

**Iconoclastic Arrogance & the Feet-of-Clay Syndrome: Confidence in People Leads to Disillusion: Pseudo Love Converts to Hatred; Example: Ahithophel & David**

24. The admirer is so enamored with his “hero” that he becomes an iconodule – a worshiper of idols. He follows his hero’s every move, and patterns himself after him.
25. But since no one is perfect, the admired person will eventually fail, revealing his feet of clay to the secret admirer.
26. This lapse destroys the confidence the admirer projected toward his now fallen hero resulting in disenchantment and loss of admiration.
27. This is the feet-of-clay syndrome. The disillusioned iconodule becomes angry that his idol has betrayed him and he turns on him with a vengeance.
28. Subjective preoccupation with another person toward which he placed his confidence causes the admirer to move into iconoclastic arrogance.
29. In effect, the admirer idolizes his hero who is innocent of the affection. But when the hero displays his feet of clay, the iconodule becomes an iconoclast: one who destroys images.
30. What causes his sudden alienation is the assumption that he has been betrayed by his idol resulting in disillusion: the state of being intellectually deceived and forced to see things as they actually are.
31. Preferring the illusion to the reality, he strikes out at the reality that has disappointed him. Having created someone in his own mind as an idol he assigns perfection to him; a delusion since perfection does not exist in the human race.
32. In vindictiveness, implacability, and revenge, the frustrated worshipper strikes out in iconoclastic arrogance seeking to destroy the image which he alone has created.
33. PRINCIPLE: God is to be worshipped through reciprocal love. People are to be loved unconditionally.
34. To be disenchanted with God is blasphemous; to be disillusioned with people is iconoclastic arrogance.
35. Many problems arise from iconoclastic arrogance when the person worshipped is in a position of authority.
36. Example: In politics many people make an idol out of the president of the United States. When he does not live up to the impeccable standards they assign to him then he is denounced as a poor leader.
37. The news media are especially guilty of this. They constantly search and pick for any flaws. Once discovered they embellish it out of all proportion until the public joins them in their self-righteous denunciations.
38. Example: In marriage a woman creates in her mind an idol out of an ordinary man whom she has married.

39. But when after the very spiritual, traditionally Christian, well-publicized nuptials at the Little Brown Church in the Vale, complete with bell tower, stained-glass windows, and Hammond organ, the poor dolt shows his true colors, she strikes out at her “idol of perfection” because he was simply being his normal imperfect self.
40. The problem the young couple faces is that she never really loved him but rather was in love with the image she created in her own mind. Now that the image is gone so also goes her pseudo love with it. She is disillusioned and disenchanting with her former Adonis.
41. In iconoclastic arrogance she strikes out and seeks to destroy him. The usual procedure is to sue for divorce on grounds of irreconcilable differences: she demanded perfection, he couldn't ante up.
42. Example: It was iconoclastic arrogance that gave momentum to the Absalom Revolution in Israel. This sedition's top advisor was Ahithophel \a-hith'-a-fel\ for it was Ahithophel's iconoclastic arrogance that sought reprisal against David through crusader arrogance.
43. To understand this example we need to first of all be introduced to Ahithophel:

**1 Chronicles 3:5** - These were the sons born to David in Jerusalem: Shimea \shim'-e-a\, Shobab \shō'-bab\, Nathan, and Solomon—the mother of these four was Bathsheba the daughter of Ammiel \am'-i-el\ [ עַמִּיֶּאֱלִי □ **ammi** □ **el** ].

These are obviously the four that lived. There was a fifth child, actually the firstborn, which was the adulterine. He was the offspring of David's rape of Bathsheba. (See 2 Samuel 11:4-5, 27; 12:18 for details.) The son died at the age of seven days therefore he never received a name.

The father of Bathsheba is mentioned two other times in Scripture where on both occasions he is called Eliam \e-li'-am\. For an explanation we turn to:

**Keil, C. F. and F. Delitzsch. *Biblical Commentary on The Books of Samuel*. Translated by James Martin. (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1950), 383:**

II Sam. 11:3. Instead of *Bathsheba* the daughter of Eliam, we find the name given in Chronicles (I Chron. iii.5) as *Bathsheba* the daughter of Ammiel. ... the difference simply consists in the transposition of the component parts of the name. It is impossible to determine, however, which of the two forms was the original one.

**2 Samuel 11:3** - So David sent some messengers to get Bathsheba. The messenger said, “Isn't this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam [ אֱלִיָּעַם □ **eli** □ **am** ], the wife of Uriah the Hittite?”

In David's honor roll of Mighty Men we find Eliam mentioned among those referred to as the “thirty” in:

**2 Samuel 23:34** - Eliam son of Ahithophel the Gilonite \gī'-lo-nī\ [ **a citizen of the city of Giloh** \gī'-lo\ ].

The transposition of the last syllable with the first is evident in the Hebrew characters of the two spellings (remember that Hebrew words are read from right to left): עַמִּיֶּאֱלִי \Ammiel\ and אֱלִיָּעַם \Eliam\ : אֱלִי - יָעַם - אֱמִי **Amm-i-el** transposed looks like this: אֱמִי - יָעַם - אֱלִי **El-i-am**.

44. From these three passages we learn that Ahithophel is the father of Ammiel, one of David's Mighty Men, the grandfather of his daughter Bathsheba, who David raped, the grandfather-in-law of Uriah, who David murdered, and the great-grandfather of the adulterine who died.
45. Ahithophel was Secretary of State in David's administration and was noted for his great wisdom:

**2 Samuel 16:23** - In those days Ahithophel's advice was as if one inquired of the word of God.