

The Ignorant And The Foolish

The Ignorant and the Foolish **الجاهل والجهول**

1. An ignorant person is never found to be anything but falling short or excessive.

.. الْجَاهِلُ لَنْ يُلْقَى أَبَدًا إِلَّا مُفَرِّطًا، أَوْ مُفَرِّطًا¹

2. Neither does an ignorant restrain himself [from wrongdoing] nor does he benefit from good advice.

.. الْجَاهِلُ لَا يَرْتَدُّعُ، وَبِالْمَوَاعِظِ لَا يَنْتَفِعُ²

3. An ignorant person is one who obeys his vain desires in disobedience to his Lord.

.. الْجَاهِلُ مَنْ أَطَاعَ هَوَاهُ فِي مَعْصِيَةِ رَبِّهِ³

4. The ignorant person feels aversion towards that which the wise person feels at ease with.

.. الْجَاهِلُ يَسْتَوْحِشُ مِمَّا يَأْنَسُ بِهِ الْحَكِيمُ⁴

5. The ignorant person does not understand the learned because he [himself] was never learned before.

.. الْجَاهِلُ لَا يَعْرِفُ الْعَالِمَ لِأَنَّهُ لَمْ يَكُنْ قَبْلُ عَالِمًا⁵

6. An ignorant person does not recognize his failure and does not accept the [good] advice given to him.

.. الْجَاهِلُ لَا يَعْرِفُ تَقْصِيرَهُ، وَلَا يَقْبَلُ مِنَ النَّصِيحِ لَهُ⁶

7. An ignorant person relies on his hopes and is negligent in his actions.

.. الْجَاهِلُ يَعْتَمِدُ عَلَى أَمَلِهِ، وَيُقْصِرُ فِي عَمَلِهِ⁷

8. The ignorant person is like a rock through which water does not gush forth, and a tree, the branches of which do not become green, and a ground upon which foliage is not found.

.. الْجَاهِلُ صَخْرَةٌ لَا يَنْفَجِرُ مَائُهَا، وَشَجَرَةٌ لَا يَخْضِرُ عُودُهَا، وَأَرْضٌ لَا يَظْهَرُ عُشْبُهَا⁸

9. An ignorant person is [like the] dead among the living.

.. الْجَاهِلُ مَيِّتٌ بَيْنَ الْأَحْيَاءِ⁹

10. The most wretched of all people is the ignorant one.

.. أَشَقَى النَّاسِ الْجَاهِلُ¹⁰

11. An unremorseful sinner is the most ignorant person.

.. أَجْهَلُ النَّاسِ مُسِيئٌ مُسْتَأْنِفٌ¹¹

12. The most ignorant person is one who is deceived by the praise of a flatterer who makes the ugly look appealing to him and makes him hate the [sincere] adviser.

.. أَجْهَلُ النَّاسِ الْمُغْتَرُّ بِقَوْلِ مَادِحٍ مُتَمَلِّقٍ، يُحَسِّنُ لَهُ الْقَبِيحَ، وَيُبْغِضُ إِلَيْهِ النَّصِيحَ¹²

13. The most hated creature in the sight of Allah is the ignorant person, because He deprived him of what He bestowed on His creation, and that is intellect.

.. أَبْغَضُ الْخَلَائِقِ إِلَى اللَّهِ تَعَالَى، الْجَاهِلُ لِأَنَّهُ حَرَمَهُ مَا مَنَّ بِهِ عَلَى خَلْقِهِ، وَهُوَ الْعَقْلُ¹³

14. Verily the ignorant is one whose ignorance leads astray and whose vain desires entice [towards evil]; so his speech is unhealthy and his action is blameworthy.

