

IS HAPPINESS REALLY BEYOND REACH?!

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(His soul has been sanctified by Al'lah)

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Is happiness really beyond reach?!

The civilization of this time has reached the highest degree of development and scientific rise by the inventions and unique achievements which the technical outburst produced; and thereby people nowadays have attained all means that allow them to enjoy a life that is more comfortable than the life they lived before. They put laws and systems in order to employ the natural sources so that they may give them more and more and create for them better and higher ways of living. Thus cars and planes were industrialized, electricity and electronics were discovered, towering palaces were built and large factories were founded and provided with machineries of high technology.

Beyond all of that, mankind was seeking after a welfare life so that they may enjoy happiness. However, despite all the plans and the rules they adopted and despite all the means they created, there has still remained one missed cycle in the chain of their life whose absence caused stern spiritual anxiety in the hearts of all humanity.

Although modern and developed science prevailed over the countries and supported people with great laws, discoveries and high technique, they have missed happiness and all feelings of heart pleasure. The thick

material veil has thrown its dark shadow over the spirits until it closed up the entrances of light and delights into them and deprived them of enjoying the Godly heart life and happiness.

Having realized the absence of happiness from their life, a group of scholars turned to look for a way to attain it. They wondered if they can put their hands on the core of happiness by physical laws, so that they may reach it scientifically and enjoy it by following them!! But...

Can worldly scientific laws, whatever great they are, control happiness and make it surrender to them and give them its reins?! Will they actually help them taste happiness so that the earth may turn into a garden of paradise?!

How great this achievement would be if they could do it!!

In the early decades of the twentieth century, one scientific team studied the ways which may help them overrule happiness by physical laws.

For this purpose and out of yearning for happiness and loving for finding it, one researching staff in Britannia set to studying this important problem (happiness) and threw an arrow so that they might hit the target which all their inventions were but ways to attain. This British team

consisted of master of geniuses, scholars, philosophers, and specialists in psychiatry; they began to study all the social classes of humanity, the upper class and the lower one, the poor and the rich, and searched deeply and carefully into each of them. They examined the measure of happiness existing among the members of each class to know where it could be found, which class might enjoy it and live in it and how one can reach it. They did so trying to introduce a method with rules that can be followed by any society and be taken as a guide that leads people to absolute pleasure all during their life without suffering or disturbance. So, by following these precise rules and laws, everybody shall ride the ship of the happy people to sail in seas of serenity and felicity and enjoy a life filled with joy and delight. They shall roll in eternal bliss and rise up from good and beautiful one to another better and more beautiful with wonders that attract minds and captivate hearts until they become wholly absorbed and immersed in high happiness and great enjoyment. Many are those who seek after a better life so that they may become happier, more comfortable and more peaceful. That is because striving for perfection which is accomplished by the attainment of happiness according to inclusive law that all humanity can apply

and be distinguished from other creatures by, is the desired hope.

In the world of people of wealth

In the view of the majority of people, perfect happiness and good life are not be obtainable unless man has abundant money, great wealth, wonderful palaces and kingdoms to which the heads bow; therefore you see them compete one another in amassing money and treasure as much as possible and make every effort to get them. They make studies, projects and businesses, and may even travel to faraway lands, sea and air to get degrees caring not about the troubles and dangers which they may meet. They look for picking up the fruits of happiness materially and immaterially, concluding favorable trading transactions, or getting great monetary enterprises, and bear for that what they bear. The money, in their view, enables them to get whatever they want and wish, as it removes any obstacle that prevents them from leading a pleasant life with the utmost level of luxury and advancement. So, by money the worldly life will open its doors before them saying: “come on, here I am”. But how far! How far!!

The British scientific team began to search and to make investigations among that section of society, that is to say, the upper class which contains the rich people and those living in great luxury, so that it might find its long-pursued aim (happiness) therein within material laws; but

it was not long until it came back disappointed, having wasted time and effort for nothing.

The researchers stood before a bitter fact when they realized the anxiety and restless life of this class. Its members set to remembering their past life, yearning for the days when they were possessing nothing to be mentioned but, however, enjoying a peaceful and pleasant life, far from distress, grief, and troubles.

But why?!

That is because when they possessed the magnificent palaces and the large factories and workshops, the competition took place extremely between one another then it turned into contention and stormy struggles which, as usual, ended at litigations and taking cases to court. Thus, the hearts of every party became filled with ill will towards the other one until they spent most of their time in scheming and laying plans and machinating against their competitors in order to surpasses and overcome them, they are obliged to spend evenings and nights in preparing and making accounts and therefore they neglect their duties towards their wives and children and consequently they fail to enjoy the homely happiness, amassing money and aggression have distracted them from giving their relatives and families

their rights, and of course they completely forgot the share of the needy and the poor people. Not to mention the horrible nights which they spent without sleeping whenever they feel that their competitors are going to gain a lot in their deals whereas they have lost their commerce.

As a result, those people cannot feel tranquility or find a way to be at ease. They fear lest they be killed or face ruin and failure. They are the center of attraction for criminals and thieves; therefore worry does not leave their minds. If they could take safe steps for protecting themselves, the possibilities of loss and failure would be always before their eyes. They fear unsalability for their merchandise therefore they are always absorbed in the account of profits and losses.

Their hearts are trembling out of their concern lest the structure of the fortune which they have built fall down and vanish.

In such circumstances, how can happiness find a way to creep into their hearts?!!

Nothing other than distress and chagrin are that which have settled in their hearts. Thus, although they have abundant money and enjoy various materials pleasures they are not happy.

Out of curiosity and loving for more inquisitiveness, the team which was looking for happiness began to ask and to speak with those people. It questioned some of them. Perhaps happiness is hidden somewhere behind a puzzle that none knows except the people of palaces and wealth. Yet the answers of those were completely clear and open. They said: “since we became of abundant money we became wholly busy, distressed and unhappy. We tasted no flavor of pleasure or joy, moreover we became remiss in giving rights to their people, for in the midst of such conflicts we have no free time. Thus we neglected the rights of our wives and children, fathers, friends and relatives. We became longing for the sweet sleep as we are always obliged to burn the midnight oil. All of that is out of our concern about our wealth.

Indeed, amassing money has deprived us from enjoying this life and thrown us in heated struggles and material aspirations; and because of our large and many occupations, we forgot our religious duties and drew far from our Provider until our heart life became dark and bitter.

Apart from this, we have entered into struggles with the workers who wish to destroy us and follow the subversive faiths to overcome us (such struggle is inevitable)

Over and above, we humble ourselves before owners of authority so as to stand by us in our strife against our emulators of people of factories and wealth. Thus we have missed happiness, tranquility, safety, heartsease and peace of mind. In fact, we would like now to live as the simple people live so that we may become carefree, sleep in peace and wake up in delight.

Oh! Had people known the miserable spiritual life which we live, they would have never thought that money may ever bring happiness.

Now, we mention some actual incidents which affirm this fact. We say:

Shahn-shah the prior king of Persia and the king of kings gave evidence on T.V. and admitted this undeniable truth before all people. He declared the actual fact which all kings and rich people live in when the revolutionaries kicked him out of his country to America “which later on banished him to Egypt”. So, he fell a victim of a spiritual shock and suffered a great distress. He said: “everybody hoped to possess what I was possessing; nay they envied me for the graces I have got and the kingdoms I have founded. Indeed, I built a large amusement city at the sea shore so as to play as I like and to enjoy whatever I want. I threw a great unexampled

banquet and invited to it all kings and presidents in the world. All the services of that banquet were made of resonant yellow gold; however, I gave every invitee all pieces with which he ate even one morsel.

Now here I am standing before you, alone and expelled, with no possession or money. I swear by God, the Great, that I did not taste the flavor of happiness once all during my life, and that nothing found way to my heart save discontent, restlessness and ill-being”

Take lesson from the story of the king of kings, you who are endowed with insight; and how true saying is that which serves: “take whatever you want form this world but suffer distress equal to it”

Accordingly, happiness is not got from what surrounds us, nay it is generated in the depth of spirit and shines in it so that it colors it with garments of beauty, delight and serenity. As for those opulent people, the tools of luxury and lavish expenditure for them are like doses of anesthetic which are given to patients afflicted with chronic diseases; so when their effect finishes soon the agony of boredom and tiredness and the severe pains return to settle in the body and the heart of this poor man. All the means and the ways of amusement and self-indulgence which they create or import to completely

fulfill their desires do not serve in putting an end to the boredom and tiredness which usually return to them after they satisfy themselves by them to add more moans and sighs to their spirits without knowing where they come from and how to get rid of them.

Despite the obtainability of the various means of amusement to those people which work as painkiller doses, they could not draw happiness to them after they used them up and felt bored of them. They suffer severe spiritual pains, and complaint and displeasure overwhelm their life as well as troubles and spiritual afflictions come over them from everywhere to full up their spirits; therefore there remains no way to escape from such miserable life in the view of the person who has surrendered to his suffering except death and suicide so that they may change the horrible state and the hellish heart fact which they live in.

