

Pride: The Number One Marriage Drainer

The root of our struggles is found in the struggle with an over-estimation of ourselves. It's pride.

The Bible says that “Pride only breeds quarrels” (Proverbs 13:10a). If pride is left unchecked, it can

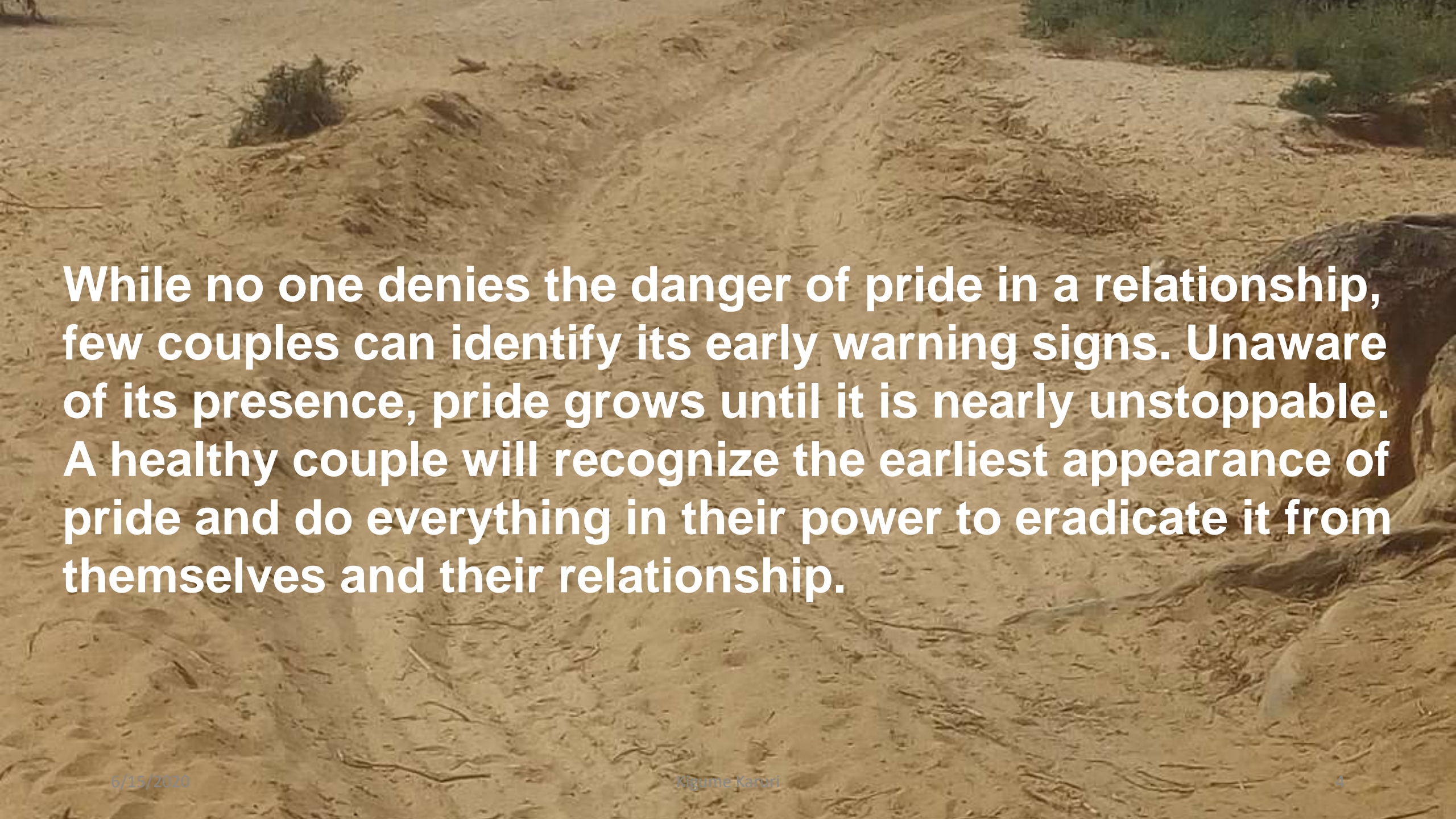
- **eventually lead to an absolute loss of intimacy, communication, and connection between a husband and wife.**

Pride kills relationships. It creates a wedge between two people destroying intimacy, eroding trust, and denying peace between husband and wife. Few things are as toxic to a relationship as pride.

