



AMAZING WEALTH

Do you wish to have such wealth which can never be stolen by thugs and thieves, guarantees peace, secures happiness, protects from misery and mental turmoil... and even saves one from many serious sins? Yes indeed, every sane person wants such wealth, and to acquire it is very simple — BE CONTENT. Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) has clearly declared, **“Verily true wealth is the wealth of the heart (contentment).”** (*Saheeh Bukhaari #6446*)

The greatness, excellence, brilliance and magnitude of the noble attribute of contentment can be clearly understood from the practice of Sayyiduna 'Abdullah bin 'Abbaas (radhiyallahu 'anhuma). On the advice of Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam), during the great 'ibaadat of tawaaf of the Ka'bah Shareef, he would make the following du'aa between the Rukn-e-Yamaani and Hajr Aswad: **“O Allah! Bless me with contentment in that which you have given me!”**. (*Mustadrak Haakim #1674*) *Subhaanallah!* The greatest Rasul of Allah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) advising that in the greatest of places one should keep begging Allah Ta'ala for such an immensely great wealth... the lesson is for his Ummah to acquire this true wealth and enjoy its benefit.

NEVER SATISFIED

One of the greatest calamities that befalls a person who lacks contentment is that he will NEVER find satisfaction in anything. No matter *how much* he has, it will never be enough. Regardless of *what* he has, it will never be good enough. If he has twenty pairs of shoes, his eye will be on yet another. If she has two dozen abayas or a dozen hand bags, she will believe she has “nothing”. The “ultimate” car or house will soon be “not so nice”. Such a person “needs” to buy the latest phone, “needs” to eat at the newest restaurant, “needs” to have an overseas holiday and obviously “needs” an endless stream of money. Such people generally remain unhappy – unhappy with the things they have, unhappy with their own selves, unhappy with the people around them and unhappy with almost everything. They even become unhappy

over the happiness of others and become consumed with jealousy. They will often be found comparing themselves with those who apparently have something which they don't have or who is apparently better off than themselves in some way or the other. As a result, together with being miserable they also become very ungrateful – ungrateful for all the countless blessings that Allah Ta'ala has blessed them with. They become shackled by greed, due to which they cannot even truly enjoy what they have. How true is the following saying: *“A slave is free as long as he is content, while even a free person is a slave if he lacks contentment!”* It is for this reason that Sayyiduna Sa'd bin Abi Waqqaas (radhiyallahu 'anhu) once advised his son saying, “O my beloved son! If you wish to become wealthy then seek wealth in contentment, for if one has no contentment, no amount of money will satisfy him.” (Taareekh Dimashq vol. 20, pg. 363)

GRATEFUL PEOPLE

On the contrary, a content person finds satisfaction in the simple things of life and is always grateful for what he has been blessed with. He always compares himself with the billions of people who have much lesser than what he has been blessed with. He or she does NOT have the “NEED” to do what others are doing, to go to places that others are visiting, to try and keep up with the Jones or to chase after every new item on the market. While they use some of the surplus wealth that Allah Ta'ala has blessed them with to enjoy the various bounties in moderation, a significant portion of the surplus is happily spent in the cause of Deen and in helping and uplifting others. This is what gives them great joy and happiness. It is reported about Sayyiduna 'Uthmaan (radhiyallahu 'anhu) that while he would feed the people the food of “kings” (very superior food), he would himself partake of simple food such as vinegar and olive oil. Even after becoming the khaleefah, and despite his vast

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AMAZING WEALTH

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wealth, he preferred to ride a simple mule rather than a magnificent stallion, and would even mount his slave on the mule behind him. (*Hilyatul Awliyaa, vol. 1, pg. 98*)

MEDIA

Among the things that kill contentment and fuel greed is the media. It constantly bombards people with adverts making them believe that they “need” the items advertised. There’s always a “sale” and a “bargain”. Hence many things which we never wanted and without which we were comfortable, suddenly become things we “need” – because it is at a discounted price, or simply because it is new. Shopping – online and offline – then becomes an addiction. Therefore, the person who wishes to enjoy the peace of contentment must curb the exposure to media and stop looking at everything that is for sale.

Another aspect that fuels greed and destroys contentment is the constant discussion of material wealth and high flying worldly ambitions. While any discussion to understand something that may benefit one, or the occasional general talk may not become an issue, sitting in company where the only talk revolves around how to make money or listening to how people are “living it up” will cause the fire of greed to spark in one’s heart. The coolness of contentment will then swiftly leave. One should also totally refrain from following the glorified lives of people on Instagram, etc. as this will almost certainly destroy one’s contentment.

PRESCRIPTION

Among the aspects that help to inculcate contentment are the following:

- * Daily meditate upon death for a few minutes. Think about how all your possessions are going to be distributed to others and how some may perhaps squander it.
- * Ponder over the fleeting nature of this world, and that one day all this will be dust. Visualise how buildings will be lying in ruins, etc.
- * Read about the lives of the Sahaabah (radhiyallahu ‘anhum) and pious personalities, especially about their contentment. An excellent read in this regard is “Stories of Sahaabah” and “Fazaa’il-e-Sadaqaat” by Hazrat Shaikh Moulana Muhammad Zakariyya (rahimahullah).
- * Keep reaffirming one’s faith in taqdeer. The following beautiful du’aa is very effective in strengthening this fundamental belief and also in inculcating contentment:

اللَّهُمَّ لَا مَانِعَ لِمَا أَعْطَيْتَ، وَلَا مُعْطِيَ لِمَا مَنَعْتَ، وَلَا يَنْفَعُ ذَا الْجَدِّ مِنْكَ الْجُدُّ

“O Allah! None can prevent what You give, and nobody can give what You have decreed to withhold, and no person’s wealth will be of any avail to him by You [only his imaan and righteous actions will benefit him]”. (*Saheeh Bukhaari #844*)

This du’aa is to be recited after every salaah. The more consciously it is recited, the more effective it will be.

May Allah Ta’ala make us among the wealthiest people on earth – by blessing us with true contentment.

SPECIAL GIFT

Gifting is not only an expression of love – it is a means of creating and enhancing love. When a person gives a gift, his simple gesture conveys the sentiments of appreciating and honouring the one who is receiving the gift. Hence, when one receives a gift, the love for the one giving the gift is automatically enhanced as one values the sentiment and effort behind the gift.

Just as people give gifts to one another during their lifetime, it is possible to give a ‘gift’ to a person after his demise as well – through conveying the reward of a good deed to the person.

Since the occasion of qurbaani has once again arrived, it is the ideal opportunity, for those who have the means, to carry out nafl qurbaani and convey the reward to their deceased parents, spouse, siblings, asaaticah, etc.

It has been narrated from Sayyiduna ‘Ali (radhiyallahu ‘anhu) that he would slaughter two rams (on the occasion of qurbaani); one for Nabi (sallallahu ‘alaihi wasallam) and the other for himself. When he was asked the reason for doing this, he replied, “He (i.e. Nabi [sallallahu ‘alaihi wasallam]) instructed me to do this, so I will never leave it.” (*Sunan Tirmizi #1495*)

Similarly, Rasulullah (sallallahu ‘alaihi wasallam) was the embodiment of compassion and love for his Ummah, and hence Rasulullah (sallallahu ‘alaihi

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INSTAGRAM "INFLUENCER"

Q I am a Muslimah who has a large circle of friends. Since I am a quite popular and sociable person, I have been considering joining Instagram. Through daily posts about the things that I do or by sharing my daily experiences with people, I will get many followers and will become an 'Influencer'. This has the potential to become a profitable business venture through adverts which I will post to my followers. Your Islamic advice and guidance on this proposal is most appreciated (question summarized).

A You have asked for Islamic guidance and advice on the matter. We commend you upon this. A Muslim's primary and greatest concern is that Allah Ta'ala must be pleased with him. In order to ensure that one is on the path of earning Allah Ta'ala's pleasure, and not incurring His displeasure, one should always first seek Islamic guidance from authentic and experienced 'Ulama who will guide one in light of the Quraan and sunnah. Doing "one's own thing" without taking Islamic guidance could lead to major problems – in this world and especially on the Day of Judgement.

advised her that her salaah in the inner most room of her home is better than salaah in the common room, which in turn is better than her salaah in the courtyard of her home. Her salaah in the courtyard of her home is better than salaah "in my Masjid" (Masjidun Nabawi). (*Musnad Ahmad #26550*) While the *hayaa* of Islam teaches CONCEALMENT, Instagram is all about EXPOSURE. Becoming an "influencer" will demand EXPOSURE. The West "guides" towards exposure. In the West, the more a woman is exposed, the more "liberated" she is. Islamic guidance is however the opposite — to refrain from exposure.

Among the greatest qualities of imaan is the attribute of *hayaa* (modesty/shame). The so-called modesty of the Western culture does not have any resemblance to the lofty and distinct trait of *hayaa* in a Mu-min. In Western culture, a woman shaking hands with her husband's friend and hugging him when they meet is part of "etiquette". However, In Islam this is totally immoral behaviour. Let alone shake hands with a non-mahram, the *hayaa* of a Muslimah does not permit her to even allow any non-mahram to see her. Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) is reported to have said: **"The curse of Allah Ta'ala is upon the one who looks (at non-mahram women) as well as upon the woman who was seen (due to not covering herself fully and allowing a non-mahram to see her)".** (*Shu'abul Imaan #7399*) This highlights how great the level of *hayaa* is in Islam and how fundamentally important it is in the life of a Muslimah (and every believer).

