

Lesson 2d: humbleness

a special lesson on imam hasan (as)

Lesson objective: To understand the true meaning of humbleness, that the opposite of being humble is being proud. To appreciate this characteristic through a comparison between the people of Thamud, and Imam Hasan (as).

Introduction: Humbleness is not to think that you are terrible at everything, that when someone says “you are beautiful” you reply saying “no I am not!” or when people say “you are clever,” you reply “no I am not.” Rather, it is to recognise that everything you have is from Allah; that He is the owner of all things, that you are a slave of Allah (as discussed previously). Imam Ali (as) said: “There is no nobility like humbleness” and “Humbleness is one of the greatest forms of worship”

Reading:

Yasser followed Zahra’s gaze, then crinkled his nose, “How could people who were so clever make such an awful mistake? How could they think that they were stronger than Allah?”

“All this power,” Grandfather made a sweeping motion with his arm, “made them forget that they needed Allah.” He sighed.

“When I do things well, it’s hard not to feel proud of myself,” Yasser confessed, a little embarrassed.

Zahra thought of the things she had been proud of, from her beautiful clothes to her grades at school.

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“There is nothing wrong with being pleased when you have nice things or when you have worked hard and achieved good results.” Grandfather put his arm around Yasser and Zahra. “But we should always remember that it is Allah who granted us those gifts and helped us to achieve our aims. Without His help and guidance, we would not have anything. All praise and all thanks are for Him.”

“The more I have, the more I need to thank Allah,” Zahra added.

“Yes,” agreed Grandfather. “Wealth should not make you proud, arrogant or neglectful of Allah.”

Yasser felt his heart absorb his grandfather’s words deeply. The reminders he gave were like medicine for him. *Next time I feel proud or think I am better than others, I will remember that everything I have is from Allah, and all praise and all thanks are for Him,* He silently promised himself.

Grandfather thanked Allah for his wonderful grandchildren. They had open hearts, always willing to learn and improve. *That* is the most important thing, Grandfather thought.

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Guided Discussion:

- We've seen in the book how the people of Thamud were rich and clever, but they never recognised that these talents and assets were from Allah.
 - The way they were destroyed shows us that Allah is the true owner of everything, and He can do whatever He wills
 - The current situation with Coronavirus shows that we as human beings have to be humble, that such a small virus can affect us so severely!
- Arrogance is the opposite of humbleness. To be arrogant is to think that you are superior over others.
 - Firawn was so arrogant that he thought that he was God! (this will be discussed further in the lesson on the guidance of Firawn)
- Imam Hasan (as) had more to be proud of than the people of Thamud or even Firawn!
 - He was the first grandson of the Holy Prophet, the son of Imam Ali – who had been the caliph and for a time, he was also the caliph of the Muslims.
- Yet Imam Hasan was never arrogant, rather he showed utmost humbleness
 - Imam Hasan (as) passed by some beggars sitting on the ground eating pieces of bread placed in front of them. They said to him, "O son of the Prophet's daughter, come and join us for lunch." So he sat down and said "Verily Allah does not like the arrogant." He ate with them until they had all had enough though the amount of food remained the same by virtue of his blessings. Then he invited them to be his guests, and fed them and clothed them.
 - Imam Hasan never thought of himself as better than others.
- Imam Hasan was belonged to the most noble family, yet he did not let this make him arrogant
 - A man from Syria came to Madina and saw a man whose beauty astonished him. So he asked who this man was and was told, "He is Hasan ibn Ali." So he went to him and asked, "Are you the son of Abu Talib?" Imam Hasan replied, "Indeed I am his (grand) son." The Syrian man began to curse Imam Ali, who is Imam Hasan's father. Imam Hasan was quiet and did not reply. When the man finished, Imam Hasan said, "I see you are a stranger in this town (meaning that you are not from Madina.) Should you need a ride, we will provide you with one. Should you have any needs, we will fulfil them for you. Should you need any help, we will help you." The Syrian man was seriously impressed, he left thinking there was no more beloved person in the world than Imam Hasan.
 - Imam Hasan acted humbly, and through his humbleness the Syrian man changed his opinion about him
- How can we avoid being arrogant?
 - remembering that everything we have is from Allah and treat others in a way that we would like to be treated

Debate: Being humble means not telling others about your talents - do you agree?

Activity: Finish Zahra's poem about the people of Thamud (in the activity book)

Qur'an treasure hunt

Verse	What this tells me about those who are humble
25:63	
22:34	
11:23	

Compare Imam Hasan's attitude to the people of Thamud

Imam Hasan	The people of Thamud