When pride is present, intimacy is absent. A couple can be full of pride or they can have a healthy marriage, but they cannot have both. A wise couple will recognize the agony of pride and will do everything in their power to eradicate from themselves and their relationship

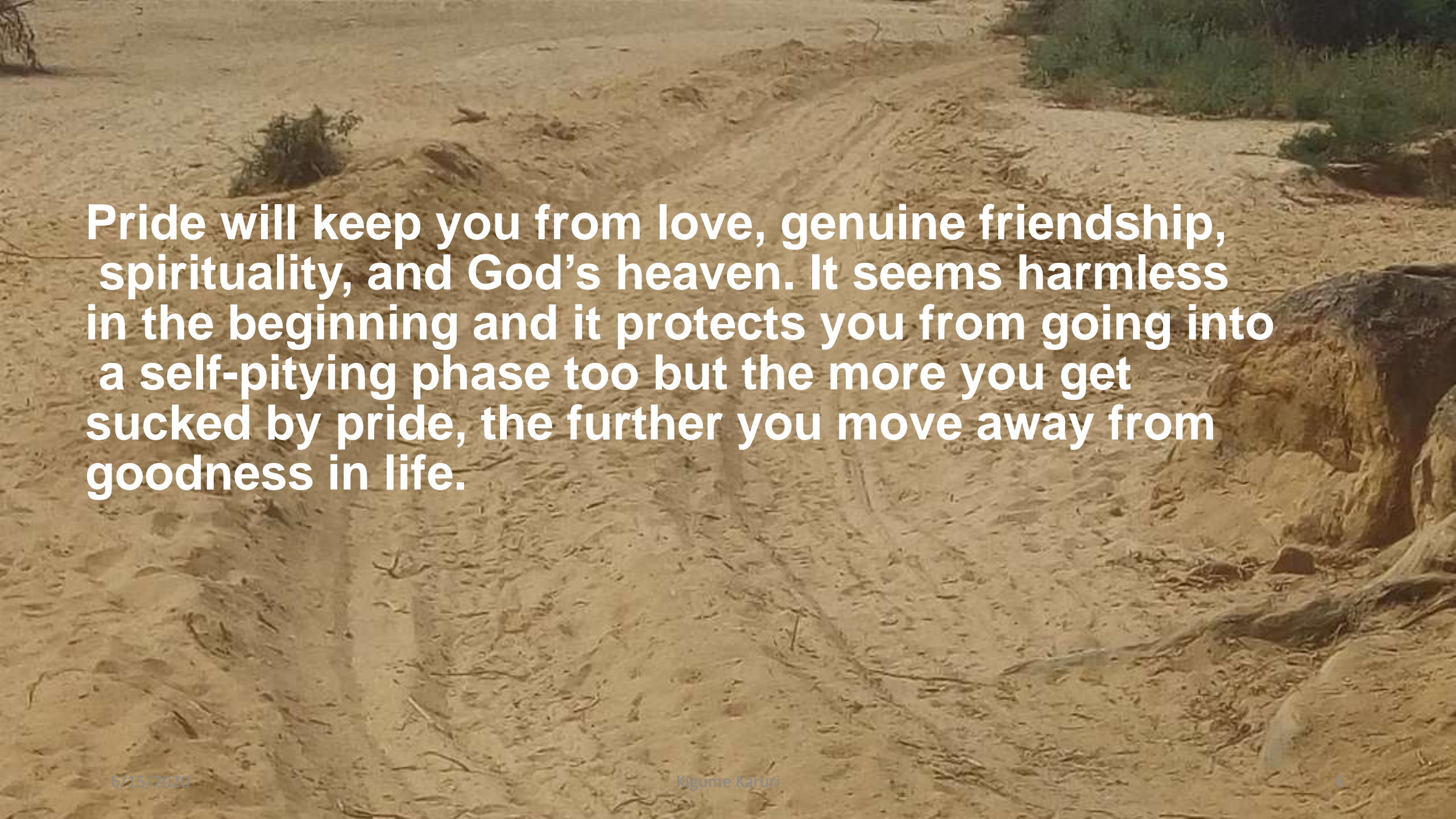
We live in a society where humility is looked down upon. It's misunderstood and deemed to be weak. People want to be seen, they want to be heard, they want to be known...

