

MODULE 2

Class Title: Boasting and Arrogance

Aim of the lesson: To identify and cure the disease of boasting & arrogance in ourselves

Category: *Tazkiyah* – Purification of the heart

Lesson Format: Power point presentation with discussion

Handout: in folder

Greeting to students) *Assalam alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh*

(*Ta'awwudh*) *Aoodhubillahi min AsShaytanir Rajeem*

(*Tasmiyah*) *Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem*

(*Du'a*) *Rabbish rahli sadri wa yassirli amri wahlul uqdatum millisani yafqahu qawli* (Surah At Ta-Ha 20: Verse 25-28)

Slide 1:

Today we're going to talk about a disease which affects all our hearts.

Arrogance is one of those diseases which affects the spiritual heart and if it's not cured eventually your heart becomes sick and dies.

Why do we keep discussing that we have to purify our hearts; we've done classes on lying, backbiting, jealousy, heedlessness and throughout these classes why do we keep on talking about purifying our hearts? What's the reason behind it?

Student: if your heart is pure, then everything you will do is pure.

Teacher: Yes, but there's one major reason.

Now, the reason is that when you face Allah (swt) on the Day of Judgment He's not going to judge you based on your physical appearance. He's not going to say, 'Oh you're really good looking so you go to the best level of *Jannah*, you've got average looks so you go in the lower one and you're not good looking at all so go to hell.' It's not going to happen like this, is it? Will you be judged by your looks?

No, you'll be judged on the condition of your hearts. If you return to Allah (swt) with a *qalb-e-saleem* – the Qur'anic word for 'intact heart'- then only will you be worthy of Paradise¹.

Slide 2:

Now let's talk about what arrogance is all about. Have you heard this phrase, proud as a

¹ The day when wealth and children will not benefit anyone except he who will come to Allah with a *Qalb-e-Saleem* (a sound heart)." (Surah Ash Shu'ara 26: Verses 88-89)

peacock? Don't you think it is unfair calling a peacock proud? I think it's unfair not knowing what the peacock actually feels; do you know it's proud?

Students: No.

Teacher: Can animals feel all these sentiments? No, only humans can.

Student: But they strut...

Teacher: That's just his way of walking.

Student: That's its natural way of walking.

Teacher: we may never really know how a peacock feels but we know how humans feel. We know that humans are very proud; they have this quality of arrogance in them, don't you think so?

Students: Yes, we do.

Slides 3 - 4:

Teacher: Now the funny part is, it's very easy to identify arrogance in other people. You say about others that they are very arrogant but you can't really identify arrogance in yourself. You are unaware of arrogance in yourself. Don't you think so? Even an arrogant person would say, 'Oh she's so arrogant.' It's very easy. Nobody likes a person who is arrogant; if you have been treated with arrogance, do you like it?

Student: No.

Teacher: Would you like it? For example, your maid comes in the morning and you say, "For God's sake, can you shower once in a while. You smell awful!" We think it is okay to treat her like that because she's poor and she works in your home so she does not have emotions, you can say anything to her, and it doesn't matter. But we are treating her with arrogance when we talk to her in that tone. You could have told her all of that in a much milder tone, in a softer tone, with better words. That is just one example of treating someone in an arrogant manner.

Slides 5 - 7:

Now, boasting is a term used for people when they brag about things which they haven't put any effort in doing, or they haven't done anything. Let me read this. Bragging about what one has not done or exerted an effort towards or to magnify an accomplishment out of proportion to its importance.

Let me explain it to you with some examples.

Teacher: do you know what I mean by lineage? What is lineage?

Student: our family background.

Teacher: yes. Your family background, your family tree. Does it ring a bell?

Student: yes.

Teacher: your lineage is where you come from. So if a person is proud of his lineage, do you think that this is correct? Do you think he did anything to achieve it? He was just born into that family. He was lucky to be in that family, that's it. That's about it.

