To be Eager for the Knowledge

The student needs to struggle in easy and in difficult times. We go through different phases in our life- sometimes we are energised and sometimes we feel lazy; sometimes we are occupied and sometimes we have free time. The student needs to do more in his free time because we don't know what can happen tomorrow that can occupy us. When you are occupied with other matters then you cannot acquire the knowledge. This applies in all kinds of worship- make use of your free time and energy to do more acts of worship including voluntary deeds because you will not be able to do the same if you get busy. Even if you are occupied or tired, do your obligations and don't neglect them.

When you have energy and are not occupied with worldly affairs- take all opportunities to acquire knowledge. Acquire knowledge before you have a position of responsibility. Once you have any position in the duniya then you cannot acquire the knowledge like you used to. Umar bin Al Khattab said one needs to acquire knowledge and deep understanding of the religion before he gets any position which can occupy him. You need to make an effort to seek the knowledge when you are a follower. Because once you are having a position of leadership then you cannot seek knowledge like before. We notice this in our lives- once we have some kind of position of responsibility, then we cannot acquire knowledge like how we used to. You need to take the opportunity before you get bust an have a position. When you will be leader and people follow you then you cannot acquire knowledge because you will be busy.

This applies to all kinds of worship. For example, before Maryam had her son, she had secluded herself to worship Allah and be close to Him. But after one is put in a position of leadership, then you cannot do worship as you used to. Yet we need to remind ourselves that we need to be worshipping Allah in every position that Allah takes us. We cannot say, before it was better for me, before I had children, etc. We need to think good- wherever Allah is taking us is good.

We need to have fiqh and have detailed knowledge before you will be in charge; meaning before you will be a teacher. Once you will be a teacher, your focus will be more in teaching.
Don’t Prefer Others Over Yourself For The Matter Of Religion
And Don’t Be Proud, Arrogant or Jealous

Earlier they had to memorise ahadith, ayat, sanad, etc and they used to recite to the teacher in the early part of the morning. The best time to recite to the teacher is in the beginning of the day.

The Prophet (ﷺ) said: "O Allah, bless my people in their early mornings." [Sunan Abi Dawud 2606]

There is so much blessing in the early part of the morning.

When you have to recite to the teacher, don’t prefer anybody else and hasten to recite. For duniya matters you can prefer others over yourself, but for matters of religion you should hasten to do them yourself. At the same time don’t be proud, arrogant or jealous. Meaning hasten to do good but not out of pride arrogance or jealousy.

Ask Yourself - Don’t You Like to be Close to Allah?

Go forward in doing good deeds, but at the same time don’t be like Iblis. Outwardly, Iblis was doing so many acts of worships but Allah knew what was in his heart. The test of Iblis came with Adam- Allah knows what you are concealing. Allah knows what is in your heart- maybe outwardly you may be doing so many acts of worship but what is in your heart? Only Allah knows. Iblis was commanded to prostrate to Adam- that was his test. When you are doing so many acts of worship, and outwardly you may seem to be from the foremost- but when that test comes, what do you do? Allah puts the test in front of you- if someone else is preferred over you, how do you react? When you want to be close to Allah, it is not only with your outward actions but it is with your heart. How will you know what is in your heart? With situations- how do you react? Go forward in doing good deeds but at the same time, watch your heart- don’t be proud, arrogant or jealous. Maybe you are always going forward and first in doing good deeds but someone else is preferred over you- how do you feel? That is the moment of test that shows you your reality. Jealousy comes- why this person was preferred over me? Pride comes when you are forward and others are behind- both are sins.

Preferring others over yourself to be close to Allah is disliked. To be close to Allah is not by the limbs but it is by the heart. What is the point of doing so much good deeds but the heart is corrupted? For matters of desire, you can prefer others over yourself. For example, you may want to get the first seat in class just to be first and close and another wants to be close to understand better- one is for desire and the other is for good deeds.

Students of knowledge should not be jealous of each other. In general, Muslims should not be jealous of each other but it is more for students of knowledge. Shaitan attacks them more than those who are openly sinning. Seek refuge in Allah, fight and struggle against yourself from these thoughts about your sister.
Jealousy shows on the tongue- Iblis said ‘I am made of fire and he is made of sand’. Have taqwa- when you have those feelings, don't speak. Put a mask. ‘Oh, I am jealous from that person’. Don't speak, tell yourself to make dua for that person. Remind yourself of the story of Adam and Iblis. Another example is that of Habil and Qabil. Notice the first example of jealousy in the religion. Jealousy is most prevalent in matters of religion; between students of knowledge is more severe and violent than for matters of duniya. It happens but you need taqwa. If you react with your desire, your reality shows on our tongue. Hold yourself, close the curtain, fight yourself, and put patching on your sickness by making dua for the person.

How can jealousy come between students of knowledge? Someone may be smarter, memorised more, closer to the teacher, applying more of the knowledge- fight these feelings, struggle because we have these feelings. This is a blessing which Allah gave her, why be jealous of her? When you are in the study circle, put your armour because Shaitan can attack you anytime to make you think bad. Know that we are all going through nurturing and somebody’s action can just be a test for you. Allah is nurturing you though the action of others.

Don't be proud. How can a person be proud? He is amazed with himself, ascribing purity to himself and thinking he is so good instead of thinking Allah gave me this, and feeling humble. How to overcome this feeling? Remind yourself that you didn't get what you got by your might and power. Everything is by the power and might of Allah. Don't be proud of anything because you are not doing anything by your might and power. For the religion pride comes worse than for duniya matters. You don't know if Allah accepted your good deeds or not so how can you be pride or arrogant?

O mankind, indeed you are laboring toward your Lord with [great] exertion and will meet it.
[Surat Al-'Insīqāq 84:6]

There is no rest in the duniya till we die and go to Paradise. In the Day of Judgement, as you go towards the end, the challenges gets more difficult. It shows in life as you go higher, the challenges get bigger. Our test is our thinking. Jealousy and pride can come along the way.

How to overcome jealousy? Tell yourself the wisdom of Allah chose this person. Don't look at the people who gave him but look at Allah, the Nurturer. When you think about people you corrupt your heart. It is the wisdom of Allah that gave this person this position. This is how to have a pure heart. Why should you object or hate the wisdom of Allah? This life is a test.

[He] who created death and life to test you [as to] which of you is best in deed [Surah Al Mulk 67:2]

Jealousy and pride delays you even if you are going forward with your limbs. How can a carrier of the Qur’an have a corrupted heart? The believer does not have any objection, doesn't demand, doesn't blame and doesn't argue.