The focus on self is greater by far than a focus on others. Headlines and how-to articles are laden with topics like self-esteem, self-worth, self-importance, self-acceptance, self-awareness, self-confidence, self-help, self-made, self-improvement, self-respect, self-sufficient, and the list goes on... Little focus is given to caring for others.

A photograph of a desert landscape with sand dunes and sparse vegetation. The text is overlaid on the image.

While no one denies the danger of pride in a relationship, few couples can identify its early warning signs. Unaware of its presence, pride grows until it is nearly unstoppable. A healthy couple will recognize the earliest appearance of pride and do everything in their power to eradicate it from themselves and their relationship.

The dark side of pride sows the seed for the weeds of conflict to take root and spread through a marriage. The Bible says that **“Pride only breeds quarrels”** (Proverbs 13:10a). If pride is left unchecked, it can eventually lead to an absolute loss of intimacy, communication, and connection between a husband and wife. Finally it can choke the life out of a marriage and cause the end of the marriage. As King Solomon wrote, **“Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall”** (Proverbs 16:18).



Pride will keep you from love, genuine friendship, spirituality, and God's heaven. It seems harmless in the beginning and it protects you from going into a self-pitying phase too but the more you get sucked by pride, the further you move away from goodness in life.

- **Pride makes you as putting yourself in God's shoes,**
- **assuming you are "Mr. know it all," you are awesome and**
- **you have all the answers. This attitude doesn't just**
- **demean your marriage, but your relationship with God too.**

Pride doesn't want to lose arguments, especially when we're right. Pride doesn't want to apologize. Pride doesn't want to serve. And pride sets itself up as the most important thing and seeks self preservation at all costs.



Pride is revealed in an **“I’m right and you’re wrong”** theme in a relationship.

Pride is **demonstrated in verbal cuts and put-downs to elevate or set-apart the aggressor.**

Pride is a driver of entitlement. It reveals an **“I don’t deserve this, so I deserve to compensate with that.”**

Pride is **centered on self and rarely serves another unless there is self-interest involved.**

Marriage Deal- Breakers

Pride is a relationship killer. Whether it's friendship, brotherhood, sisterhood or marriage, it shreds them all.

