

Development of Virtue

There is no one who does not have a full realization of his or her own deficiencies. One's personal deficiencies are constantly gnawing away at one's mental awareness. Everyone – the truly humble excepted – is always at work trying to cover up his or her weaknesses. In this great cover up, the countless artifices of pride are there to be used in the rescue.

We here point out some of the many ways that pride manifests itself:

- 1) Pride leads a person to talk of him or herself and of his or her own affairs, most often artfully embellishing them, the better to gain the esteem of others.
- 2) There are those who cannot resist the compulsion to boast. No matter what the subject under discussion may be, the boaster has the foremost experience and is preeminent in background training. The boaster is always one cut above the expertise of those around him or her.
- 3) The artifice of “mock modesty” (false modesty) is often used to subtly draw ever more attention to oneself.
- 4) One often uses a litany of ailments and sicknesses, and the treatments he or she seeks for them, to focus attention upon oneself.
- 5) Some there are who are quite adroit in turning the conversation to topics in which they can display their vast knowledge and ability.
- 6) The proud person is often most patronizing and goes about patronizing other people's manifest weaknesses.
- 7) Proud people consider themselves superior and their demeanor gives off the fumes of superiority. The superior person makes use of studied phrases and he or she takes on a magisterial tone in any group discussions. He or she is the “last word” person.
- 8) Pride insists on maintaining its own opinion, sometimes even in the presence of one who is noted for his or her established knowledge and experience concerning the matter at hand.
- 9) The proud person cannot let any slip or mistake pass without correcting it in his dealings with those around him or her. He or she is ever too glad and quick to correct others, but is bitterly resentful when the least correction is aimed at him or herself.
- 10) Perhaps the meanest form of self-exaltation (pride) is that which seeks to increase itself by belittling others. The proud person does not like to hear others praised, and is only too ready to “in all charity” or “for their own good” point out the clay feet of