

Pride — the sin of Iblis

The first disobedience in creation was not appetite but arrogance: a comparison, drawn by the one making it, and a command refused because of it.



Refused and was arrogant

فَسَجَدُوا إِلَّا إِبْلِيسَ أَبَىٰ وَاسْتَكْبَرَ وَكَانَ مِنَ الْكَافِرِينَ

“So they prostrated, except Iblis. He refused and was arrogant and became of the disbelievers.” Three words in order: refusal, pride, ruin.

Qur'an 2:34

The comparison he made

قَالَ أَنَا خَيْرٌ مِنْهُ خَلَقْتَنِي مِنْ نَّارٍ وَخَلَقْتَهُ مِنْ طِينٍ

“He said: I am better than him. You created me from fire and created him from clay.” Pride always argues from material it did not choose.

Qur'an 7:12

What pride actually is

“No one with the weight of a mustard seed of pride in his heart will enter Paradise.” But a man likes good clothes and shoes? “Allah is beautiful and loves beauty. Pride is rejecting the truth and looking down on people.”

Sahih Muslim, Kitab al-Iman

Whose cloak it is

يَقُولُ اللَّهُ سُبْحَانَهُ الْكِبْرِيَاءُ رُدِّي وَالْعِزَّةُ الْإِزَارِي مَنْ نَازَعَنِي وَاحِدًا مِنْهُمَا الْقَيْتَهُ فِي جَهَنَّمَ

Allah says: “Pride is My cloak and greatness My garment; whoever contends with Me over either of them, I will throw him into Hellfire.” A borrowed robe, worn by the wrong party.

Sunan Ibn Majah 4174 • sahih

How it shows in the body

وَلَا تُصَعِّرْ خَدَّكَ لِلنَّاسِ وَلَا تَمْشِ فِي الْأَرْضِ مَرَحًا

“And do not turn your cheek away from people, and do not walk through the earth exultantly.” Luqman's advice to his son — the posture is part of the sin.

Qur'an 31:18

Swallowed where he stood

بَيْنَمَا رَجُلٌ يَجُرُّ إِزَارَهُ مِنْ خَلِيلَاءِ خُسْفٍ بِهِ، فَهُوَ يَتَجَلَّجَلُ فِي الْأَرْضِ إِلَى يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ

“While a man was dragging his lower garment out of vanity, he was swallowed up, and he keeps sinking in the earth until the Day of Resurrection.”

Sahih al-Bukhari 3485

Below the ankles

مَا أَسْفَلَ مِنَ الْكَعْبَيْنِ مِنَ الْإِزَارِ فَفِي النَّارِ

“What is below the ankles of the lower garment is in the Fire.” Whether the ruling turns on the intention of vanity or on the hem itself is a point on which the schools differ.

Sahih al-Bukhari 5787 • fiqh: the schools differ

Who the two parties are

أَلَا أُخْبِرُكُمْ بِأَهْلِ الْجَنَّةِ، كُلُّ ضَعِيفٍ مُتَضَاعِفٍ، لَوْ أَقْسَمَ عَلَى اللَّهِ لَا يَبْرَهُ، أَلَا أُخْبِرُكُمْ بِأَهْلِ النَّارِ كُلُّ عَتَلٍ جَوَّازٍ مُسْتَكْبِرٍ

“Shall I tell you of the people of Paradise? Every weak one thought weak. And of the people of the Fire? Every harsh, grasping, arrogant one.”

Sahih al-Bukhari 6071

Who the next world is for

تِلْكَ الدَّارُ الْآخِرَةُ نَجْعَلُهَا لِلَّذِينَ لَا يُرِيدُونَ عُلُوًّا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَا فَسَادًا

“That home of the Hereafter We assign to those who do not desire exaltedness upon the earth, nor corruption.”

Qur'an 28:83