

## **The Difference between Ujub and Takabbur (Conceit and Arrogance)**

Conceit (Ujub) is focusing on some specific quality in oneself and instead of considering it a gift from Allah Ta'ala, one looks upon it as a personal virtue. Because of 'Ujub', one does not express gratitude and thanks to Allah Ta'ala for it, but rather brags about oneself exclaiming: "I am like this or that". Consequently, he does not see the giver of the bounty and gifts i.e. Allah Ta'ala. Hence, in his heart he considers himself as worthy of praise.

Takabbur (pride) means to consider oneself greater in comparison to others. Hence, in the concept of takabbur, a necessary element, is to consider others as being contemptible and lowly, whereas in 'Ujub' it is not necessary that the person considers himself superior to another.

The difference between a conceited person and a proud person is that every proud person has conceit in him, for when he admires his own qualities and considers himself better than someone else, then he is bound to consider another person as being despicable and low. However, it is not necessary that every conceited one be a proud person; because a person may look at a special quality of his and consider himself great without any thoughts of belittling others or considering them inferior. Allah Ta'ala has given this humble understanding of this subtle difference. All Praise to Allah Ta'ala for it. And in this there is no boasting.

Of the many diseases of the heart, both self-admiration (Ujub) and pride are fatal diseases for the seekers of Allah Ta'ala. They should never be negligent in treating these ailments. Let us understand the harm of these ailments by looking at the following example.

A lover has a great longing to meet his beloved. However, when meeting his beloved, he foolishly takes out a mirror from his pocket and instead of looking at his beloved, continues looking at himself, admiring his own form and beauty. Is this person not to be considered a hypocrite in his claim of love and is he not depriving himself?

Similarly, the seekers after the Sufi path should think that Allah Ta'ala is at all times directing His Grace and bounties towards His servants. Now, if the servant, instead of directing himself towards Allah Ta'ala and His attributes, foolishly becomes engaged in admiring his own borrowed attributes (from Allah Ta'ala), then is this not hypocrisy in his claim of love for Allah Ta'ala and is this not a sign of being deprived of good?

You, yourself, can Judge. You yourself may measure and gauge the amount of harm they cause. From the above example, the harmful nature of both 'Ujub' and 'Takabbur' is clearly understood. And it serves as a clear warning for all seekers of the Love of Allah Ta'ala.

"O Allah Ta'ala, protect us against the sickness of conceit, pride and all other deadly spiritual and physical illnesses." Ameen.