The Dangers of Pride and Arrogance

A simple English Friday khutbah about avoiding pride, accepting advice and treating others with respect.

First khutbah · Arabic opening

Innal hamda lillah,
nahmaduhu wa nasta‘eenuhu wa nastaghfiruhu,
wa na‘oodhu billahi min shuroori anfusina
wa min sayyi’aati a‘maalina. ▶ Audio

إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ، نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ، وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا.

Man yah-dihi-llahu falaa mudilla lah,
wa man yud-lil falaa haadiya lah. ▶ Audio

مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ، وَمَنْ يُضْلِلْ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.

Wa ash-hadu an laa ilaaha illallahu wahdahu laa shareeka lah,
wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadan ‘abduhu wa rasooluh. ▶ Audio

وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلٰهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.

Yaa ay-yuhal-ladheena aamanut-taqul-laha haqqa tu-qaa-tihi
wa laa tamootunna illaa wa antum muslimoon. ▶ Audio

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تُقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

Yaa ayyuhan-naasu-ttaqu rabbakumul-ladhee khalaqakum min nafsin waahidah, ▶ Audio

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ،

wa khalaqa minhaa zawjahaa,
wa baththa minhumaa rijaalan katheeran wa nisaa'aa. ▶ Audio

وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا، وَبَثَّ مِنْهُمَا رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَاءً.

Wattaqullahal-ladhee tasaa'aloona bihi wal-arhaam.
Innallaha kaana 'alaykum raqeebaa. ▶ Audio

وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي تَسَاءَلُونَ بِهِ وَالْأَرْحَامَ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ رَقِيبًا.

Yaa ayyuhalladheena aamanu-ttaqullaha wa qooloo qawlan sadeedaa. ▶ Audio

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا.

Yuslih lakum a'maalakum wa yaghfir lakum dhunoobakum. ▶ Audio

يُصْلِحْ لَكُمْ أَعْمَالَكُمْ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ.

Wa man yuti'illaha wa rasoolahu faqad faaza fawzan 'azeemaa. ▶ Audio

وَمَنْ يُطِعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ فَازَ فَوْزًا عَظِيمًا.

Ammaa ba'd. ▶ Audio

أَمَّا بَعْدُ.

Fa inna asdaqal hadeethi kitaabullah, ▶ Audio

فَإِنَّ أَصْدَقَ الْحَدِيثِ كِتَابُ اللَّهِ،

wa khayral hadyi hadyu Muhammadin sallallahu ‘alayhi wa sallam, ▶ Audio

وَخَيْرَ الْهَدْيِ هَدْيُ مُحَمَّدٍ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ،

wa sharral umoori muh-dathaa-tuhaa,
wa kulla muh-dathatin bid‘ah,
wa kulla bid‘atin dalaalah,
wa kulla dalaalatin fin-naar. ▶ Audio

وَشَرَّ الْأُمُورِ مُحْدَثَاتُهَا، وَكُلَّ مُحْدَثَةٍ بِدْعَةٌ، وَكُلَّ بِدْعَةٍ ضَلَالَةٌ، وَكُلَّ ضَلَالَةٍ فِي النَّارِ.

First khutbah · English

My dear brothers in Islam,

I advise myself first, and then all of you, to have taqwa of Allah.

Fear Allah, be aware of Allah, and remember that one day we will stand before Him and answer for how we lived our lives.

Today's khutbah is about a dangerous sin that can enter our hearts without us even realising it.

A sin that can destroy relationships, cause us to look down on others, and prevent us from accepting the truth.

Pride and arrogance.

My dear brothers in Islam,

When we think of an arrogant person, we may imagine someone who is wealthy, powerful, or constantly showing off.

But arrogance is not always so obvious.

Sometimes, it appears in the way we speak to others.

Sometimes, it appears when someone corrects us.

And sometimes, it appears when we refuse to admit that we are wrong.

A person may not have much money.

He may not have a high position in society.

But he can still have pride in his heart.

And a person may be wealthy and successful, yet remain humble and thankful to Allah.

So the real question is not how much we own.

The real question is what is in our hearts.

The Prophet Muhammad, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, gave us a very serious warning about arrogance.

In Sahih Muslim, (Hadith 91a), he warned that a person with even a mustard seed's weight of pride in his heart will not enter Paradise.

A man then asked about someone who likes to wear beautiful clothes and good shoes.

The Prophet, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, explained that Allah is beautiful and loves beauty.

He then explained what arrogance really is.

"Pride is disdaining the truth (out of self-conceit) and contempt for the people."

In simple words, arrogance means rejecting the truth because we think too highly of ourselves, and looking down on other people.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Think about how often this happens in everyday life.

Someone gives us good advice, but we refuse to listen because they are younger than us.

Someone points out a mistake we made, but instead of thanking them, we become angry.

Our wife tells us that something we said was hurtful, but we refuse to apologise because we believe a husband should never have to say sorry.

Our children point out something we have done wrong, and we dismiss them simply because they are children.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Being older does not mean we are always right.

Being a parent does not mean we never make mistakes.

Being wealthy does not mean we are better than someone who is poor.

