

THE CURE TO ARROGANCE IN MODERN TIMES

How the Quran Teaches us
to Purify our Hearts

Event Notes

17 MAY | SUN

with Natasha Kamaluddin



Opening Ayahs:

SURAH ASH-SHUARA
AYAHS 87-89

A DU'A MADE BY
PROPHET IBRAHIM AS

وَلَا تُخْزِنِي يَوْمَ يُبْعَثُونَ

And do not disgrace me on
the Day all will be resurrected

يَوْمَ لَا يَنْفَعُ مَالٌ وَلَا بَنُونَ

the Day when neither wealth nor children
will be of any benefit.

إِلَّا مَنْ أَتَى اللَّهَ بِقَلْبٍ سَلِيمٍ

Only those who come before Allah
with a pure heart 'will be saved'.

< Notes



Kak Nat mentioned in class that on the Day of Judgement, we'll all stand before Allah SWT, and the only thing that will count is whether we bring a Qalbun Salim - a sound and healthy heart.

The opposite of this is a sick heart (مَرَضٌ), and Allah SWT mentioned this as something the hypocrites have in Surah Al-Baqarah. As we enter DhulHijjah and get excited planning our extra fasts, sunnah prayers, Quran reading, and classes, Kak Nat gently reminded us not to forget the most important part: reforming and reconnecting our hearts to Allah.

Because at the end of the day, Allah doesn't just look at what we did - He looks at the state of our heart while we were doing it. Such a beautiful and important reminder.

Just as the heart has its own beautiful acts of worship, so too does it have its own hidden sins.



Too often, we overlook these inner sins because they are invisible to the world. But there are destructive sins that dwell in the heart; the most dangerous among them being shirk (associating partners with Allah), hasad (envy), and kibr (arrogance).

Today, we turn our gaze inward to examine one of these silent destroyers of the soul: arrogance.

Lesson 1 - Surah al-Kahf

The Illusion of Ownership

The man with the 2 Gardens



Ayahs in Focus:
Quran 18:32-44

Allah SWT gives a parable of two men. One was blessed with two flourishing gardens full of fruits and flowing rivers, but became arrogant due to his wealth. He boasted to his poorer believing companion, claiming he was superior in wealth and power, and denied the Hereafter. His companion warned him to remember Allah and avoid arrogance. Eventually, the rich man's gardens were completely destroyed overnight. He stood in regret, realizing too late that true power belongs only to Allah.

If you think this is not you, think again...



**We have all been
given assets by
Allah SWT**

Many of us feel we cannot relate to the man in the Quranic parable because we don't own gardens or farms. However, the deeper lesson is to look beyond the literal: every one of us has been given assets by Allah - whether wealth, talents, skills, status, or opportunities. Like the man who became arrogant, boasting about his superiority and feeling secure that his blessings would last forever, we too can unknowingly fall into the same sin!

Kak Nat shared a personal story of how while renovating her house and preparing for Eid, she began admiring her beautiful home and quietly thinking she had the nicest house among all her relatives. In a sobering moment while reading Surah Al-Kahf, she realized the only real difference between her and the man in the parable was that the latter had spoken his arrogance aloud - while she had only felt it in her heart. She reminds us how simple it is to fall into the same sin through subtle pride, self-admiration, or seeking praise.

THE DOWN WARD SPIRAL OF A BLESSING

1

THE BLESSING

Receiving a gift / ni'mah
from Allah

2

THE CLAIM

Shifting ownership - we make
the blessing about us instead of
recognising it as a Divine Trust.
EG: "My" house, "My" talent

3

THE DISDAIN

Looking down on those who
lack this specific blessing or
critiquing them silently

4

THE "AMNESIA"

Forgetting the divine rule
that Allah will hold us
accountable for the gift He
bestowed us

5

THE HOARDING

Desiring praise for this
blessing while withholding
this gift from those we judge
as inferior

HOW TO COMBAT ARROGANCE:

1. Catch admiration early
→ Say Masha' Allah
2. Remember you'll be
held accountable for
your blessings
3. Focus on your own
gaps and weaknesses.
4. Make dua for others ♥
(and help if possible)

Lesson 2 - Surah al-Imran

Do not Withhold Allah's Blessings



Ayahs in Focus:
Quran 3:180

And do not let those who 'greedily' withhold Allah's bounties think it is good for them — in fact, it is bad for them!

Ni'mah here is not limited to money. It includes any blessing from Allah such as knowledge, popularity, skills, status, etc. Do not be stingy or gatekeep what Allah has given you, especially when others need it.

We should help others generously and wholeheartedly rather than giving minimal or half-hearted assistance. This is because rizq and opportunities are in Allah's Hands and are not limited. When we are generous with others, Allah becomes generous with us and often multiplies what we have. True iman requires us to wish for our fellow believers what we wish for ourselves and to remove jealousy and unhealthy competition from our hearts.

Lesson 3 - Surah al-Insan

The Sincerity Test



Ayah in Focus:
Quran 76:9

“We feed you only for the sake of Allah, seeking neither reward nor thanks from you.”

Allah SWT describes the righteous in Surah Al-Insan as those who help others only for His sake, seeking nothing in return except His pleasure. Though we often think we are sincere, **true ikhlas is only proven when tested.** Just as the Companions' faith was tested after the defeat at Uhud, our sincerity is tested when those we help are difficult or hurtful. In such moments, we should not let Shaytan discourage us or push us into negativity; instead, we should see it as an opportunity to prove our ikhlas, remember that Allah does not burden us beyond our capacity, and continue doing good purely for His sake.

Lesson 4 - Surah at-Takathur

The Illusion of Metrics



Ayahs in Focus:
Quran 102:1-2

Competition for more 'gains' diverts you 'from Allah', until you end up in 'your' graves.¹

In this modern age, we can easily become distracted by numbers - likes, shares, views, and followers - mistakenly thinking they are signs of acceptance from Allah. However, the reaction of people is not proof that our ibadah or efforts have been accepted. Even if a thousand people benefit from something we share or teach, if our intention (niyyah) is compromised by seeking attention or numbers instead of doing it purely for Allah with a sound heart (qalbun salim), then the reward is zero. We must not let numbers mislead us, but instead focus on the sincerity of our hearts.

$$1000 \times 0 = 0$$

$$1000 \times 0 = 0$$

$$1000 \times 0 = 0$$

IN OUR PURSUIT OF IBADAH, WE SHOULD NOT BE MISLED BY NUMBERS OR QUANTITY – WHETHER IT IS HOW MANY ADHKAR WE RECITED OR HOW MANY PEOPLE WE REACHED. BECAUSE IF THE HEART IS INATTENTIVE, EVEN A THOUSAND DEEDS CAN AMOUNT TO ZERO. TRUE SIGNS OF ALLAH’S LOVE ARE NOT LARGE NUMBERS, BUT WHEN HE GRANTS US UNDERSTANDING OF THE DEEN THAT PURIFIES OUR HEARTS, IKHLAS, AND IMAN, AND WHEN HE SENDS US OPPORTUNITIES FOR SELF-REFORM.

INSTEAD OF OBSESSING OVER QUANTITY AND QUICK WINS, WE SHOULD FOCUS ON QUALITY BY HELPING EVEN JUST ONE PERSON. THE PROPHET ﷺ TAUGHT US THAT THE MOST BELOVED PEOPLE TO ALLAH ARE THOSE WHO BENEFIT OTHERS THE MOST, AND HELPING ONE MUSLIM BROTHER OR SISTER IS MORE BELOVED TO HIM THAN MAKING I’TIKAF FOR A WHOLE MONTH.

final words:-

“I feel like I have no words
now, I’m just gonna sit in a
corner and face my
illusions reflecting on
Kak Nat’s words.”

-Gheed Alangurli