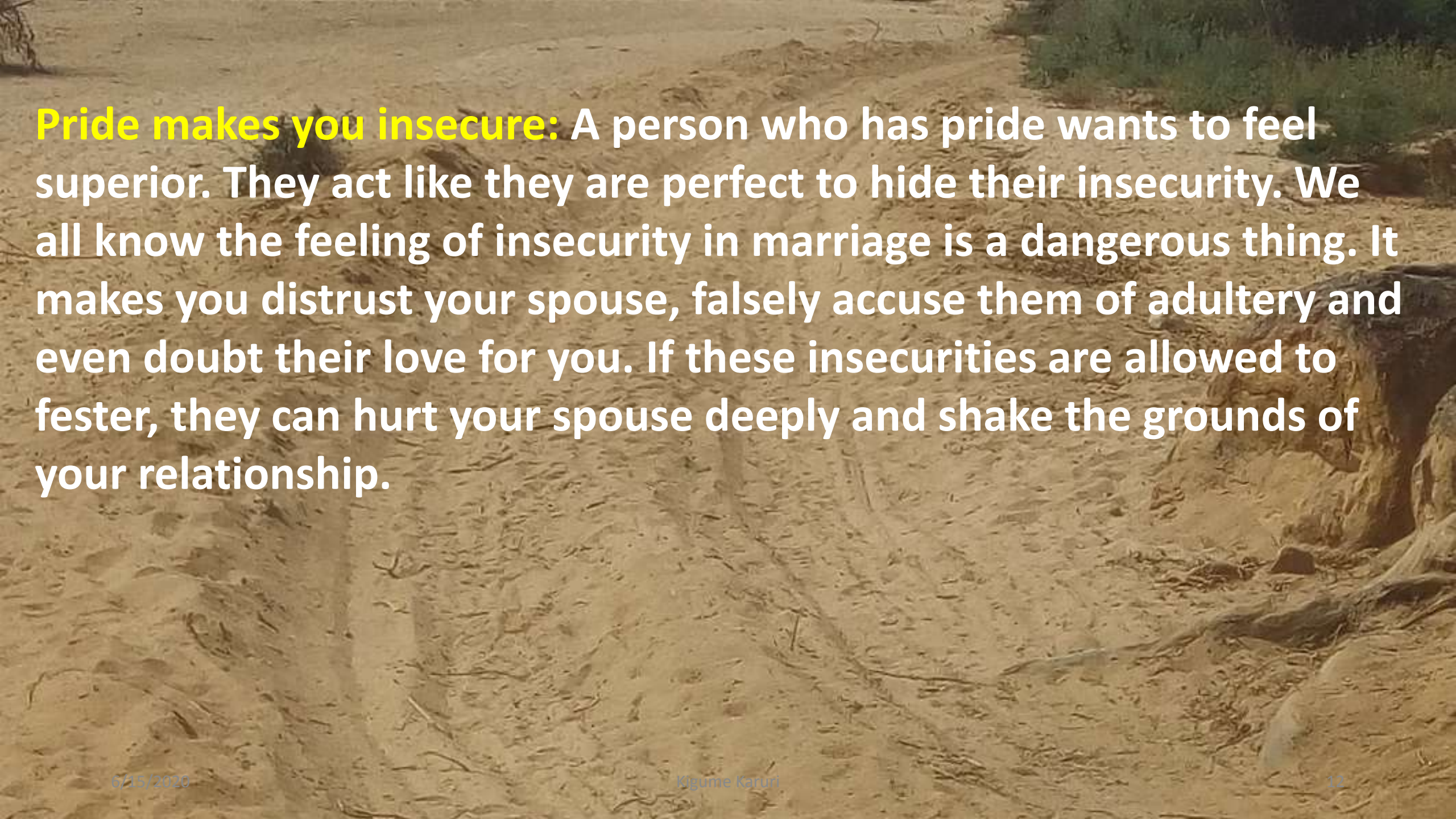
It makes you feel self-sufficient and independent and these are good qualities as long as you are not afraid of being vulnerable to the one person you love. But if pride makes you feel you don't need anyone's help (your spouse's for instance) and especially God's, then you are in trouble

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Pride makes a person feel the need to be right all the time. The “I am right and you are wrong” attitude is never healthy for a marriage. Proving you are right (even if you are) comes at the expense of tearing down the relationship. That’s why it’s always advised to practice humility and submission in marriage.

Pride makes it hard for you to apologize: Pride doesn't like getting wounded. It makes it hard for you to accept your mistake and say sorry to your spouse. It ultimately affects your relationship because you make your spouse feel how little respect you have for them. It makes you look bad and gives your spouse a reason to alienate from you. So, if you're wondering why everybody at home (your spouse and kids) runs away from you, you have the answer now.