And having more Islamic knowledge does not give us the right to look down on others.

The truth is still the truth, regardless of who reminds us of it.

And a humble person is willing to accept that truth.

My dear brothers in Islam,

We should remember how dangerous arrogance can become.

The Quran tells us about Iblis, who refused to obey Allah's command to bow before Adam.

In Surah Al-Baqarah, (verse 34), Allah tells us that Iblis refused because of his arrogance.

Iblis believed he was better than Adam.

His pride prevented him from obeying Allah.

Think about that.

The problem was not that Iblis did not know who Allah was.

He knew.

But he allowed his pride to stand between himself and obedience to Allah.

My dear brothers in Islam,

This teaches us a powerful lesson.

Knowledge without humility can become dangerous.

A person may know what Allah has commanded, but still refuse to obey because of pride.

He may know that he has wronged someone, but refuse to apologise.

He may know that he should seek forgiveness, but refuse to admit his mistakes.

And he may know that he needs to change, but convince himself that he is already better than everyone else.

This is why we must always examine our hearts.

Allah warns us in Surah Luqman, (verse 18):

"Do not turn your nose up at people, nor walk about the place arrogantly"

What a clear warning.

Do not look down on people.

Do not behave as though you are more important than everyone around you.

My dear brothers in Islam,

There are many ways we can show arrogance without saying a single word.

We may ignore someone because they are poor.

We may treat a cleaner or labourer disrespectfully because we believe our job is more important.

We may speak politely to someone wealthy, but speak harshly to someone who has nothing to offer us.

We may refuse to greet someone because we believe they should greet us first.

But my dear brothers in Islam, **every person deserves to be treated with respect.**

The person cleaning the masjid may be closer to Allah than the person sitting in the front row.

The person wearing old clothes may have a heart filled with sincerity.

And the person we look down on may be far better than us in the sight of Allah.

We simply do not know.

In Surah Al-Hujurat, (verse 13), Allah tells us:

"In Allah's eyes, the most honoured of you are the ones most mindful of Him"

This is the measure of a person's true worth.

Not money.

Not nationality.

Not family name.

Not the type of car we drive.

And not how many people know who we are.

What matters is our taqwa and our relationship with Allah.

My dear brothers in Islam,

We must also be careful about pride within our families.

Sometimes, a small disagreement between a husband and wife becomes a major argument because neither wants to admit they are wrong.

Two brothers may stop speaking over something that could have been settled with a simple apology.

Parents and children may remain upset with one another for weeks because everyone is waiting for someone else to make the first move.

And sometimes, families remain divided for years over a matter that was never worth losing their relationship over.

Why does this happen?

Often, it is because of pride.

We tell ourselves, "Why should I be the one to apologise?"

Or, "They should come to me first."

Or, "I have done nothing wrong."

But my dear brothers in Islam, is winning an argument really more important than protecting a relationship?

Is our pride worth losing the love of our family?

And is refusing to apologise worth carrying that burden when we stand before Allah?

There is no shame in admitting that we are wrong.

In fact, it can be a sign of strength and good character.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Another danger of arrogance is that it can enter our worship.

A person may begin praying regularly and then start looking down on someone who struggles with his salah.

He may begin attending the masjid more often and start believing that he is better than those who do not.

He may gain Islamic knowledge and then begin speaking harshly to people who know less than him.

But this is not what worship should produce in our hearts.

The more we learn about Allah, the more humble we should become.

The more good deeds we perform, the more thankful we should be that Allah guided us towards them.

And the more knowledge we gain, the more we should realise how much we still have to learn.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Never forget that the blessings we have are gifts from Allah.

Our health.

Our wealth.

Our knowledge.

Our families.

Our abilities.

Everything we have could be taken away.

The person who is strong today may become weak tomorrow.

The person who is wealthy today may face financial difficulties.

And the person who is respected today may one day need help from the very people he once looked down on.

So why should we become arrogant over things that Allah has given us?

We should be thankful for our blessings, not proud of ourselves because of them.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Let us examine ourselves today.

How do we react when someone corrects us?

How do we treat people who have less than us?

Are we willing to apologise when we are wrong?

And do we feel pleased with ourselves when we see another Muslim struggling?

These are important questions because arrogance is not always easy to recognise in ourselves.

May Allah remove pride and arrogance from our hearts.

May Allah protect us from looking down on others.

May Allah help us accept the truth, even when it is difficult.

And may Allah make us among those who are humble, thankful and sincere, Ameen.

Asking for forgiveness

Aqoolu qawlee haadhaa,
wa astaghfirullaha lee wa lakum,
wa li saa'i-ril muslimeena min kulli dhanb.
Fastaghfirooh, innahu huwal ghafoorur raheem. ▶ Audio

أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا، وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ مِنْ كُلِّ ذَنْبٍ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.

Sit briefly between the two khutbahs.

Second khutbah · Arabic opening

Alhamdulillahi rabbil 'aalameen, was-salaatu was-salaamu 'alaa ashrafil anbiyaa'i wal mursaleen, nabiyyinaa Muhammadin, wa 'alaa aalihi wa sahbihi ajma'een. ▶ Audio

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ، وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى أَشْرَفِ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ وَالْمُرْسَلِينَ، نَبِيِّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ، وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.

