

Why Arrogance is a Major Sin in Islam:

What is Arrogance?

Arrogance is rejecting the truth and looking down on people, in other words arrogance is a rejection of the truth and a disdain for others.

Explanation: There are two definitions of arrogance:

- 1) When a truth comes to someone and his conscious agrees with the truth, but for whatever reason (Due to his ego, Society pressure, self pride or incurring material or social loss etc) he rejects that truth is called arrogance.
- 2) To look down on others, belittle people or feel himself superior to others in terms of, wealth, beauty, body structure, health, dress, knowledge, education, or status etc.

Quranic verses on Arrogance:

سَأَصْرَفُ عَنْ آيَاتِي الَّذِينَ يَتَكَبَّرُونَ فِي الْأَرْضِ بِغَيْرِ الْحَقِّ وَإِنْ يَرَوْا كُلَّ آيَةٍ لَا يُؤْمِنُوا بِهَا وَإِنْ يَرَوْا سَبِيلَ الرُّشْدِ لَا يَتَّخِذُوهُ سَبِيلًا وَإِنْ يَرَوْا سَبِيلَ الْغَيِّ يَتَّخِذُوهُ سَبِيلًا ذَلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ كَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا وَكَانُوا عَنْهَا غَافِلِينَ

I will turn away from My revelations those who behave arrogantly on earth without justification. Even if they see every sign, they will not believe in it; and if they see the path of rectitude, they will not adopt it for a path; and if they see the path of error, they will adopt it for a path. That is because they denied Our revelations, and paid no attention to them.[Q7/146]

فَادْخُلُوا أَبْوَابَ جَهَنَّمَ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا فَلَيْسَ مَثْوًى الْمُتَكَبِّرِينَ

Now, go ahead and enter the gates of Hell, there you will abide forever. In fact, very awful will be the abode of the arrogant. [Q16/29]

وَلَا تُصَعِّرْ خَدَّكَ لِلنَّاسِ وَلَا تَمْشِ فِي الْأَرْضِ مَرَحًا إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ كُلَّ مُخْتَالٍ فَخُورٍ
Do not speak to the people with your face turned away with pride /arrogant, or
walk on earth arrogantly, Allah does not love any self-conceited boaster. [Q31/18]

الَّذِينَ يُجَادِلُونَ فِي آيَاتِ اللَّهِ بِغَيْرِ سُلْطَانٍ أَتَاهُمْ كَبْرَ مَقْتًا عِنْدَ اللَّهِ وَعِنْدَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا
كَذَلِكَ يَطْبَعُ اللَّهُ عَلَى كُلِّ قَلْبٍ مُنْكَبِرٍ جَبَّارٍ
Those who argue against Allah's revelations without any proof having come to
them—a heinous sin in the sight of Allah and of those who believe. Thus Allah
seals the heart of every arrogant tyrant.[Q40/35]

فَأَمَّا عَادُ فَاسْتَكْبَرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ بِغَيْرِ الْحَقِّ وَقَالُوا مَنْ أَشَدُّ مِنَّا قُوَّةً أَوَلَمْ يَرَوْا أَنَّ اللَّهَ
الَّذِي خَلَقَهُمْ هُوَ أَشَدُّ مِنْهُمْ قُوَّةً وَكَانُوا بِآيَاتِنَا يَجْحَدُونَ

. As for Aad, they turned arrogant on earth, and opposed justice, and said, "Who
is more powerful than us?" Have they not considered that Allah, who created
them, is more powerful than they? And they went on denying Our
revelations.[Q41/15]

وَسِيقَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا إِلَىٰ جَهَنَّمَ زُمَرًا حَتَّىٰ إِذَا جَاؤُوهَا فَتِحَتْ أَبْوَابُهَا وَقَالَ
لَهُمْ خَزَنَتُهَا أَلَمْ يَأْتِكُمْ رُسُلٌ مِّنكُمْ يَتْلُونَ عَلَيْكُمْ آيَاتِ رَبِّكُمْ وَيُنذِرُونَكُمْ لِقَاءَ
يَوْمِكُمْ هَذَا قَالُوا بَلَىٰ وَلَكِنْ حَقَّتْ كَلِمَةُ الْعَذَابِ عَلَى الْكَافِرِينَ

قِيلَ ادْخُلُوا أَبْوَابَ جَهَنَّمَ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا فَبِئْسَ مَثْوَى الْمُتَكَبِّرِينَ

Those who disbelieved will be driven to Hell in throngs. Until, when they have
reached it, and its gates are opened, its keepers will say to them, "Did not
messengers from among you come to you, reciting to you the revelations of your
Lord, and warning you of the meeting of this Day of yours?" They will say, "Yes,
but the verdict of punishment is justified against the disbelievers."

72. It will be said, "Enter the gates of Hell, to abide therein eternally." How wretched is the destination of the arrogant.[Q 39/71-72]

Note: In above Ayat Quran equates disbelievers as "Arrogant", because (Allah's revelations, Messengers) came to them, they knew it is truth, Their conscious agreed, Their old scriptures told this truth, but they denied it due to many different reasons.

Ahadith (Prophetic traditions) on Arrogance:

1) The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said, "Arrogance is to reject the truth and belittle people." (Bukhari)

2) - He also said, "Whoever has an atom's weight of arrogance in his heart will not enter Paradise." (Muslim)

3) - Another Hadith states, "The arrogant will be raised on the Day of Resurrection like ants, and people will tread on them." (Tirmidhi).

4) Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said, "No one who has the weight of a seed of arrogance in his heart will enter Paradise." A man said, "But a man loves to have beautiful clothes and shoes." The Prophet (peace be upon him) said, "Allah is Beautiful and loves beauty. Arrogance means rejecting the truth and looking down on people." (Sahih Muslim).Islam teaches

Effects of arrogance on people:

1) Arrogance contradicts the core principles of humility, equality, and submission to Allah.

2) It leads to a sense of superiority over others, which hinders spiritual growth, self improvement and disrupts harmonious social interactions.

- 3) Islam teaches that all individuals are equal in the eyes of Allah, and true success lies in humility, kindness, and compassion towards others. Arrogance goes completely against this principle.
- 4) Arrogance blinds one to their own faults.
- 5) Prevents them from seeking forgiveness, guidance, knowledge and ultimately distances them from Allah's Mercy and Grace.
- 6) Leads to mistreating others and underestimating their worth.
- 7) Arrogance does not allow people to forgive others.
- 8) Makes one stubborn on his/her wrongs.
- 9) Does not allow people to repent to Allah.
- 10) Arrogance against Allah by rejecting His worship leads to humiliation in the Hereafter.
- 11) Arrogance drive people towards selfishness, which in turns deprive from Allah's guidance.
- 12) Arrogance leads to many other evil deeds as it is the root cause of it.

Final Note:

Remember Arrogance is exclusively Allah's domain as mentioned in Surah "Al-Hashr" Aya # 23

هُوَ اللَّهُ الَّذِي لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْمَلِكُ الْقُدُّوسُ السَّلَامُ الْمُؤْمِنُ الْمُهَيْمِنُ
الْعَزِيزُ الْجَبَّارُ الْمُتَكَبِّرُ سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ

So never try to enter His Domain.