.. إِنَّ الْجَاهِلَ مَنْ جَهْلُهُ فِي إغْوَاءٍ، وَمَنْ هَوَاهُ فِي إغْرَاءٍ، فَقَوْلُهُ سَقِيمٌ، وَفِعْلُهُ ذَمِيمٌ¹⁴

15. The ignorant one is perplexed.

.. الْجَاهِلُ حَيْرَانٌ¹⁵

16. The ignorant person inclines towards the one who is like him.

.. الْجَاهِلُ يَمِيلُ (يَأْلِفُهُ مِثْلُهُ) إِلَى شَكْلِهِ¹⁶

17. Man is an enemy of that which he is ignorant of.

.. الْمَرْءُ عَدُوٌّ مَا جَهْلٌ¹⁷

18. The ignorant one does not restrain himself [from evil].

.. الْجَاهِلُ لَا يَرْتَدِعُ¹⁸

19. An ignorant person is a slave to his passions.

.. الْجَاهِلُ عَبْدٌ شَهْوَتِهِ¹⁹

20. The ignorant person does not desist [from sinning].

.. الْجَاهِلُ لَا يَرْعَوِي²⁰

21. An ignorant person seeks to raise himself but ends up abasing himself.

.. الْجَاهِلُ يَرْفَعُ نَفْسَهُ فَيَتَضَعُ²¹

22. The ignorant person is one who is ignorant of his own capability.

.. الْجَاهِلُ مَنْ جَهَلَ قُدْرَهُ²²

23. An ignorant person is dead, even when he is alive.

.. الْجَاهِلُ مَيِّتٌ وَإِنْ كَانَ حَيًّا²³

24. The correctness of an ignorant person is like the mistake of a learned person (i.e. it happens rarely).

.. الْجَاهِلُ كَزَلَّةِ الْعَالِمِ صَوَابُهُ²⁴

25. The ignorant person is deceived by [false] claims.

.. الْجَاهِلُ مَنْ خَدَعَتْهُ الْمَطَالِبُ²⁵

26. The ignorant person is one who is ignorant about his [own] affair.

.. الْجَاهِلُ مَنْ جَهِلَ أَمْرَهُ²⁶

27. The ignorant person is one who is deceived by his vain desires and his arrogance.

.. الْجَاهِلُ مَنْ انْخَدَعَ لِهَوَاهُ (بِهَوَاهُ) وَغُرُورِهِ²⁷

28. An ignorant person is one who takes his sincere advisor to be a deceiver.

.. الْجَاهِلُ مَنْ اسْتَعَشَّ النَّصِيحَ²⁸

29. When the ignorant one becomes stingy (or denies), he obtains [wealth] and when he obtains [wealth] (or professes belief in one God), he apostatizes.