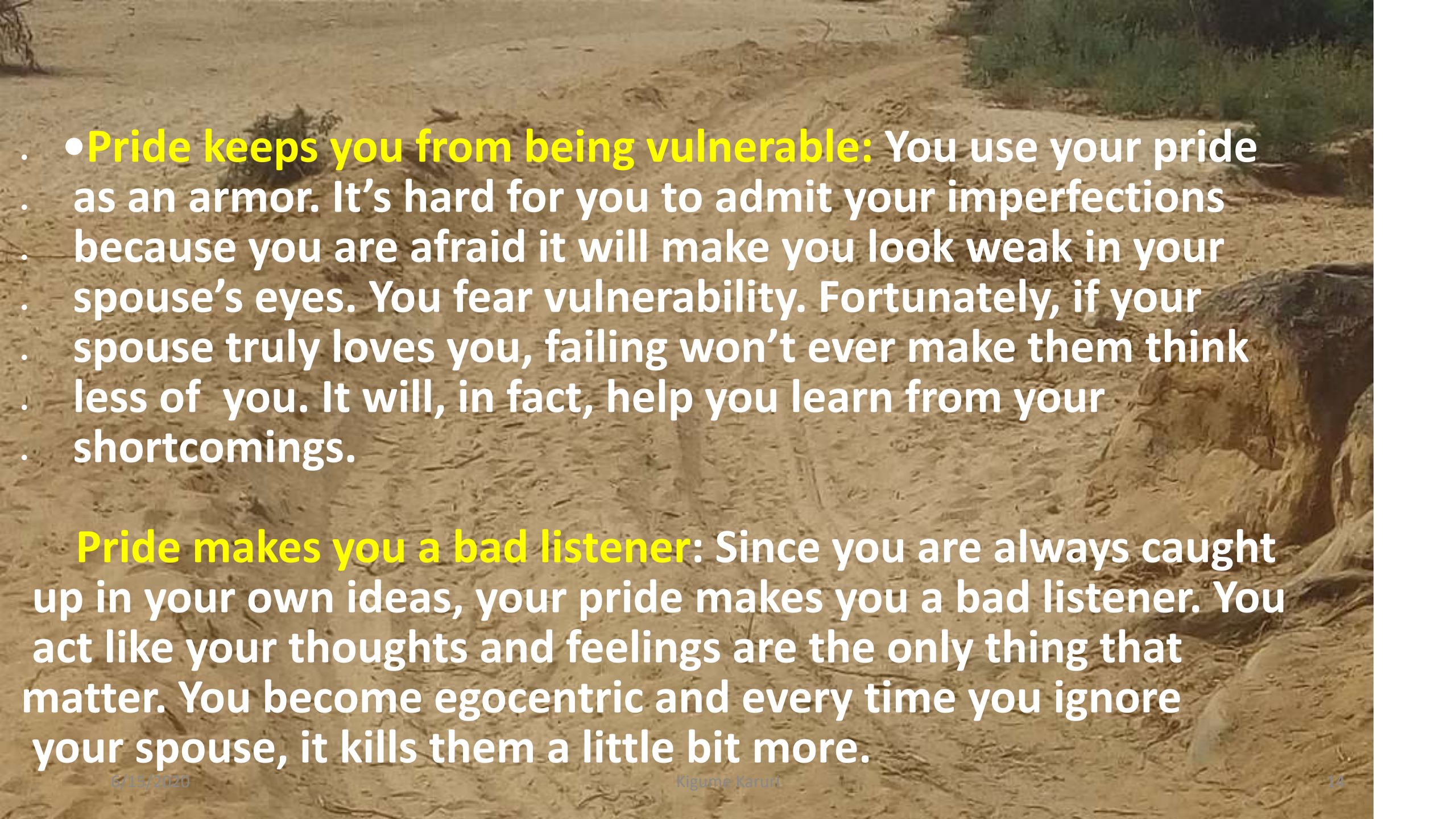
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Pride makes you insecure: A person who has pride wants to feel superior. They act like they are perfect to hide their insecurity. We all know the feeling of insecurity in marriage is a dangerous thing. It makes you distrust your spouse, falsely accuse them of adultery and even doubt their love for you. If these insecurities are allowed to fester, they can hurt your spouse deeply and shake the grounds of your relationship.

.Pride ushers in no value for your spouse's opinion: Pride wraps you up in your own thoughts. You become self-centered and become blind to other people's opinion. You start dismissing your spouse and they feel excluded from every conversation and every decision.

- **Pride makes you defensive:** Whenever you are criticized for something, your pride makes you defensive. Since you don't have humility, you can't stand criticism especially when it's about you.



- **Pride keeps you from being vulnerable:** You use your pride as an armor. It's hard for you to admit your imperfections because you are afraid it will make you look weak in your spouse's eyes. You fear vulnerability. Fortunately, if your spouse truly loves you, failing won't ever make them think less of you. It will, in fact, help you learn from your shortcomings.

Pride makes you a bad listener: Since you are always caught up in your own ideas, your pride makes you a bad listener. You act like your thoughts and feelings are the only thing that matter. You become egocentric and every time you ignore your spouse, it kills them a little bit more.

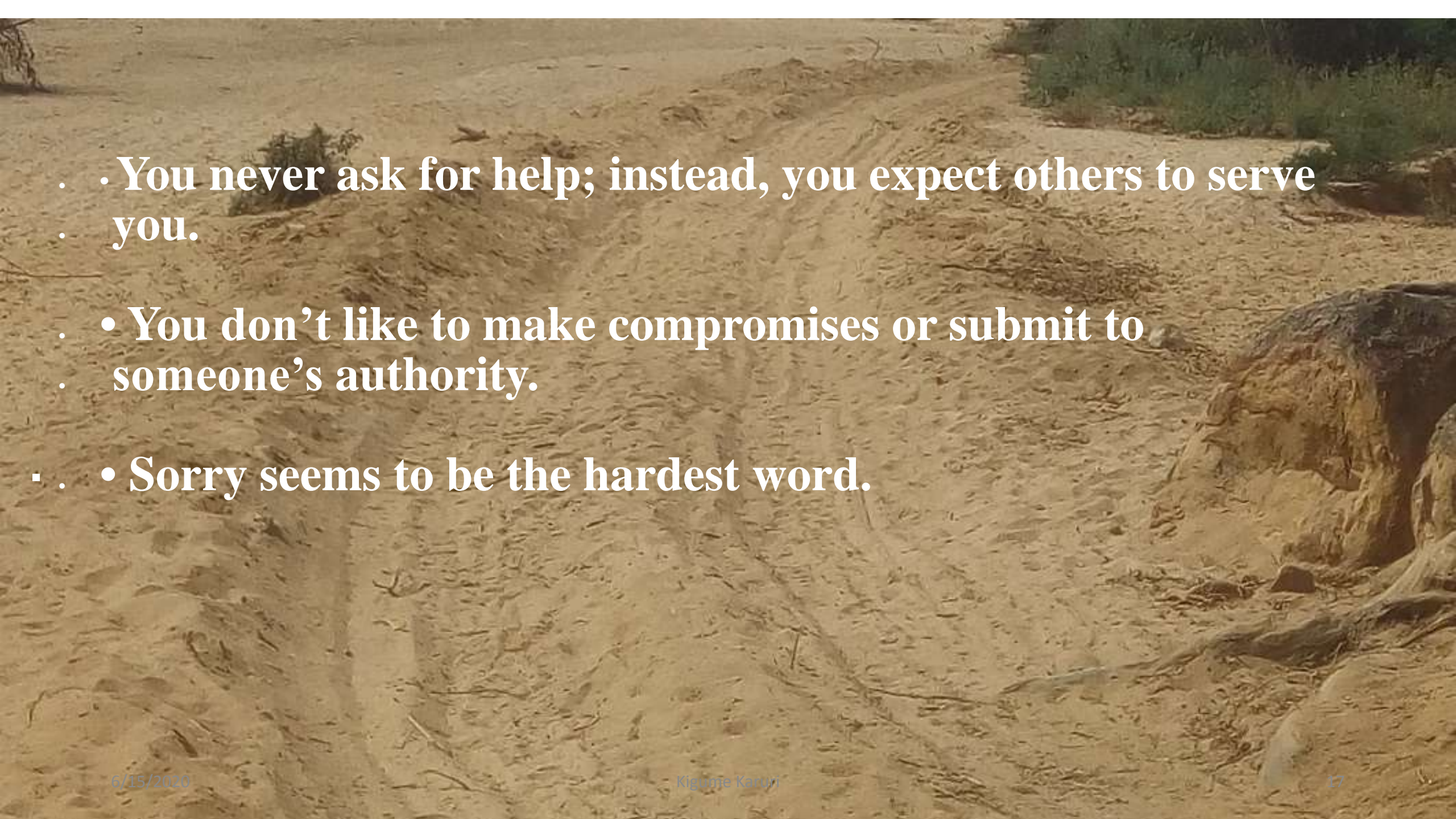
- . All of the aforementioned behaviors are marriage deal-breakers. For a relationship to work, you have to admit you could be wrong. You have to apologize. You have to accept guidance or advice from your spouse. You have to acknowledge that you are not perfect because they aren't either. That's how you grow together and your relationship fosters.

