

# THE ANATOMY OF THE I

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## THE SOPHISTICATED PARASITE: THE EVOLUTION OF THE "I"

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1. Pride is not a static vice; it is a highly adaptive \_\_\_\_\_.
2. This is the Anatomy of the I, it is the subtle, almost imperceptible transition from using the \_\_\_\_\_ to serve God, to using \_\_\_\_\_ to serve the mind.

## THE INTELLECTUAL CHAMBER: THE IDOLATRY OF THE HEAD

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3. Intellectual pride is the elevation of the \_\_\_\_\_ over the \_\_\_\_\_. It is the belief that because you possess information *about* God, you possess the nature *of* God.
4. When we are \_\_\_\_\_ with your own knowledge, we aren't seeing more clearly; we are seeing through a haze of your own self-importance.

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## THE INFORMATION TRAP: WINDOW VS. CEILING

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5. If your study habits have made you more argumentative but less \_\_\_\_\_, your window has become opaque. You are looking at a reflection of your own intellect instead of the face of God. You have built a sky made of your own opinions, and you have mistaken it for the Heavens.

## THE ARROGANCE OF THE ACCURATE: THE PHARISEE IN THE MIRROR

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6. Accuracy is a good thing, but accuracy without \_\_\_\_\_ is a weapon. It is the difference between a surgeon using a scalpel to heal and a soldier using a sword to kill. Both are sharp, and both are accurate, but only one is life-giving.

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## THE PHARISAIC BLUEPRINT

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7. They used the Word of God to build a \_\_\_\_\_ rather than an \_\_\_\_\_. They suffered from what the Hebrew writers called *Eynayim Ramot*, Lofty Eyes. Because they were

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"right" in their heads, they felt they had the right to look down on the "ignorant" masses. They used the Truth to exclude people rather than to invite them.

**IF YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH MAKES YOU MORE CRITICAL OF OTHERS THAN YOU ARE OF YOURSELF, YOU HAVE MOVED FROM THE "MIND OF CHRIST" TO THE "MIND OF THE DEBATER."**

8. Accuracy without humility is just a sophisticated form of \_\_\_\_\_ because it seeks to control the Truth rather than be controlled by it.

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### THE BELLOWS OF THE MIND

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9. Intellectual pride blows up the ego with air, but it adds no \_\_\_\_\_. It creates a large appearance with a hollow center.

**A PERSON "PUFFED UP" WITH INTELLECTUAL PRIDE IS LIKE A BALLOON, LARGE AND IMPRESSIVE TO LOOK AT, BUT EASILY POPPED BY THE SLIGHTEST PINPRICK OF CORRECTION OR CONTRADICTION.**

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### THE MIRROR OF SELF-ADMIRATION

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10. The proud person uses the gift as a \_\_\_\_\_ to admire their own reflection.

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### THE "PROFESSIONAL" CHRISTIAN: COMPETENCY VS. INTIMACY

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11. They have moved from being a "Son" who needs the Father's hand to being an "Employee" who is just \_\_\_\_\_ a religious task. They are competent, but they are cold. They are accurate, but they are empty. They have substituted history for presence.

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### CONCLUSIONS VS. INQUIRIES: THE JURISDICTIONAL LINE

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#### THE CONCLUSION

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12. Concluding without inquiring of God is a jurisdictional \_\_\_\_\_. It is when you decide you already know the heart of a matter before God has spoken.
- You have decided why that person said what they said.
  - You have decided why the leadership made that choice.
  - You have decided exactly how God is going to move in this season.

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13. When you live in a state of conclusion, you are \_\_\_\_\_. You are no longer looking for truth; you are looking for evidence to support your verdict. You become a **prosecutor of others** and a **defense attorney for yourself**.

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### THE INQUIRY

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14. An inquiry is the posture of a \_\_\_\_\_. It is the realization that your perspective is limited. It is saying, "Lord, I see this, but what do YOU see? What am I missing? Give me Your heart for this situation."