Ash-hadu an laa ilaaha illallahu wahdahu laa shareeka lah, wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadan 'abduhu wa rasooluh. Ammaa ba'd. ▶ Audio

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلٰهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ. أَمَّا بَعْدُ.

Second khutbah · English

My dear brothers in Islam,

Again, I advise myself and all of you to have taqwa of Allah.

We have spoken about the dangers of pride and arrogance.

But now we need to ask ourselves:

How can we become more humble?

My dear brothers in Islam,

The first thing we can do is remember that everything we have comes from Allah.

If Allah has given you wealth, thank Him.

If Allah has given you knowledge, use it to help others.

If Allah has given you a good position in life, treat those around you with kindness.

And if Allah has blessed you with strong faith, never use that blessing as a reason to look down on someone who is struggling.

Instead, ask Allah to guide them, just as He has guided you.

The second thing we can do is learn to accept advice.

When someone corrects us, we do not always need to defend ourselves.

Sometimes, we simply need to listen.

Perhaps they are right.

And even if we disagree, we can still respond respectfully.

My dear brothers in Islam,

The third thing we can do is learn to apologise.

If you have spoken harshly to your wife, apologise.

If you have been unfair to your children, admit it.

If you have hurt your parents, try to make things right.

And if you have wronged another Muslim, do not allow your pride to stop you from seeking forgiveness.

An apology does not make us weak.

It shows that we value what is right more than our own pride.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Another way to develop humility is to help people without expecting anything in return.

Help someone who is struggling.

Visit someone who is sick.

Offer assistance to someone who has very little.

And treat people with kindness, even when they cannot do anything for you.

The Prophet Muhammad, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, gave us a beautiful reminder in Sahih Muslim, (Hadith 2588).

He taught us that whoever humbles himself for the sake of Allah, Allah raises his status.

Think about that.

The world may tell us that we must act important to become important.

But Islam teaches us that true honour comes through humility and obedience to Allah.

My dear brothers in Islam,

In Surah Al-Furqan, (verse 63), Allah describes His righteous servants:

"The servants of the Lord of Mercy are those who walk humbly on the earth"

Notice how Allah describes them.

They walk humbly.

They do not need to show everyone how important they are.

They do not need to win every argument.

And they do not need to make others feel small so that they can feel important.

My dear brothers in Islam,

We should also teach our children this lesson.

Teach them to respect people regardless of their wealth, nationality or position in society.

Teach them to be thankful for what they have.

Teach them to apologise when they are wrong.

And most importantly, let them see these qualities in us.

Because if our children see us looking down on others, they may grow up believing this is acceptable.

But if they see us treating everyone with respect, they will learn what humility looks like.

My dear brothers in Islam,

One day, we will leave this world.

Our money, our possessions and our positions will remain behind.

We will stand before Allah with nothing except our deeds.

And on that day, our pride will not benefit us.

So let us begin changing our hearts while we still have the opportunity.

Let us become people who accept the truth, admit their mistakes, and treat others with respect.

May Allah remove arrogance from our hearts.

May Allah make us humble in our words and actions.

May Allah help us treat our families and communities with kindness.

And may Allah grant us His mercy and admit us into Jannah, Ameen.

Closing duas

**In-nal-laaha wa ma-laaa-e-ka-ta-hoo yu-sal-loo-na 'alan-na-bee,
yaaa ay-yu-hal-la-thee-na aa-ma-noo sal-loo 'a-lay-hi wa sal-li-moo tas-lee-maa.**
▶ Audio

إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ، يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا.

Allah humma Sali wa salam wa barik ala Muhammadin wa ala alley Muhammad
▶ Audio

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ.

Allahummaghfir lil-muslimeena wal-muslimaat, wal-mu'mineena wal-mu'minaat, al-ahyaa'i minhum wal-amwaat. ▶ Audio

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ.

Rabbanaa zalamnaa anfusanaa, wa illam taghfir lanaa wa tarhamnaa, lanakoonanna minal-khaasireen. ▶ Audio

رَبَّنَا ظَلَمْنَا أَنْفُسَنَا وَإِنْ لَمْ تَغْفِرْ لَنَا وَتَرْحَمْنَا لَنَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ.

Rabbanaa aatinaa fid-dunyaa hasanah, wa fil-aakhirati hasanah, wa qinaa 'adhaaban-naar. ▶ Audio

رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ.

Final khutbah closing

Ibaadallah,
innallaha ya’muru bil-‘adli
wal-ihsaani
wa eetaa’i dhil-qurbaa,
wa yanhaa ‘anil fahshaa’i wal-munkari wal-baghy.
Ya‘izukum la‘allakum tadhakkaroon. ▶ Audio

عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَاءِ ذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ، وَيَنْهَىٰ عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ، يَعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ.

Wa akhiroo da3wanal humdoolilahi rubul Alameen.
Wa Aqimis-salaah. ▶ Audio

وَآخِرُ دَعْوَانَا أَنِ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ. وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ.