

Topic: If Gold Rusts, What Shall the Iron Do

Outline

A. Introduction

1. Acts of influential people guides the actions of common people
2. Thesis statement

B. If Gold Rusts, What Shall the Iron Do

1. Corruption in leadership breeds social decline;

- a. Fall of great empires like Romans and Mughals

2. When religious leaders deviate from truth, they mislead entire generations;

- a. Misinterpretation of religion for personal gain

3. The role of media and influencers;

- a. Use of media by Nazi Germany to manipulate the masses

4. If teachers plagiarize, then students also cheat;

- a. Socrates emphasizes that moral corruption in educators leads to moral corruption in the youth

5. If doctors do not care for their health, the patients will also compromise on their health;

- a. During COVID-19, doctors who refused vaccination, weakened public trust in medicine

6. When the head of family is on the wrong path, the family cannot be on the right path;

a. Children imitate behavior of others —
Social Learning Theory

7. If businessmen and traders are dishonest, society loses economic morality;

a. Pre-Islamic Arabia versus Post-Islamic Arabia —
Prophet (PBUH) known as Al-Ameen (the trustworthy)

8. If police become corrupt, criminals are celebrated and law loses meaning;

9. If bureaucrats and officials accept bribery, it normalizes dishonesty at every level;

a. Decline of Ottoman Empire — "the spoil system"

C. Counter-Argument: Individual Responsibility Still Matters

1. Even if leaders fail, individuals can maintain personal integrity

2. Corruption among the elite is inevitable; it has always existed, yet societies progress nonetheless

D. Conclusion