Another fundamental trait of a believer is *tawaadhu* (humility). A humble person avoids self-publicity. Instagram is by and large about "I" – about what "I" cooked, what "I" bought, where "I" went and who am "I". In order to increase "followers" you will then resort to whatever you can to promote yourself and convince people that you are *the* Instagram "personality". In the process you may end up with a very bloated ego with all the "followers" — those who have nothing constructive to do, hence they have the time to follow what the "I" specialists are up to.

With regard to women in particular, a very essential dictate of *hayaa* is concealment, unless when emerging out of genuine necessity fully covered. When Ummu Humaid As-Sa'idiyyah (radhiyallahu 'anha) requested permission to perform salaah in the masjid, Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam)

The above mentioned two aspects are sufficient Islamic guidance and advice on the matter. As a Muslimah you should refrain from trying to become such an "influencer". Instead in a very humble way try to advise your family and friends to adopt the *hayaa* that Deen teaches, to shun Western style dressing, to be punctual on salaah, tilaawat of the Quraan Majeed, recitation of tasbeeh, preparing for the Aakhirah, etc. You do not even need a single GRAM of technology to do this. Simply talk to those you interact with and encourage them in a nice way. Being such an "influencer" will insha-Allah earn you the pleasure of Allah Ta'ala.

GIFTS

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wasallam) himself slaughtered an animal for qurbaani and conveyed the reward to his Ummah.

Sayyiduna Jaabir bin 'Abdillah (radhiyallahu 'anhu) mentions that two large, castrated rams, which had horns and were black and white in colour, were brought to Nabi (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam). While slaughtering the second animal he said, "Bismillah Allahu Akbar! This is from Muhammad (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) and his Ummah, those who testify to Your oneness and those who testify that I have conveyed the message." (*Majma'uz Zawaa'id #5969*)

Being the Ummatis (followers) of Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam), we should not only convey rewards to our deceased relatives, but should also try to gift the reward of our nafl actions to Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam).

In fact, if one is able to do so, one should try to dedicate the reward of a separate animal for Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam), in which no other person has a share, as this will be showing due honour and respect to Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam). In doing so, one will undoubtedly please the blessed heart of Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) and enhance the love.

May Allah Ta'ala make every one of us His beloved and the beloved of His Rasul (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam).

From the advices of ...

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FAQEEHUL UMMAH

The sterling advice of *Faqeehul Ummah* Hazrat Mufti Mahmood Saheb (*rahimahullah*) has helped thousands of people to overcome many problems and difficulties — especially in the line of *islahun nafs* (inner-self reformation). Hereunder is an answer to a question posed to him.

"WHAT WRONG HAVE I DONE?"

Summary of Letter:

Bismihi Ta'ala

Respected Mufti Saheb

As salaamu 'alaikum

I am in severe problems and difficulties. I cannot even think why these difficulties have come upon me. What wrong have I done that I have been taken to task in this manner? Kindly make du'aa for me.

Summary of Reply:

Bismihi Ta'ala

Respected Brother

Wa 'alaikumus salaam

I wholeheartedly make du'aa for you that Allah Ta'ala must remove your difficulties. May you be exonerated and freed from your difficulties in a most respectable manner.

Furthermore, I wish to draw your attention to another aspect. Never consider yourself as blameless and sinless. Daily we commit sins and still think that we have been taken to task despite being blameless. However the reality is that there is a mountain of blame upon us. This can be understood by the following example:

A light switch is switched on in one place and at a distance the bulb lights up. However, the connection between the two by means of the wiring is often not seen (but the link is certainly there). Likewise our sins have "switched on" the problems (though we cannot see it - translator). May Allah Ta'ala forgive our sins. May He keep us with respect and safety and save us from sins. (*Tarbiyatut Taalibeen pg. 179*)

TEN SPECIAL DAYS

It is related from Sayyiduna 'Abdullah bin 'Abbaas (radhiyallahu 'anhuma) that Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) said, "No days are as weighty with Allah Ta'ala and so liked by Him for good deeds than the first ten days of Zul Hijjah. Therefore in these days excessively read tasbeeh (subahanallah), tahleel (la ilaaha illallah), tahmeed (alhamdulillah) and takbeer (Allahu akbar). (*Majma'uz Zawaa'id #5990*)