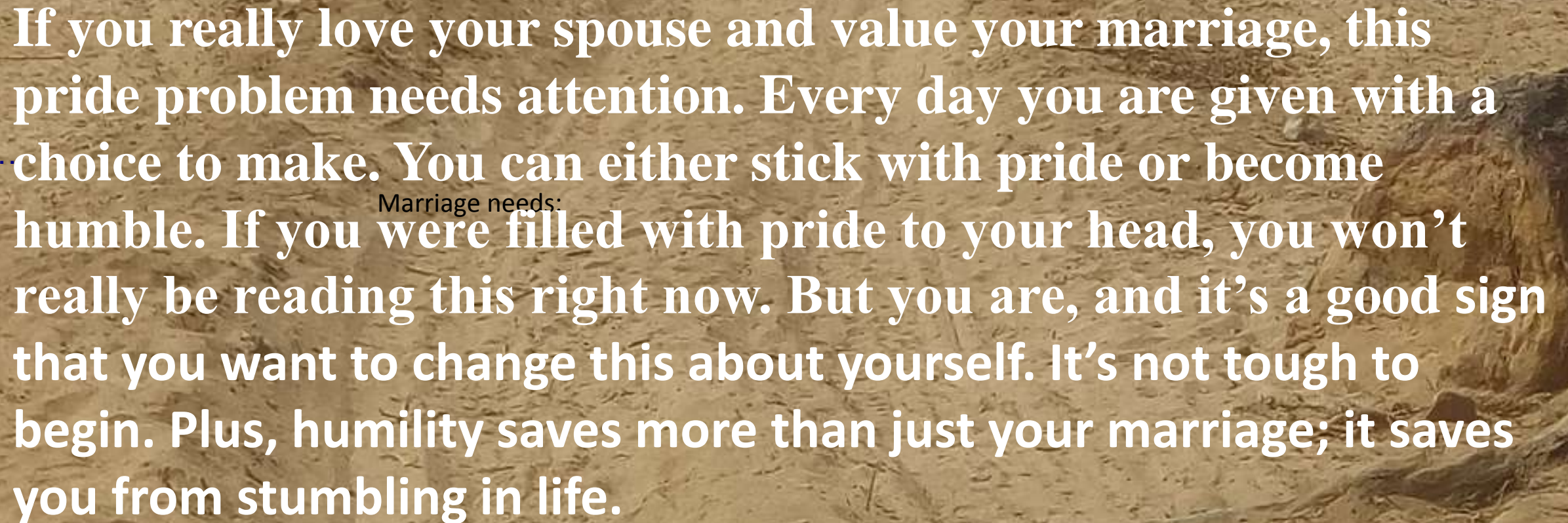
- . Mahatma Gandhi once said:

- . *“Anger is the enemy of non-violence and pride is a monster that swallows it up.”*

Signs of Pride

- . Instead of being in denial, it's time to reevaluate yourself and your marriage. If you see any of these signs, you are wrapped up in pride:
- . • You always refuse to be influenced by your spouse
- . • You are ignorant of the needs of your spouse. Ask yourself when was the last time you gifted them something or cared about their sexual pleasures?
- . • You are addicted to attention. You can't stand it when someone else gets attention.
- . • You find fault in everyone.

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- You never ask for help; instead, you expect others to serve you.
 - You don't like to make compromises or submit to someone's authority.
 - Sorry seems to be the hardest word.



If you really love your spouse and value your marriage, this pride problem needs attention. Every day you are given with a choice to make. You can either stick with pride or become humble. If you were filled with pride to your head, you won't really be reading this right now. But you are, and it's a good sign that you want to change this about yourself. It's not tough to begin. Plus, humility saves more than just your marriage; it saves you from stumbling in life.

Marriage needs: