

A 3D-rendered tunnel with a cobblestone floor and walls, leading to a large, lightbulb-shaped opening at the far end. The lightbulb shape is formed by two bulbous ends connected by a narrow neck, resembling a lightbulb. The tunnel is illuminated from the opening, creating a strong perspective effect. The word "Assumptions" is written in a large, red, sans-serif font across the top of the lightbulb shape. Below it, the Arabic phrase "سوء الظن" is written in a smaller, red, sans-serif font. The overall scene is set against a plain, light-colored background.

Assumptions

سوء الظن

Once upon a time children played freely in streets & people smiled at strangers.
Police Respected, MP's Honoured, GP's Trusted, Faith in Friends, Spouses Loved.
Now we assume, presume & suspect everyone – DBS, checks, schedules, limits...!

“O People who believe! Avoid most assumptions; indeed assumption sometimes becomes a sin, and do not seek faults, and do not slander one another;” (49:12)

ASSUMPTION - “A thing that is accepted as true or as certain to happen, without proof”

PRESUMPTION - “The act of believing that something is true without having any proof”

SUSPICION - “A feeling or thought that something may be true”

- Parked in disabled bay but walks fine - What a ***! REALITY** prosthetic limb or MS!
- Healthy person receiving benefits - what a lazy person - **REALITY** lost spouse & 15 Yr job!
- Overweight person - no control - **REALITY** suffering from depression & medical condition!
- Making assumption of others is a direct reflection of you & the state of your heart.

“Beware, in the body is a piece of flesh which, if sound, the entire body is sound, & if corrupt, the entire body is corrupt. Truly, it is the heart.” (Bukhari)

Verily, Allah does not look at your appearance, but rather he looks at your hearts. (Muslim)

Allah ﷻ does not tell us to avoid all assumptions, but **MOST ASSUMPTIONS!**

IMAGINE if Allah ﷻ only assumed about you? Would we even exist?

SOME assumptions are Definitive - Argument + Angry + Fist + Raised Hand = Attack

MOST assumptions though in life are Vague, Unclear, Obscure

Assumption lead to Suspicion – Prejudice – Discrimination = SIN

DO NOT ASSUME ANYTHING NEGATIVE WITHOUT CLEAR DEFINITIVE EVIDENCE

- You had a debate, he insulted me – **REALITY** it was a general statement!
- He hates me, he didn't invite me to his wedding – **REALITY** he just forgot!
- Driving nice car - too young - must be doing drugs, dealing with interest - No Evidence!
- Big beard, seems like a hardcore fundamentalist extremist – prejudice, pure assumptions
- She got divorced so quickly – got pregnant after Nikah – **REALITY** it was forced
- She got pregnant straight after Nikah – **REALITY** Qadr-Allah, naturally fertile
- Always going on umrah, he must be up to something – assuming intentions & actions
- In the pub, must be drinking – **REALITY** work event, apple juice.

Sayyidna Ali رضي الله عنه “The sinful person does not assume good about anyone else because he only looks through the prism of his own heart or his own nature”

“None of my Companions should convey to me anything regarding another because I desire to meet everyone of you with a clean heart.” (Tirmidhi)

Always look to hold a good assumption about your brother and sister in Islam.

Umar ibn al-Khattab رضي الله عنه “Never assume that a word your believing brother has said to be evil while there exists the possibility of a good interpretation”

Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى only uses the word اجتناب in a few circumstances in the Qur’an.

فَاجْتَنِبُوا الرِّجْسَ مِنَ الْأَوْثَانِ وَاجْتَنِبُوا قَوْلَ الزُّورِ - إِنَّمَا الْخَمْرُ وَالْمَيْسِرُ وَالْأَنْصَابُ وَالْأَزْلَامُ رِجْسٌ مِّنْ عَمَلِ الشَّيْطَانِ فَاجْتَنِبُوهُ

“Avoid the impurities of idolatry, avoid false speech, alcohol, intoxicants and gambling”

Every time Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى uses the word اجتناب He uses it about things that are destructive:

Idolatry is destructive to your relationship with Allah **VS** Tawheed

Alcohol is destructive to a person's mental & physical capacity **VS** Good Decisions

Gambling is destructive to someone's wealth and money **VS** Responsibility & Stability

اجتنبوا كثيرا من الظن - AVOID EXCESSIVE ASSUMPTIONS

Assumptions are destructive to brotherhood and sisterhood in Islam. How will we trust & get closer/stronger/united when we always assume the worst in one another?

إِيَّاكُمْ وَالظَّنَّ فَإِنَّ الظَّنَّ أَكْذَبُ الْحَدِيثِ

Beware of assumptions, indeed assumptions amounts to the worst form of lying. (Muslim)

وَلَا تَجَسَّسُوا وَلَا تَحَسَّسُوا وَلَا تَنَافَسُوا وَلَا تَحَاسَدُوا وَلَا تَبَاغَضُوا وَلَا تَدَابَرُوا وَكُونُوا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ إِخْوَانًا

“Do not seek each other's faults and do not spy on one another and do not contend with each other and do not envy one another and do not hate each other and do not turn away from one another. Rather be the servants of Allah brothers to one another.” (Bukhari)

Socially destructive sins, **سوء الظن - NEGATIVE ASSUMPTIONS** - seeking each other's faults, and assuming the worst about one another externally without definitive knowledge.

حُسْنُ الظَّنِّ مِنْ حُسْنِ الْعِبَادَةِ

“To harbour good assumptions is a part of well-conducted worship” (Abu Dawud)

Assume the goodness & innocence of people before guilt - like innocence of Lady Aisha رضي الله عنها

“If only, when you heard it, the believing men and believing women thought well of one another, and said, “This is an obvious lie.” (24:11)

Usama ibn Zayd رضي الله عنه was fighting on the battlefield; the enemy dropped his sword & said لا إله إلا الله - Usama رضي الله عنه is looking at the circumstances, we're fighting on the battlefield. He didn't say the Shahada until he dropped his sword, if I dropped it, he would have killed me! Usama رضي الله عنه does not accept the Shahada & he kills him. Usama رضي الله عنه informs the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم

“**did you kill him after he said the Shahadah**” - أقتلته بعد أن قال لا إله إلا الله

Usama رضي الله عنه protested & said يا رسول الله he didn't mean it, I assumed he was lying from fear! The Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم what will you do if لا إله إلا الله comes on the day of judgment?

There are people who are going to come on the day of judgment who said لا إله إلا الله

Maybe we didn't kill them with our sword, but we certainly killed them with our tongues.

The Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم was talking to his wife Lady Safiyyah رضي الله عنها outside of the Masjid after he had just married her. Some of the Muslims saw the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم speaking to a woman alone and they started walking a little bit faster. The Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم called them & said “**This is my wife Safiyyah**” - they said يا رسول الله we're not going to assume evil - you know, how are we”

So we must be constantly guarding ourself against Shaytaan whispering in our ears “**What is that person doing, why are they here, how did they achieve this**”? Instead, realise that they are our brothers & sisters in Islam & assume the good from them.