.. الْجَاهِلُ إِذَا جَمَدَ (جحد) وَجَدَ، وَإِذَا وَجَدَ (وَحَدَّ) أُلْحَدَ²⁹

30. Indeed the ignorant person is one who is enslaved by [worldly] pursuits.

.. إِنَّمَا الْجَاهِلُ مَنْ اسْتَعْبَدَتْهُ الْمَطَالِبُ³⁰

31. When an ignorant person grows older, his ignorance rises.

.. إِذَا شَابَ الْجَاهِلُ شَبَّ جَهْلُهُ³¹

32. The wealth of an ignorant person is in his worldly possessions and his hopes.

.. ثَرْوَةُ الْجَاهِلِ فِي مَالِهِ وَأَمَلِهِ³²

33. The reign of an ignorant person is like a stranger who [soon] moves to another place.

.. دَوْلَةُ الْجَاهِلِ كَالْغَرِيبِ الْمُتَحَرِّكِ إِلَى النُّقْلَةِ³³

34. Many an ignorant person is saved by his ignorance.

.. رَبَّ جَاهِلٍ نَجَاتُهُ جَهْلُهُ³⁴

35. The slip-ups of an ignorant person are excusable.

.. زَلَّةُ الْجَاهِلِ مَعْدُورَةٌ³⁵

36. An ignorant king exposes his [own] flaws.

.. سُلْطَانُ الْجَاهِلِ يُبْدِي مَعَائِبَهُ³⁶

37. The worst person you can accompany is an ignorant one.

.. شَرُّ مَنْ صَاحَبْتَ الْجَاهِلُ³⁷

38. The correct [action] of an ignorant person is like the slip-up of an intelligent person.

.. صَوَابُ الْجَاهِلِ كَالزَّلَّةِ مِنَ الْعَاقِلِ³⁸

39. The lost item of the ignorant person cannot be found.

.. ضَالَّةُ الْجَاهِلِ غَيْرُ مَوْجُودٍ³⁹

40. Obedience to the foolish is a sign of ignorance.

.. طَاعَةُ الْجُهُولِ تَدُلُّ عَلَى الْجَهْلِ 40

41. Obedience to the foolish and being excessive [in speech or action] are two signs of ignorance.

.. طَاعَةُ الْجُهُولِ، وَكَثْرَةُ الْفُضُولِ تَدْلَانِ عَلَى الْجَهْلِ 41

42. The habit of the inexperienced [and ignorant] ones is to cut off the elements of favour.

.. عَادَةُ الْأَعْمَارِ قَطْعُ مَوَادِّ الْإِحْسَانِ 42

43. The wealth of an ignorant person is in his worldly possessions.

.. غِنَى الْجَاهِلِ بِمَالِهِ 43

44. The ignorant one is deceived by futile absurdities.

.. غُرُورُ الْجَاهِلِ بِمُجَالَاتِ الْبَاطِلِ 44

45. Every ignorant person is prone to temptation. [1](#)

.. كُلُّ جَاهِلٍ مَفْتُونٌ 45

46. For the ignorant there is loss in every situation.

.. لِلْجَاهِلِ فِي كُلِّ حَالَةٍ خُسْرَانٌ 46

47. One who is ignorant is disregarded [by others].

.. مَنْ جَهْلٌ أَهْمِلَ 47

48. When one is ignorant, his consideration is reduced.

.. مَنْ جَهْلَ قَلَّ إِعْتِبَارُهُ48

49. One who is ignorant of [a branch of] knowledge is hostile towards it.

.. مَنْ جَهْلَ عِلْمًا عَادَاهُ49

50. One who does not know where he is placing his foot, trips.

.. مَنْ جَهْلَ مَوْضِعَ قَدَمِهِ زَلَّ50

51. One who is ignorant makes many blunders.

.. مَنْ جَهْلَ كَثُرَ عَثَارُهُ51

52. One who is ignorant becomes self-conceited; and his 'today' is worse than his 'yesterday'.

.. مَنْ جَهْلَ اغْتَرَّ بِنَفْسِهِ وَكَانَ يَوْمُهُ شَرًّا مِنْ أَمْسِهِ52

53. It is from the nature of the ignorant to get angry quickly, in every situation.

.. مِنْ طَبَايِعِ الْجُهَالِ التَّسَرُّعُ إِلَى الْغَضَبِ فِي كُلِّ حَالٍ53

54. No one antagonizes the learned like the ignorant [do].

.. مَا ضَادَّ الْعُلَمَاءَ كَالْجُهَالِ54

55. Woe be to the one who persists in his ignorance and blessed is the one who realizes [his mistake] and finds the right course.

.. وَيْلٌ لِمَنْ تَمَادَى فِي جَهْلِهِ، وَطُوبَى لِمَنْ عَقَلَ وَاهْتَدَى55

56. There is no independence for an ignorant person.

.. لَا غِنَى لِجَاهِلٍ56

57. The ignorant one is not seen to be anything but immoderate (or excessive).

(- لا يُرَى الْجَاهِلُ إِلَّا مُفْرِطاً (مُفْرِطاً 57).

58. Nothing restrains the foolish except the edge of a sword.

.. لَا يَرْدَعُ الْجَهْلُ إِلَّا حَدَّ الْحُسَامِ 58

59. Disobey the ignorant and you will be safe.

.. إَعْصِ الْجَاهِلَ تَسَلِّمْ 59

1. Or, if taken in the context of Q68:6: Every ignorant person is demented.

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