You wonder and I wonder, nay all people and authors everywhere wonder at the suicide of the world millionaire who was the king of diamonds in America although he had the biggest riches in the world. We heard how he entered his room, closed its door and locked it then he put his revolver at his head and shot it to fall dead!! Why did he do that when Karoon's riches were between his hands and allowed him enjoy all his

desires?! Why did he kill himself?! The puzzle kept incomprehensible for the minds of the western researches that have the view of that money (which is the material of all desires) is everything, nay it is the happiness itself.

This is also the belief of many people who know nothing about the fact of this life; they think that happiness can be got by money and that only rich people are the happy group.

Why then did money cause that millionaire to kill himself?!

Absolutely it is wrong to think that having abundant money may draw happiness to hearts.

In fact, the ratio of suicide in the rich and developed countries has reached a horrible number that warns their societies of total ruin. For example in Switzerland, suicide became permissible officially and the government there gives licenses and commercial registers for many companies which have been established particularly for introducing painless ways for death for those who want to commit suicide; and as a result a new tourism called suicide tourism came into existence in Switzerland as well as new graveyards were assigned for the foreign suicides. So, anyone who wants to kill himself on those

lands should pay 25 S.F. in order that the company helps him die in painless way. Those companies justify their work by referring to the Swiss statistics which show that more than 63,000 Swiss citizen committed suicide in 1995 without receiving any help. According to the ways which they used in suicide they are divided as following:

- 338 have suicide by poison.
- 16 by narcotics.
- 16 by sharp tools.
- 382 by hanging.
- 99 by drowning themselves.
- 392 by shooting themselves.
- 128 by throwing themselves form high floors.
- 4 by throwing themselves in front of cars of high speed.
- The rest by other ways.

The first report about suicide in china denoted that the rate of suicide cases comes to 287,000 every year; and according to the Chinese news agency, the cases of suicide form 3.6% of the total death in china.

Approximately, this is what happens in Britain, for among every 100,000 person of the population, there are about 14 one who commit suicide.

In France about 40,000 French teenagers try to kill themselves yearly; there are 800 ones from among those that met death at the moment of suicide.

In America, there are 18526 ones who kill themselves yearly.

Such rates are not found in our countries, not even the developing ones of them although the spirit's requirements and desires are not obtainable as they are in the developed countries of high rates of suicides.

An authority in forensic medicine said in his report that although Dubai Emirate has the high rate of suicide among the Arab countries yet it is still less than that known in European countries, Canada and America.

Other than that, it is noticeable that cocaine, opium, alcoholic beverages and drugs are widely spread among people in the advanced countries. They addict themselves to them in order to forget the horrible states of their spirits which make their heats flaming with fire and often lead them towards suicide and death. They think that death will drive away their gloom and save them from their feelings of tiredness, hardship, boredom and annoyance. But, in fact, they act like that who seeks refuge in fire from swelter. Alas! All their worldly

sciences avail them nothing in acquainting them with the terror which they shall face after death.

Now, here is an actual event that evidently illustrates this fact to us.

One day our humane scholar, Mr. Mohammad Amin Sheikho met one head of a family that was well-known with wealth and authority in our lovely country Damascus. When he looked at his face, he saw him dejected and overwhelmed by grief, blues and boredom. So, he asked him: “what is the matter, Bey? What makes you too distressed and unhappy?! You have great palace in Bloudan, the famous summer residence, and another in Lebanon, the charming country. Not to mention your hotels and project in Switzerland, Europe and America. So why do you not go for a ride in those countries so that you may amuse yourself and relieve it?!” But the millionaire answered: “Oh Bey! As for Bloudan, I know it by heart and feel bored of it. So regarding Lebanon, Switzerland and America, I have become fed up with them, rather sick and tired of them. Oh Bey! I am too bored and I can find no way to turn from this feeling which is about to kill me. I have seen everything in this world and have become tired of everything”

It was no more than four days after that meeting and conversation when the scholar read the death announcement of that millionaire of papers on the walls.

He had loathed this worldly life with all its pleasures. He loathed the money and hated it. Although he could get everything yet he could not get happiness; on the contrary, his riches brought him nothing other than straits and miserable life.

That is exactly what the Prophet Mohammad (cpth) told of in his noble saying when he said: “unhappy is he whose heart follows dinar or dirham” (Dinar, dirham: are currencies which were used in Arabic and Islamic countries in old time, and they are still used in some Arab countries now).

This is the fact of this life. You find those who love it seeking it and running for enjoying its pleasures, but when they obtain everything by means of the money, they find themselves quite far from feeling happy; therefore they prefer to die or to commit suicide.

There are also the patients of melancholy who do not find any way to be cured of it; as for the medicines they take, they give them only temporal alleviation with no use or recovery. But what is the reason behind all that?! In fact, the power of human body is limited. It cannot

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