*TRUE HUMILITY IS NOT THINKING LESS OF YOURSELF. IT IS NOT WALKING AROUND SAYING YOU ARE "NOTHING." TRUE HUMILITY IS NOT ALLOWING YOURSELF TO DO THE THINKING FOR GOD.*

15. Humility is a high respect for God's \_\_\_\_\_. It is the refusal to do His job.

*THE PERSON OF INQUIRY IS FLEXIBLE; THE PERSON OF CONCLUSION IS BRITTLE. THE INQUIRER IS A VESSEL; THE CONCLUDER IS A VETO.*

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### THE MIRROR OF SAUL: PRIDE AS A DEFENSIVE MASK

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16. Pride is the shell we build to protect a soul that is too afraid to be \_\_\_\_\_. We conclude because we are afraid of the inquiry. We are afraid that if we ask God for His perspective, He might tell us that we are the ones who need to change. We are afraid that if we lose our "rightness," we lose our \_\_\_\_\_.

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### THE SEVEN STAGES OF RELIGIOUS CALCIFICATION

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17. Spiritual pride is often a callous over an unhealed \_\_\_\_\_.

- \_\_\_\_\_: The "I" is bruised by correction or overlooked by others. The dust is disturbed. You feel the sting of not being recognized or being told you are wrong.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ Conclusion: Instead of taking the correction, you conclude that "they" are the problem. You stop asking "What is God saying to me?" and start asking "How can I defend myself?"

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- The Wall of \_\_\_\_\_: You use your knowledge of the Word to prove why you are justified in your distance, your bitterness, or your anger. You weaponize the Bible. You find verses that talk about "righteous indignation" to cover your own unrighteous temper.
- The Loss of \_\_\_\_\_: You stop praying for direction and start "praying" for confirmation of your own opinions. Your prayer life becomes a monologue where you tell God why you are right.
- The Mask of \_\_\_\_\_: You learn to function in the church while being disconnected in the closet. You become a "Functional Pharisee." You can lead a song or a meeting while your heart is a thousand miles away.
- The Spirit of \_\_\_\_\_: You measure your "spiritual height" by the "spiritual depth" of those you look down upon. You feel better about your prayer life because you pray more than the person next to you, not because you are closer to God.
- \_\_\_\_\_: The heart stops inquiring entirely. It only dictates. It becomes a stone that God must now "resist." The Greek word there is antitassomai, which means to set oneself in battle array against. You aren't just missing God; you are in a war with Him.

*THE ANATOMY OF THE "I" SHOWS US THAT WE DON'T WAKE UP ONE DAY WITH A HARD HEART. WE BUILD IT, LAYER BY LAYER, THROUGH THE CONCLUSIONS WE CHOOSE OVER THE INQUIRIES. WE TURN OUR "DUST" INTO "CONCRETE."*

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### THE DISPLACEMENT OF DEPENDENCE: PRAYER AS THE VICTIM

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18. \_\_\_\_\_ is the constant inquiry. It is the realization that you cannot breathe, think, or lead without the current, active breath of the Almighty. It is the recognition that without Him, your intellect is just noise and your spirituality is just a performance. Prayer is not a religious duty; it is the practice of getting back in the dirt where it is safe. It is the act of exhaling your own "I Will" and inhaling His "Thy Will."
19. To be "like God" is not to go up; it is to go \_\_\_\_\_.
- From the \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_: He left the environment of pure Light for the environment of Dust. He changed His jurisdiction. He didn't demand the "Right" to stay

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high. He accepted the "Low Ground." He moved from the place of absolute conclusion to the place of human inquiry.

- From the \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_: He took on the limitations of the Adamah: DNA, hunger, tiredness, pain. He accepted the boundary of a human body. He didn't use His deity as an escape. He submitted to the dust. He showed us that perfection is not found in being "Limitless," but in being perfectly submitted within our limits.
- From the \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_: He didn't come with a crown; He came with a towel. He shifted the focus from "Me" to "You." He redefined leadership as downward mobility. He proved that the only way to lead people is to be willing to get under them.
- From the \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_: He took the lowest job in the house, washing the dirt off the feet of men. He killed the rank pride. He touched the very thing that the "I" tries to avoid: the messiness of others. He showed that holiness is not staying away from dirt; it's being willing to wash it.
- From \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_: He submitted to the ultimate limitation of death. He ended the "I Will" entirely. He allowed the dust to be returned to the earth. He conquered death by submitting to it.

*LUCIFER, THE CREATURE, TRIED TO LEAVE HIS PLACE TO BECOME LIKE THE CREATOR. GOD, THE CREATOR, LEFT HIS STATION TO BECOME LIKE THE CREATURE.*

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### THE SYMPTOM OF "NOISE": THE HISSING OF THE EGO

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- \_\_\_\_\_ Noise: Long, defensive explanations to prove you were right. The need to win the argument at all costs. The "I need to set the record straight" energy. It's the sound of a mind trying to protect its ceiling.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Noise: Boasting about your sacrifices, your fasting, or your history in the church. Using your spirituality to shut down others. It's the sound of a heart trying to protect its mirror.

20. Noise is the evidence of \_\_\_\_\_ pressure. A humble soul is quiet because it has nothing to defend. It is dust, and it knows it. It doesn't need to "Build a Case" because it knows that God is its defense.

*SILENCE IS THE ULTIMATE WEAPON OF THE HUMBLE BECAUSE IT REFUSES TO ENGAGE IN THE WAR OF CONCLUSIONS. THE QUIETER YOU ARE, THE LOUDER GOD BECOMES. WHEN THE "I" IS QUIET, THE "I AM" CAN BE HEARD.*

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### THE IDOLATRY OF INFLUENCE: THE NEW HIGH PLACE

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21. Intellectual and spiritual pride often culminate in the desire to be \_\_\_\_\_ rather than obedient.

22. Intellectual pride builds a High Place of \_\_\_\_\_. You want people to come to *your* hill to hear *your* wisdom.

23. True influence is a byproduct of \_\_\_\_\_, not the goal of it. If you seek influence, you will lose your soul to the pressure of \_\_\_\_\_ it. If you seek the Basin, God will give you the influence He can trust you with.

24. When you seek and \_\_\_\_\_ to God, instead of acting on your \_\_\_\_\_, you don't have to be the source of the answer. When you accept the dust, you don't have to be the source of the strength.

- The "I" says: "I must be right."
- The "Basin" says: "He is Right."
- The "I" says: "I must be seen."
- The "Basin" says: "He is the Vision."

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### PRACTICAL APPLICATION: PERFORMING THE INTERNAL MRI

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1. Check the "Rightness" Pressure: Do you feel a physical tightness when someone disagrees with you? Do you feel an urgent need to correct them? That is the inflation of the mind. That is the smoke of tuphoo.
2. Check the "Credit" Ledger: When you do something spiritual, do you find yourself waiting for the return? Do you check to see who noticed? If the credit doesn't come, do you feel a structural crack in your joy?
3. Check the "Jurisdiction": How many conclusions have you made this week about people you haven't prayed for? Are you sitting on the Throne or kneeling at the Basin? Are you passing verdicts on lives you aren't helping to carry?
4. Check the "Noise" Level: Are you constantly explaining yourself? Are you fighting to protect your image? If someone thinks poorly of you, can you let it stay that way, or must you "fix" it?

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GOD RESISTETH THE PROUD, BUT HE GIVETH GRACE TO THE HUMBLE. YOU ARE SAFE IN THE DUST. WHEN YOU REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE DUST, YOU CAN'T FALL, BECAUSE YOU'RE ALREADY AS LOW AS YOU CAN GO. YOU ARE FREE FROM THE FATIGUE OF MAINTAINING AN IMAGE. YOU ARE FREE TO BE SECOND. YOU ARE FREE TO BE QUIET. YOU ARE FREE TO DEPEND. ACCEPT THE PEACE THAT COMES WITH BEING JUST DUST IN THE HANDS OF A GREAT GOD.

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