folk, nor walk with pertinence and arrogance in the land. Lo, Allah loves not each braggart or boaster.”** People who are proud of themselves because of what they are, or their personal wealth or their personal achievements, or their sureness about their own opinions may be negating the blessings of Allah (swt). Allah says He doesn't like that and doesn't like them. The best example of Allah's rejection of a person's attitude is that of Iblis who refused to prostrate in front of Adam. He refused the order of Allah, because he felt he was better than Hazrat Adam, and he received the curse of Allah until the Day of Judgment. Allah says in Surah al-Sād:

The angels fell down in prostrate, everyone save Iblis. He was scornful and became one of the disbelievers. He said, “O Iblis, what hinders you from prostrating before that which I created with both My hands? Were you proud or were you high exalted?” He said, “I am better than him. You created me out of fire, while you created him out of clay.” And Allah said, “Go from here, for lo you are now outcast, and My curse is on you until the Day of Judgment.

This tells us where pride will take us. It takes us to hell, not to Paradise, Allah said. It will happen that way until a camel passes through the eye of the needle. That is not going to happen very quickly unless we have a camel that has been freeze dried. It could certainly pass camel genes through the eye of the needle, but that’s not what He meant. He meant a whole, big, fat camel—or even a not so fat camel. It’s very important, children, that you remember this, if you have excessive pride in what you are doing. It doesn’t mean that you are not happy you got an A on an exam, or you placed first in a poetry contest or something. That’s good pride, because you see your achievement. But when you think you are better than someone else, when you have more knowledge than someone, and you are proud that they are ignorant and you are smart, instead of hoping that they gain knowledge, then you have no humility.

If someone says, “That’s a very nice thing you did,” you say, “Thank you very much, *alhamdulillah*. I need to make it better the next time. Oh, it’s nothing.” On the other hand, you see Paradise is reserved for the people who are humble. Allah says, **“As for the abode of the Hereafter, We assign it to those who seek not oppression on the earth nor yet corruption. The sequel is for those who ward off evil.”** What is oppression? It is when you take from someone something they have, against their will. You don’t allow them to have what they deserve, by force. It’s very clear what our role in life should be. If it’s Paradise where we are headed, we should be compassionate and not

oppressive. We should not be a part of corruption of anything in the world, which is pretty difficult in the world we live in today.

We have to remember how Allah (swt) punished all the nations previously in history. Remember the people of Hud and Lot, and what happened to the Pharaoh and all the others. You know that the Prophet Muhammad advises us to be humble in every aspect of our lives. Here is some of the advice of the Prophet (sal), who we need to talk about more, because the day of his death and the day of his birth are coming to us. The Prophet (sal) said, ***“Charity does not decrease any wealth. Allah increases the respect of anyone who forgives, and who is humble for the love of Allah. Allah will raise that person’s rank.”*** It was also narrated that the Prophet (sal) said, ***“Allah revealed to me, ‘Muhammed, you should be humble, that no one will boast over others and no one will transgress over others.’”*** Ibn Maqsood said the Prophet (sal) said, ***“No one will enter Paradise if he or she has an atom’s weight of pride.”*** And Abu Hurayra said the Prophet (sal) said,

Allah does not speak to three types of people on the Day of Judgment: He doesn’t purify them, and He does not look at them. They will have a very severe penalty. [They are the] the elderly people who commit sins, a king who lies, and a person who is proud and arrogant.

Well, that’s like putting a camel through the eye of a needle. We are all people who can be proud and arrogant. I’d like to have you contemplate with me that [though] we can have all the forms of *dīn* and religion we want – pray, do our *wudu* and make supplications day and night – Allah (swt) is telling us that equal, if not more attention, is paid to how we live our lives. He’s telling us that we are requesting of each other that we practice humility and simplicity, and keep our heads low. Allah (swt) doesn’t like those who are proud and aggressive, conceited and arrogant. Let us be kind to each other, extend our personal help and our service to each other, our time, effort, knowledge and

wealth to each other. Remember that Allah will make you happy and that you will go to Paradise in the Hereafter, if you are humble and kind.

May Allah bless us and guide us to the right path and shower us with His blessings now so that when the tests and trials come, it's our kindness and love that dominate our personality, and we can enter into Paradise. *Asalaamu aleikum*