

It is the deadliest weapon on the surface of the earth since the beginning of human life.

Throughout human history, most of the wars, battles, assassinations, massacres, oppressions, denial of justice and other human sufferings took place because of it...

عصية

PREJUDICE

kinship

tribalism

nepotism

nationalism

discrimination

favoritism

fanaticism

apartheid

extremism

partiality

racialism

bias

radicalism

You are superior to others because you belong to a different ethnic group, or you speak a different language, or you are from a different country or you belong to a specific family, group, clan, party, or race ...

And your support and affiliation  
is on the basis of language,  
ethnicity, relationship,  
origin...even though your  
group, party, clan, tribe, friends'  
circle do injustice, oppress,  
commit crimes...

And their love, affection,  
friendship, relationship and  
support makes you blind to  
their injustice, unethical  
conduct, crime, oppression ...

...You will not help, support  
or defend other human beings  
because they do not belong to  
'your' group, country, clan,  
race, family, party....

...Even though they are  
oppressed, denied their rights,  
they deserve to be supported,  
they are on truth...



...And perhaps in the name of tribalism, racism, nationalism or any other ism...your support may lead to oppression and denial of the rights of other human beings...

What if others did the same to  
you and your clan, tribe, family,  
friends, party, group, race...

Are you aware that this type of irrational conduct is known as “*asabiyyah*” or prejudice ??

Should a creature of God, a true believer, a rational human being, an intellectual person, a scholar, a teacher or anyone who loves justice and humanity or claims to defend human rights indulge in such a prejudiced conduct ?

Perhaps you know who was  
the first to practice *asabiyyah*...

قلت : يا رسول الله ! ما العَصِيَّةُ؟ قال: أن...  
تُعِينَ قَوْمَكَ عَلَى الظُّلْمِ

*Prophet (s) was asked: “O Prophet of God! What is asabiyyah ?”, He (s) replied: “That you support your nation (or tribe) in oppression.”*

رسولُ اللهِ صلى اللهُ عليه وآله : مَنْ تَعَصَّبَ أَوْ ...  
تُعَصَّبَ لَهُ فَقَدْ خَلَعَ رَبْقَ الْإِيمَانِ مِنْ عُنُقِهِ  
وفي نَقْلِ : فَقَدْ خَلَعَ رِبْقَةَ الْإِسْلَامِ مِنْ عُنُقِهِ

*...Prophet (s) said: "The one who exerts asabiyyah or the one on whose behalf it is exerted, the tie of faith is taken off his neck."*

*"... the tie of Islam is taken off his neck"*

الرسول الله: مَنْ كَانَ فِي قَلْبِهِ حَبَّةٌ مِنْ خَرْدَلٍ مِنْ  
عَصِيَّةٍ بَعَثَهُ اللَّهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ مَعَ أَعْرَابِ الْجَاهِلِيَّةِ

*The Prophet (s) said: "Whosoever possesses in his heart asabiyyah even to the extent of a mustard seed, God will raise him on the Day of Resurrection with the (pagan) Beduins of the Jahiliyyah (the pre-Islamic era)."*



امام صادق: مَنْ تَعَصَّبَ عَصْبَهُ اللهُ عَزَّوَجَلَّ  
يَعِصَابُهُ مِنْ نَارٍ

*Imam Sadiq (a): "Whosoever practices asabiyyah (against someone), God shall wrap around him a fold of Fire."*

امام على : إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُعَذِّبُ السَّنَةَ بِالسَّنَةِ :  
...العَرَبَ بِالْعَصِيَّةِ

*Imam Ali (a): “God Almighty will punish six groups of people for six kinds of sins: ...He will punish the Arabs for asabiyyah...”*

الرسول الله: لَيْسَ مِنْ أُمَّةٍ دَعَا إِلَى عَصِيَّةٍ ،  
وَلَيْسَ مِنْهَا مَنْ قَاتَلَ (عَلَى) عَصِيَّةٍ ، وَلَيْسَ مِنْهَا  
مَنْ مَاتَ عَلَى عَصِيَّةٍ

*The Prophet (s) said: "One who calls towards asabiyyah is not from us, one who fights for asabiyyah is not from us and the one who dies on asabiyyah is not from us."*

الرسول الله : خَيْرُكُمْ الْمُدَافِعُ عَنْ عَشِيرَتِهِ مَا  
لَمْ يَأْتُمْ

*The Prophet (s): “The best among you  
is the person who defends his tribe till  
they do not commit a sin.”*

سأل علي بن الحسين من العصبية. فقال العَصِيَّةُ التي يَأْتُمُ  
عَلَيْهَا صَاحِبُهَا أَن يَرَى الرَّجُلُ شِرَارَ قَوْمِهِ خَيْرًا مِنْ خِيَارِ  
قَوْمِ آخَرِينَ ، وَلَيْسَ مِنَ الْعَصِيَّةِ أَن يُحِبَّ الرَّجُلُ قَوْمَهُ ،  
وَلَكِنْ مِنَ الْعَصِيَّةِ أَن يُعِينَ قَوْمَهُ عَلَى الظُّلْمِ

*Imam Ali bin al-Husayn (a) was asked about asabiyyah. He (a) replied: "Asabiyyah that makes a person sinful is that he takes the worst actions of his nation (or tribe) to be better than the best actions of his opponent tribe. It is not asabiyyah to love one's nation. However, if one helps his nation in committing oppression then it is asabiyyah."*

[al-Kafi, vol. 2, bab al 'asabiyyah, p. 308, hadith # 7]

امام على : في دم إبليس - : فافتخر على آدم بخلقه ،  
وتعصب عليه لأصله ، فعَدُوَّ الله إمام المتعصبين ، وسلفُ  
المُستكبرين ، الذي وَضَعَ أساسَ العَصِيَّةِ ، ونازَعَ الله رداءَ  
الجبريَّةِ ، وادَّرَعَ لباسَ التَّعَزُّزِ ، وخَلَعَ قِنَاعَ التَّذَلُّلِ

*Imam Ali (a): “(while censuring Iblis), ... So he became proud because of his superiority in creation over Adam (a) and became enemy of God and the leader of arrogant who laid the foundation of asabiyyah and so imagined to remove cloak of God’s magnanimity and wore the garb of rebellion and arrogance and removed the covering of humbleness.”*

امام على : ... إِعْتَرَتْهُ الْحَمِيَّةُ ، وَغَابَتْ عَلَيْهِ  
الشَّقْوَةُ ، وَتَعَزَّزَ بِخِلْقَةِ النَّارِ ، وَاسْتَوْهَنَ خَلْقَ  
الصَّلْصَالِ

*Imam Ali (a): "...then he (Iblis) was surrounded by asabiyyah, overpowered by misery and he glorified himself because he was created from fire and looked down upon that which was created from clay..."*

So, for what reasons should we  
extend our support to a group,  
party, family, tribe, clan, friend ...



امام على: ... فتعصّبوا لِحلالِ الحَمْدِ مِنَ الحِفظِ لِلجِوارِ ،  
والوَفاءِ بِالدِّمَامِ ، والطَّاعَةَ لِليرِّ ، والمَعصِيَةَ لِلكَبيرِ ، والأخذِ  
بِالْفَضْلِ ، والكَفَّ عَنِ البَغْيِ ، والإِعْظامِ لِلقَتْلِ ، والإنصافِ  
لِلخَلْقِ ، والكَظْمِ لِلغَيْظِ ، واجْتِنابِ الفَسادِ فِي الأَرْضِ

*Imam Ali (a): “...so you (too) do asabiyyah for praiseworthy traits, such as protecting rights of neighbors, keeping promises, obedience to good, disobedience to arrogant, adherence to kind manners, keeping away from tyranny, seeking refuge from bloodshed, doing justice to the creatures of God, controlling anger and avoidance of rebellion on earth.”*

امام على : إن كنتم لا محالة متعصبين  
فتعصبوا لنصرة الحق وإغاثة الملهوف

*Imam Ali (a) said: “If it becomes unavoidable for you to be among those who practice asabiyyah, then do asabiyyah to uphold the truth and support of the oppressed.”*

امام على :... فان كان لا بُدَّ مِنَ الْعَصِيَّةِ فليكن تَعَصُّبُكُمْ  
لِمَكَارِمِ الْخِصَالِ وَمَحَامِدِ الْأَفْعَالِ وَمَحَاسِنِ الْأُمُورِ

*Imam Ali (a) said: "...If it happens that you have to practice asabiyyah then do your asabiyyah for superior manners, praiseworthy character, outstanding deeds..."*

Doing good is the most beautiful work of God

امام علی : من ابطابه عمله لم يسرع به نسبه

*Imam Ali (a) : “The one whose deeds lower him, his family background or ancestry cannot elevate him.”*

*Thus, remember that the superiority of a person is only on the basis of pure intentions and sincere and lofty deeds...not ethnicity, origin, language, color or any other factor that is not his own achievement...*

*Asabiyyah is a dangerous condition for an individual and the society. It is an evil trait, inspired by Satanic forces. One must ponder seriously about its consequences in this world and hereafter...*

*...And asabiyyah of intellectuals and those seeking knowledge manifests itself as stubbornness in intellectual matters and the habit of supporting the statements and ideas of one's own or that of one's teacher, leader or spiritual master without it being for the sake of defending truth and refuting falsehood...*



*A true believer annihilates his own will in the Will of his Lord. He is free from all traces of ignorant asabiyyahs (prejudices) and thick and dark curtains of blind asabiyyahs would not obstruct his vision.*

*When called to deliver justice and utter the word of truth, he puts a firm foot on the head of all associations and ties, sacrificing all ties of kinship and friendships at the altar of the aims and orders of his Lord and he supports truth and justice under all circumstances.*

*...So if you love or hate someone, or support or are against a group of individuals or a nation, think wisely for a while, what has motivated you for it. If it is other than promoting truth and justice or help of oppressed or preventing aggression and tyranny, then give up your support of the people you are associated with...*

*...It will be certainly difficult for you to take a bold step and keep aside love, friendship and affinity of your group, nation, relatives, friends or colleagues and support truth and justice....*

*But your decision to give up blind  
asabiyyah and support truth,  
justice and oppressed will perhaps  
motivate others to do the same.*

*By giving up asabiyyah, innocent lives and human beings can be saved from cruelty, oppression and injustice.*

*Thus, if the fire of asabiyyah is quenched inside a human being, it will be a shelter for him as well as for other human beings.*

A human being can taste true  
humanity by supporting truth and  
justice under all circumstances...

*O people! We have created you from a male and female, and have made you nations and tribes that you may know one another. The noblest of you in the sight of Allah is the best in conduct.*

*(Qur'an, 49:13)*



Thanks for your time