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Humility brings respect

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I REFER to the letter by Datuk Dr Alex Delilkan (NST, July 14), I too wish to express my concern over the death of the conjoined twins from Iran. The arrogance and ego that he talked about does not only apply to the medical profession but, unfortunately, all professions. When a person is egoistic or arrogant, his judgment is clouded and the decision he makes can have disastrous results.

On the other hand, humility is a great virtue and draws others. A very good example is Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi. On a recent trip to Japan, he praised Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and declined to speak about himself.

He admitted that he did not know the answers to some of the questions people asked him, but told them that he would reply if they wrote to him. Listening with humility and valuing the advice of others has naturally earned him respect.

To love simple things is to be humble. It means to respect all that life presents to you and to appreciate and value everything. If we look at the history of the world, we will find that all great men were truly humble. Values practised quietly are much more impressive than those that are advertised.

Parting thought for reflection: As we mature spiritually, there is less need to have our own self-respect bolstered by praise and special attention.