For example, you're feeling or acting superior because you belong to a particular race and you tell people, "You know, that famous designer is my aunt's son." If you keep adding these details as part of your conversation, you're bragging. Okay, he's your *phuppo*'s (paternal aunt) son, so what's the big deal? Does that make you a great designer? No. You're just you, isn't it? Does it make sense, what I'm trying to say?

Slide 8:

What about your looks; you know you're good looking, everybody knows. You're looking for compliments all the time; when somebody says something, you feel all puffed up with pride. So tell me, your looks, your family. Did you do anything to achieve this? Looks were given to you by Allah (swt) and you were born in that family. So what are you proud of? Why are you being so arrogant?

Slides 9 - 10:

Nobody likes people who boast. Nobody. Boasting is universally disliked Nobody likes somebody who boasts; nobody wants to be around them. Why? Why do you think that is so?

Student: because they're always talking about themselves.

Student: they belittle you, in a subtle manner.

Teacher: So for them, it's all about themselves. I actually wanted to do a play, a five minute thing, but I don't think we have time for that now. Okay, let me do it myself. These two friends are speaking on the phone.

First one: hey, you know I'm going to London for my vacations!

Second: oh wow! You are?

First: so where are YOU going for vacations?

Second: um, nowhere. Haven't made any plans yet, you know, no plans as such.

First: aw, you know it's going to be the sales season, and I'm going to shop like crazy! There will be so many discounts. I'm going to shop till I drop!

Second: aw, alright.

First: so what're you going to do?

Second: um, I'm thinking. I'm not sure, actually.

First: do you know what?? I'm thinking I'll go watch the new movie that will come on in the cinemas and you know. I'm going to have so much fun. I hope Mum lets me go. I hope Mum lets me go!

She's going on and on about her vacations and then her other friend says: "you know, I was thinking maybe..."

First: you know what? I'm going to buy that dress that I really wanted! You can't find a decent bag in Karachi anymore. I've been looking for nice clothes in Karachi and all you find is such useless clothes. I'm going to shop for two years, I'll fill my closet for up to two years.

She's going on and on, and the other friend, she's trying to say: you know what, I'm thinking, I'll join TCF probably...

First: oh, my Mum is calling me, I have to go. Bye.

Teacher: so how does the other one feel?

Student: she wouldn't want to talk to her again.

Teacher: don't you think it happens to you when somebody keeps on talking about themselves and yes?

Student: it's like you look for a person just to tell them about yourself.

Teacher: yes. We had this group in school and we were the best of friends. Then two of us got married and the third one didn't. Then whenever we met, one of them had issues at home, so she would want to talk about her issues all the time, and the unmarried friend would just say, hmm, yes, I understand, yeah, I can so relate to you. Finally, they just grew apart; they don't even talk to each other anymore.

This is what happens; you lose friends if you just keep on talking about yourself and that shows arrogance. That shows that you're not interested in the other person. That shows that you're just thinking about yourself; your own ego is so puffed up, so you don't see anything other than yourself.

Slide 11:

Now Allah (swt) shows us this life in the Qur'an in many places. This is a verse which comes in the Qur'an twice:

“Allah (swt) does not love the arrogant and the boasting ones.” (Surah Luqman 31: Verse 18)

“Verily He loves not the arrogant.” (Surah An-Nahl 16: Verse 23)

Slides 12 – 13:

Even Allah (swt) does not like them. He has categorically said it in the Qur'an. Allah (swt) does not love the arrogant and the boasting ones.

You know, it was a custom amongst the Arabs that whenever they would sit together, they would shout among themselves that I'm the son of so and so; this is how they used to show off their pedigree so that they could mark their status and privileges. This is how they used to show their standing in society. For them, the family tree really mattered. They would make sure they remembered who their forefathers were, which tribe they belonged to and where they were born.

Student: Even though he was not the person who did everything...

Slide 14:

Teacher: No, he was just an ordinary man but he says I'm the son of so and so and they would trace their family tree way back up. Alright? There's a very famous saying: Be not content with the stories of those that went before you. Go forth and create your own story.

Go and be the trailblazers of your society; don't rely on what your forefathers did. Are you all with me?

Slides 15 - 16:

Now, what is the force behind saying these things? Behind boasting? Simple arrogance. When people boast a lot, that shows they're arrogant. They're proud.

Allah (swt) talks about many nations and many people in the Qur'an who were arrogant and their end tells volumes about how much Allah (swt) hates arrogance. They denied Allah (swt)'s existence and rejected the messengers.

First of all, we're going to talk about the Pharaoh - the one Musa (as) went to...then satan; *Iblees*.

Student: *Firawn*?

Teacher: yes, *Firawn* and the opponents of the Prophet (pbuh). We're going to talk about two very famous opponents, Abu Lahab and his wife and many nefarious tyrants; most of them were filled with arrogance.

Slides 17 – 18:

What happened was that Musa (as) went to *Firawn's* court and he told him to stop believing in all his gods and have faith in just one God. Do you know what he said?

Fa qaala ana rabbakumul a'ala: I am your lord, the most high. (Surah An-Naziat 79: Verse 24)

What're you talking about? What Allah? I am Allah, I am god! He was extremely conceited and proud, that he called himself Allah. He claimed divinity for himself and then he was drowned with his followers. What is the main thing to note here? I, I am this.

Slide 19:

Now, what happened with *Iblees*? Allah (swt) created man; Allah (swt) created Adam (as) and Allah (swt) asked all the angels and *Iblees* to prostrate before him.² Now, *Iblees* was not one of the angels; he was a *jinn*.

Student: But even though he worshipped Allah (swt) so much?

Teacher: He was a *jinn*. You can't change a *jinn* into an angel. He was a *jinn* and they were angels; he was raised to the rank of the angels because of his devotion and worship. Allah (swt) raised his position and he used to stay with the angels. Now, everybody prostrated before Adam (as) except one.

Students: *Iblees*.

Slide 20:

Teacher: *Iblees*. Do you know what he said? Will I prostrate to whom you have created from clay? I am made from fire, he's made of clay and you're asking me to prostrate before him?³

He was extremely arrogant. Don't you see that? Don't you see it in his words? It's so obvious. So what did he do? He did two things.

Slide 21:

He degraded Adam (as) and he disobeyed Allah (swt). So do you think Allah (swt) was happy with him? No. Allah (swt) demoted him. Allah (swt) told him that he's no longer in the ranks of the angels, he was told to go down from the heavens.⁴ Do you know what he said? He blamed Allah (swt). He said, because of whom you have sent me astray, certainly, I will wait for them on the right path.⁵

² Then We said to the angels, prostrate yourself before Adam. So they all prostrated themselves except Iblis (Satan). He did not join those who fell prostrate. (Surah Al A'raf 7: Verse 11)

³ "He (Iblis) said: I'm better than him (Adam), You created me from fire, and him You created from clay." (Surah Al-A'raf 7: verse 12)

⁴ "(O' *Iblees*) get down from this (paradise); it is not for you to be arrogant here; get out, for you are of those humiliated and disgraced." (Surah Al A'raf 7: verse 13)

⁵ "Because you have sent me astray, surely I will sit and wait against them on Your straight path." (Surah Al- A'raf 7: verse16)

The important point is that he did not realize his mistake. He thinks it's because of Allah (swt), this happened to him. He doesn't realize it's his own mistake. He became extremely arrogant and didn't realize his mistake. Allah (swt) said, okay you have time till the Day of Judgment, do whatever you have to, and whoever follows you, will follow you in the Hell; whoever doesn't follow you will have a place in *Jannah*.⁶ It's as simple as that.

This is what he's doing. He comes to us from behind, from the front, from the left and from the right; ⁷he is constantly attacking us, so that he can take us into Hell with him.

Now, before I go on, Abu Lahab and his wife, imagine power couples. Do you know what power couples are?

Student: Yes.

Teacher: Who knows what power couples are?

Student: Couples who are very famous and because they're big personalities they have a lot of influence on people.

Teacher: Yes. True. Like famous celebrity couples: Angeline Jolie and Brad Pitt or Posh and Bekham.

Then there's a very famous political power couple, Prince William and Kate.

Students: yes.

Teacher: Kate and Prince William; these are all the power couples of our society.

Abu Lahab, he was an extremely good looking man, he was young, and he belonged to this very famous tribe; one of the best tribes of Makkah, the Hashmi tribe. Abu Lahab was not his real name, it was his nickname.

Student: *kunniyat*?

Teacher: Not *kunniyat*. It was his nickname.

Student: What was his real name?

Teacher: His full name was 'Abd al-'Uzzā, but he was called Abū Lahab - father of flame - because his cheeks were always red or inflamed. His wife was called Umm Jameel. His wife was

⁶ He (Allah) said, "Get out of here, condemned, rejected. Indeed, whosoever will follow you from among them, I will fill Hell with all of you together." (Surah Al- A'raf 7: verse18)

⁷ " Then I will come to them from before them and behind them; from their right and from their left..." (Surah Al- Araf 7: verse 17)

again a very beautiful woman and she belonged to another tribe who was also the best tribe in Makkah and they both got married.

So you can imagine the status and privilege they had in society. With power came pride; they both were very arrogant, and when Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) told them about Allah (swt) and he being the last Prophet (pbuh), do you know what they said? They rejected it outright. He was one of the most active opponents of our Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). Although he was the Prophet's paternal uncle!

On one occasion, it was a very sad day. Our Prophet (pbuh)'s son Qasim (as) died. The news reached Abu Lahab and when he came over he was cheering; he was so happy⁸. People don't even behave like this with enemies; losing a child is a source of very intense grief. It's unbearable, yet this was what he did and he was actually our Prophet (pbuh)'s uncle. Can you imagine that?

Allah (swt) mentions these two in the *Qur'an* and they both met a really horrible end. Allah (swt) talks about a lot of people in the *Qur'an* and in *Ahadith*; we are told that arrogant people are not going to receive a happy end to their lives.

Slide 22:

“A man was walking, dragging his dress with pride; he was sunk in the earth because of it and will keep sinking in the earth till the day of standing.” (Bukhari)

Slide 23:

It's a *hadith* in *Bukhari*. There's one more:

“No one (mind you) will enter Paradise who has an atom's weight of arrogance in his heart.”
(Bukhari)

An atom's weight means size smaller than mustard seed. Can you imagine? If you have even a small tiny particle worth of arrogance in your heart - no *Jannah* for you.

When I listen to this *hadith*, it really scares me because, it's very easy to become arrogant. The punishment for them in the *dunya* is that they will not be able to understand or see the signs of Allah (swt); when the *Qur'an* is read out to them, they will think that its rubbish! *Naudubillah*. They'll think it's not related to modern times.

Slides 24 - 25:

So they reject *Qur'an*, they can't understand it and Allah (swt) says it in the *Qur'an* himself:

“I will divert my signs from those who show arrogance without right.” (Surah A'araf 7:146)

⁸ See explanation of Surah Al Kawthar

Now, one of the characteristics of Allah (swt) is that he is *Al-Mutakabbir*; The proud. And this is reserved just for Him (swt).

Slide 26:

There's one saying:

“Pride is my cloak and honor is my loin-cloth, and whoever contends with me regarding one of them or both, I will throw them in the Fire.” (Muslim)

It's a very strong *hadith Qudsi*! I should tell you that whoever competes with Allah (swt) regarding arrogance; whoever tries to be arrogant, looks down upon people or rejects Allah's verses, this is what Allah is going to do with him.

Slides 27 – 28:

Now, there are many types of arrogance. You actually need to understand this so that we can rid ourselves of this disease.

Type One: when a person considers himself to be superior than others; when he feels, I am better than the other.

What you do? How do you feel superior? Your Mom comes home with all these clothes and she asks you to choose one from it. You say, "These look like the maid-type prints Mom, please give them to the *masi* (maid), I don't want it." Don't we do that at times? Aren't we mocking Allah (swt)'s creation?

Slide 29:

People of knowledge are in greater danger of arrogance than anyone else. They become so confident if they're good at Math because they get good marks; they'll be going all around the class asking others how many marks they got? Have you seen this happen?

Students: yes!

Teacher: When you get good marks, you keep asking other people and whenever you get bad marks, you never want to ask in fact you just want to hide and want the day to end so that you can go home. Has that happened to you?

Students: Yes.

Teacher: And if you've got the highest marks, you'll keep asking 'how much did you get? I got an A plus!' It happens, its natural, it is human nature.

Scholars say: “The wickedest arrogance is that of someone who exalts himself over people of his learning and gloats to himself about his superiority. The knowledge of such person is of

absolutely no benefit to him. Whoever learns sacred knowledge for the sake of the next world is unsettled by his learning, his heart is humbled and his ego lowered. Such a person lies in wait for his selfishness and never gives it free rein. He constantly takes his ego to task and corrects it.

Were he to neglect it, it would diverge from the right path and destroy him. The person who seeks knowledge to take pride in it or gain a position of leadership, looking disdainfully at other Muslims, thinking them fools and making light to them all this is the most enormous arrogance and no one with the slightest particle of arrogance in his heart will enter Paradise. There is no power nor might save in Allah Most High, Most Glorious”.

Slides 30 - 31:

Type 2: One who shows contempt and scorn for others.

There are two types within this category. What happens is, you start reading *Qur'an* and then the words start affecting you *Alhamdulillah* and you take a U-turn; you start wearing the *hijab* and change. What do you do? How do you behave? You see non-practicing, less practicing Muslims around you and you look down upon them. You think 'O Allah (swt) what will become of this person? *Astaghfirullah*, just look at her! She doesn't even know how to dress when she goes out in public.'

Then you start looking down upon them. That's not the way to correct someone. You're not supposed to do that. What do you do when you see somebody who is doing something wrong?

Student: tell them politely.

Teacher: if you can tell them nicely, you do.

The best way is to make *du'a* for them. You make *du'a*: Allah (swt) please make them better. But you don't say *Astaghfirullah*! And make fun of them. And think you are better than them.

I'll tell you a very small incident; it's a real story. There were a couple of women at the store, two of them were wearing the *hijab* and buying some items from the store. Another lady came in but she was not very appropriately dressed; she wore this sleeveless shirt and no dupatta (headscarf). She too was buying some things. A beggar boy came up to them and started bothering them in the typical way; 'Sister please give me some change, please buy a tissue box from me.'

The ladies wearing the *hijab* shrugged him off and the boy went back. After a while, the lady in the sleeveless shirt went back, called the boy and took him into the shop. She told him to buy whatever he wanted from that shop.

So you can't look down upon people because you don't know what's inside their hearts. Maybe you were also like that once. Allah (swt) guided you and *Alhamdulillah*, you're guided now. So Allah (swt) might change her heart too. Yes?

Student: My mum gives me the example that she was in a store or somewhere, and she said that this girl came in. She was wearing a sleeveless shirt and capris but she was holding the hands of these poor children and taking them around, telling them to buy whatever they wanted. So my mum was saying that we don't know, maybe Allah (swt) likes that deed so much that He sends her to heaven.

Teacher: That's for Allah (swt) to decide, but that does not mean that we start dressing inappropriately. Yes we cannot think lesser of someone just because they're not practicing like you. Allah (swt) knows their status.

Slides 32 - 33:

Type 3: Arrogance because of one's lineage.

People say I belong to this family and that family. Like when people call other people names; like the term *pathan* (from the northern province of Pakistan) is used for those who aren't very intelligent or those who have a hot temper.

Student: People call my sister *pathan* because she's all white and fair.

Teacher: No, no. What I'm trying to say is when you feel somebody is not very intelligent, you call them *Pathan!* Aren't we mocking Allah (swt)'s creation by saying all this? Don't you think so? What happens when the architect is a *pathan*? Terms like these, phrases like these show arrogance.

Slides 34 – 36:

Arrogance owing to beauty; we forget that Allah (swt) made all of us with His own Hands⁹. So if you criticize somebody's looks, who are you criticizing in turn? You are criticizing Allah (swt). So beware of criticizing somebody's looks because you're criticizing God. When you look in the mirror, too often, when shopping; you take a glance, you take a quick peek in the mirror.

