

THE BEAUTY OF CONTENTMENT

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا.
مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ، وَمَنْ يُضِلَّهُ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ
وَرَسُولُهُ؛ اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.
أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فِيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ أَوْصِيكُمْ وَنَفْسِي بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Let us all increase our obedience towards Allah the Almighty by doing everything that He prescribes and avoiding all that He prohibits. Hopefully, our lives will be blessed by Allah the Almighty in this world and in the hereafter.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Every human being will be tested in life through hardship, ease, health, illness, etc. However, we must believe that the tests are meant to teach us to be patient and contented with Allah's will. Contentment is the foundation for perfecting our faith.

All commandments of Allah the Almighty, whether obligatory or recommended, should be done with pleasure and contentment. Likewise, all prohibitions of Allah the Almighty should be avoided. Allah the Almighty stated in the Quran in Chapter 4 (Surah Al-Nisa), verse (*ayat*) 65:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
فَلَا وَرَبِّكَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ حَتَّى يُحَكِّمُوكَ فِي مَا شَجَرَ بَيْنَهُمْ ثُمَّ لَا يَجِدُوا فِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ
حَرَجًا مِمَّا قَضَيْتَ وَيُسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا ﴿٦٥﴾

Which means: *But no, by the Lord, they can have no (real) Faith, until they make thee judge in all disputes between them, and find in their souls no resistance against Thy decisions, but accept them with the fullest conviction.*

Indeed there are poor people among us, but it may be that condition is better for them than being rich. Maybe poverty is an opportunity for them to be better Muslims and to be closer to Allah the Almighty while luxury can cause them to neglect their religious duties which will bring them to destruction. The same can be said with the test of wealth, health, pain, success, failure, etc. Whether we like it or not, we must believe in and be contented with Allah's will.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Contentment in Allah's will is divided into two. First of all, we must be contented in accepting the rules which have been commanded by Allah the Almighty such as performing five obligatory daily-prayers (in congregation), covering the *aurat* (nakedness), etc. This category of contentment leads to perfection of faith. Allah the Almighty stated in the Quran in Chapter 9 (Surah Al-Taubah), verse (*ayat*) 62:

تَخَلَّفُونَ بِاللَّهِ لَكُمْ لِيَرْضَوْكُمْ وَاللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ أَحَقُّ أَنْ يُرْضَوْهُ إِنْ كَانُوا مُؤْمِنِينَ ﴿٦٢﴾

Which means: *To you they swear by Allah. In order to please you: But it is more fitting that they should please Allah and His Messenger, if they are Believers.*

Second is to be contented in accepting our fate (*qadha'*) whether it be a favor or a disaster like a road accident that causes the death of a family member, fire, etc. It is normal for us to accept and be grateful when we are given favors but it is quite difficult to be patient and contented when we are faced with disasters. In order to achieve contentment, we need to strengthen our faith, be patient, remember and obey Allah the Almighty, maintain the obligatory and recommended acts of worship, and avoid His prohibitions as reminded by Allah the Almighty in the Quran in Chapter 20 (Surah Taha), verse (*ayat*) 130:

فَأَصْبِرْ عَلَىٰ مَا يَقُولُونَ وَسَبِّحْ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّكَ قَبْلَ طُلُوعِ الشَّمْسِ وَقَبْلَ غُرُوبِهَا وَمِنْ آنَاءِ اللَّيْلِ
فَسَبِّحْ وَأَطْرَافَ النَّهَارِ لَعَلَّكَ تَرْضَىٰ ﴿١٣٠﴾

Which means: *Therefore be patient with what they say, and celebrate (constantly) the praises of thy Lord, before the rising of the sun, and before its setting; yea, celebrate them for part of the hours of the night, and at the sides of the day: that thou mayest have (spiritual) joy.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Four steps to achieve contentment are: 1) to feel satisfied with what is given by Allah the Almighty; 2) to control the desires of our lusts so that we will always be steadfast in obeying Allah and worshipping Him (*mujahadah an-nafs*); 3) to always compare ourselves to those who are less fortunate than us; 4) to increase our supplications and to humble ourselves in prayers so that Allah the Almighty will grant us contentment.

Indeed, contentment will make us feel at peace, make us view others positively, and distance us from envy and greed. Contentment brings spiritual and physical calmness to humans. Allah the Almighty will reward those who are contented in this life with paradise as mentioned in the Quran in Chapter 9 (Surah Al-Taubah), verse (*ayat*) 59:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

وَلَوْ أَنَّهُمْ رَضُوا مَا آتَاهُمُ اللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ وَقَالُوا حَسْبُنَا اللَّهُ سَيُؤْتِينَا اللَّهُ مِنْ

فَضْلِهِ وَرَسُولُهُ إِنَّا إِلَى اللَّهِ رَاغِبُونَ ﴿٥٩﴾

Which means: *If only they had been content with what Allah and His Messenger gave them, and had said, "Sufficient unto us is Allah! Allah and His Messenger will soon give us of His bounty: to Allah do we turn our hopes!" (that would have been the right course).*

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ

الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ

اللَّهِ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ،

فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْعَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.