When you're a teenager, you tend to do that; you're constantly checking out your hair, your face, is my mascara fine? You tend to do that. You'll be okay, just realize that it's not the right thing.

Student: But why? I don't understand why is it not right?

Teacher: It's a form of arrogance, you're too obsessed with yourself.

Student: But isn't that how all teenagers behave?

⁹ Allah (swt) says in Surah Al-Infitar 82: Verse7- 8 - "Who created you and fashioned you perfectly and gave you in due proportion in whatever form you will He put you together"

Teacher: That's what I'm trying to tell you here. Even if you're a teenager and you learn all of these things, it'll help you in your future life, won't it?

Student: But doesn't it all go when you turn 20?

Teacher: No. That depends on the individual. For some, it doesn't.

Slides 37 - 38:

Type 4: Arrogance due to wealth.

Some affluent people show contempt for those of lesser means.

They call others names, like Urdu medium, for people whose English is not so good and their pronunciation is bad. For example, a girl, says: *itna* lively (pronounced live-li, live as in give) atmosphere *tha* (it was such a lively atmosphere) and you all start laughing because she's pronouncing lively 'live-li'. Come on, it's okay; she didn't know. What's the big deal? It's not her first language. She doesn't know; she will learn. Why are you making fun of her?

Student: what if we're not making fun of her? We're just laughing because it just sounds funny because we're used to the idea of hearing something pronounced properly when you say it.

Teacher: okay, let me tell you something; will you laugh the same way if a foreigner comes and starts speaking Urdu?

Students: Yeah we'll laugh!

Teacher: You'll laugh but your intention won't be the same. You won't be arrogant. You will be amused.

Student: In a funny way.

Teacher: In a funny way. Not in the arrogant way.

Slides 39 – 41:

'North Nazimabadi', *Paindu*, *Bun kebab* (insinuating that one is of low status). They will call you burger, and you will call them *bun kebab*. They're usually on a high horse, don't you think so?

Slides 42 - 46:

Type Six: Arrogance based on abundance of something in this world. For example, some celebrities show "attitude" when in public.

Whenever you achieve something, *shaytan* sort of pats you on your back! You become Arrogant. If you're good at sports and you like to talk about it, you're leaning towards arrogance. There's no doubt about it.

'Intelligence, friends, I move in that circle, I have contacts.'

'Do you know I went to the License office and I got my work done in minutes. I called that man and he did everything. I just had to sit and wait for my license to come.'
Meanwhile your other friends will be in awe because they had to go many times and it was quite a tough procedure for them.

We don't realize it but all these things are a show of arrogance within ourselves. You'll only recognize it if you're on the other side.

Slide 47:

“Indeed the most honorable of you in the sight of Allah is the most God-fearing of you.”
(Surah Hujrat 49 : 30)

Not the one with the best clothes, not the one with the best looks and not the one with great intelligence; the one who is most God fearing, meaning the one who has most *taqwa* is the most honourable. *Taqwa* is a fear which you develop; it's the feeling which makes you NOT want to disappoint Allah (swt), the feeling that makes you want to do everything which Allah (swt) likes you to do.

Slides 48 - 49:

Many people are honoured by having lineage traceable to the Prophet (pbuh). They call themselves *Syeds*. Have you heard of that?

Student: yes.

Teacher: some people ask you, are you a *Syed*?

Student: my mum is.

Teacher: Some people feel arrogant about it; I'm not saying that your Mom is arrogant, I'm just saying that some people feel that way. If your actions hold you back, your lineage will not speed you up.

Slide 50:

Now, I think these questions must be developing in your mind: does wearing beautiful clothes and shoes exhibit arrogance? If I'm wearing good clothes and I have many good shoes, does that mean I'm arrogant?

Student: if you're going to a wedding or something and you know the other person is not very well off, yet if you wear your best clothes, then it is arrogance.

Student: no.

Teacher: your intentions are of importance; sometimes our intention might not be that. Actually, there's a very fine line. It's a very fine line.

Slides 51 - 52:

There's a *hadith* in Sahih Muslim:

“Indeed Allah (swt) is beautiful and He Loves beauty. Arrogance means rejecting the truth and having contempt for people.” (Muslim)

So wearing nice clothes, jewelry and accessories is not an indicator of arrogance. The attitude you have is an indicator. We quickly jump to conclusions about peoples' ways and attitudes. However, we must focus on ourselves and recognize arrogance within.

Slides 53 – 60:

Now, if the answer to any one of these questions is a yes, then that means you've got arrogance in your hearts:

- Do you feel that the blessings you have are mainly because you or your parents earned it or you deserve it?
- Do you love to listen to how smart and intelligent you are?
- Do you avoid making friends with girls who are not too popular? And if they come up to you and talk to you, you just brush them off .
- Do you listen to people around you or do you usually want your way? Do people call you Miss Bossy Pants, behind your back?
- When someone criticizes your opinion, do you feel like saying: Are you saying that I'm wrong?
- When you're given some less important work to do, do you feel less important? Answer inside your hearts.
- Do you mostly, unconsciously, end up talking about yourself, rather than listening to others?

Slides 61 – 63:

If your answers are yes, you need to uproot the plant of arrogance that grows within your heart.

How? Remind yourselves of your humble origins.

Remind yourselves of your humble organic origins; you were born out of a drop of semen ¹⁰. This will bring you back into focus. What were you? You were just a drop of semen. Just reduce your size to something insignificant so that the size of your bloated ego comes down too. You need to remind yourselves about what you were.

Slide 64 – 66:

We have religious heroes for a reason. There's one incident I'd like to share:

A man came to Ali (ra) and asked him: Who is better? You or Abu Bakr (ra). He said: Abu Bakr. Then he asked again: who's better you or Umar (ra). Ali (ra) said: Umar (ra).

Ali (ra) was no ordinary man. He was very close to our Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). He could easily have been very arrogant and said: Me! Obviously. But he didn't. So if you're not like the real heroes we have, at least **try** to be like them.

When you want to be like somebody, you need to go to the master. Like, if you want to learn calligraphy, where would you go? To the master calligrapher, right? So we must get to know the characters of the people who were close to the Prophet (pbuh) and he called the "best."

Slides 67 – 71:

As for arrogance due to beauty, if you feel arrogant because of your beauty, it is the most illusory of things. Beauty wanes with age. Will you be as beautiful when you are 40, 50 or even 60 years old?

It's all your genetics. It's genetic. You know, you were lucky to be born with that combination. You didn't do anything. What doesn't age, is our character, belief, and our deeds. Remember, Allah (swt) is the Fashioner, not you. Every blessing is a gift from Allah (swt) and the more you have, the more accountable you will be. Remember that!

Allah's Messenger (pbuh) said to him, "You are not better than people with red or black skins unless you excel them in piety." (Tirmidhi #5198, Narrated AbuDharr [Ahmad transmitted it])

Slides 72 – 73:

We feel that we have a lot of things, it's not going to be easy on the Day of Judgment. The more money you have, the more things you have in life, Allah (swt) will ask you more questions. What did you do with this money? What did you do with all the luxuries you had in your home? What did you do?

¹⁰ Man We did create from a quintessence (of clay); Then We placed him as (a drop of) sperm in a place of rest, firmly fixed (Surah Al-Mu'minun, 23: Verses 12 & 13)

Slides 74 - 75:

Wealth, strength, and prestige are not born out of our own devises. Now, what do you when someone praises you? You say *Alhamdulillah* with the feeling of gratitude to Allah (swt) deep down inside you, not just to say the right thing. Say it as if you feel it.

Alhamdulillah, Alhamdulillah. Now, remind yourself of the miserable end of the nations whose people were arrogant.

Slides 76 – 80:

How do you deal with arrogant people? They're a pain in the neck, aren't they? Aren't arrogant people a pain in the neck? How do you deal with them? Any ideas?

Do you know why they are arrogant? Because they're hiding something. Insecurities; yes, she's right. For example, a boy who was very poor and then became successful later in life, will become very arrogant to hide that insecurity, that complex, so that people don't realize that he comes from an ordinary background. You should be gentle with them; advise them in private, don't ever offend them in public, otherwise arrogant people are going to lash out at you. Also pray for them.

Slides 81 – 83:

Excessive humility can result in abasement. Don't you think so? Now, arrogance, and being too humble, are both wrong. There's a very fine line between confidence and arrogance. Being confident is a good thing, being arrogant is bad. You have to realize the difference between arrogance and confidence. A believer never humiliates himself; the best man is he who continues to be humble, even if he's very rich. If you've got nothing and you're humble, that's not a very big deal, but if you've got a lot and you're humble, that's a big thing.

Slides 85 – 86:

Now, one last *ayah*. One last verse of the *Qur'an*:

“Those who reject our *ayah*, and treat them with arrogance, they are the dwellers of the Fire. They will abide, therein forever.” (Surah A'raf 7:36)

(Du'a for end of a gathering) *Subhana Rabbika Rabbul Izzati 'amma yasifun wa salamun 'alal mursaleen, walhamdulillah Rabbil 'alameen*

(Parting salutation to students) *Assalam alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh*

References for teacher:

Purification of the Heart, signs, symptoms, and cures of the diseases of the heart, Translation and commentary of Imam Al Mawlud's *Matharat al Qulub*, Hamza Yusuf, Starlatch Press, ISBN 1-929694-15-6

Qur-an & Hadith References:

Allah (swt), Most High, says:

“Moses said, “I have indeed called upon my Lord and your Lord (for protection) from every arrogant one who believes not in the Day of Account.” (Surah Ghafir 40: Verse 27)

Allah, the Almighty, says,

“And behold, we said to the angels: bow down to Adam: and they bowed down: not so Iblis: he refused and was haughty: he was of those who reject Faith” (Surah Al-Baqarah 2: Verse 34)

The Prophet (pbuh) said: “Once a man was walking along in a new set of clothes, with a swagger to his step, pleased with himself, Allah caused the earth to swallow him and he will keep sinking until the Last Day.” [Bukhari]

“Tyrants and the arrogant will be raised on the last Day as grain strewn under feet that the people will walk upon.” [Tirmidhi and Ahmad]

The Messenger of Allah (pbuh) said, “Arrogance is belittling to admit the truth and considering people inferior.” [Muslim]

“Arrogance is refusing to acknowledge what is right and considering others to be inferior.” [Hakim]

“No one with the slightest particle of arrogance in his heart will enter Paradise.” [Bukhari]

The Messenger (pbuh) said:

“A debate took place between Heaven and Hell. The latter said; in me shall enter tyrants and the arrogant people: while Heaven said, “In me shall enter the weak and the lowly.” Allah decided the issue by saying, You are Heaven, My mercy, through you I shall have mercy on whomsoever I please; and you are Hell, a place of punishment, through you I shall chastise whomsoever I like. It is incumbent upon Me to fill both of you!” [Bukhari]

Salama Ibn Al-Akwa' recounted that a man was eating with his left hand in the presence of the Prophet (pbuh). The Prophet (pbuh) told him: “Eat with your right.” To which the man replied, “I cannot.” (Though nothing stopped him but arrogance). The Prophet (pbuh) said, “May you not be able to.” And the man could never lift his right hand to his mouth again.” [Ahmad and Al-Hakim]

“Shall I tell you who the people of the Hell-Fire are? The cruel, the haughty and the arrogant.”
[Reported before]

“There are three people whom Allah will not speak to, look at or exonerate on the Day of Judgment, and who will have a painful torment: he who wears the hem of his garment low (out of pride), he who reminds recipients of his charity to them and he who sells merchandise swearing that he paid more for it than he actually did.” [Muslim, An-Nisa’i and Ibn Majah]

“What comes down the anklebones of the caftan is in Hell.” [Bukhari]