



26. Happiness

Delivered by His Eminence
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All praise is due to Allaah. He made this life an abode where we are tested, and one in which times alternate between happiness and sorrow. I praise Allaah, as He is perfect in every way, and I am grateful to Him. I bear witness that none has the right to be worshipped except Allaah alone, without any partner. He is the One who gives life, causes death, and puts people through what makes them laugh at times and weep at others. I further bear witness that our leader and Prophet, Muhammad, is Allaah's worshipping servant and Messenger. He was an individual who was happy with the bounty and mercy granted by Allaah, and he persevered through all that Allaah tested him with. May Allaah grant commendation, protection, and blessings to His Messenger, as well as to the Messenger's family, Companions, and all who continue following his guidance until the Day of Recompense.

Dear people of eemaan, I counsel all of you – as well as myself – to observe taqwaa of Allaah, the Almighty and Most Majestic (i.e. by fulfilling His commands and avoiding His prohibitions). Taqwaa provides protection against trials and strife, and it is a means to being pardoned for sins. **((People of eemaan, when you observe taqwaa of Allaah, He will grant you a criterion by which you distinguish between right and wrong, and He will expiate your misdeeds and forgive your sins. And Allaah is the owner of limitless bounty))** [8:29].

Dear Ummah of Islaam, happiness is something that brings the heart much delight, while sorrow causes it to experience misery. The directives prescribed by Allaah – the Most Merciful – give consideration to the requirements of the innate disposition all humans have, and those directives also refine individuals and the way they react to the situations which they face. Allaah – the Most Majestic – created all things and He is the One who has best knowledge about their state and what is most appropriate for them. Allaah – who is perfect in every way – made happiness a fruit produced by being pleased with Him and having certainty about Him. **((The One who created certainly has complete knowledge, since He is acquainted with all things, even the most minute of details))** [67:14]. Thus, the people of eemaan (i.e. those who have correct beliefs and perform righteous deeds) feel much happiness about the guidance with which Allaah sent His Messenger. Allaah said, **((Messenger of Allaah, the people who accept the truth among those whom We gave prior scriptures rejoice over what has been sent down to you))** [13:36]. Consequently, the greatest level of happiness one can have is being happy with Islaam, eemaan, and the guidance contained in the Sunnah and the Qur'aan. That happiness invigorates a person's soul, makes him desirous of having knowledge and eemaan, and leads him to be grateful to Allaah who is the bestower of all blessings and favours. Allaah said, **((Messenger of Allaah, say: all people should be glad to have the bounty and mercy of Allaah. That is better than anything of this world they can amass for themselves))** [10:58].

My dear brothers who have eemaan, one of the things that leads a person to have happiness in this world and the hereafter, is making others feel happiness. The more a person gives, the more happiness he himself attains since the recompense for a deed is similar to the nature of the deed itself. At-Tabaraanee collected a hadeeth with a chain of narration graded hasan [by some scholars], in which Allaah's Messenger (may Allaah grant him commendation and protection) said, "If a person does something that his Muslim brother likes, and he does that to make him happy, Allaah would make that



person himself happy on the Day of Resurrection.”¹ Hence, making others happy is one of the most virtuous of righteous deeds, and the most beloved of them to Allaah.

In addition, making others happy is a means to attaining Allaah’s mercy and forgiveness, as well as being admitted to Jannah. Ibn ‘Umar (may Allaah be pleased with both of them) narrated that a man came to the Prophet (may Allaah grant him commendation and protection) and asked, “Messenger of Allaah, which individual is most beloved to Allaah, and which deeds are most beloved to Allaah?” Allaah’s Messenger (may Allaah grant him commendation and protection) replied, “The most beloved of people to Allaah, the Most Exalted, is the individual who provides others with the most benefit; and the most beloved deeds to Allaah, the Most Exalted, are making another Muslim happy, removing any adversity he faces, settling any debt he may owe, and ridding him of hunger. Additionally, for me to set out with a brother of mine who needs something is more beloved to me than spending a full month performing i’tikaaf in this masjid.” The Prophet (may Allaah grant him commendation and protection) said that in reference to his masjid in al-Madeenah. This hadeeth was collected by at-Tabaraanee with a hasan chain of narration. [See as-Saheehah (106)]

Ways that happiness can be brought to others include giving attention to things they are concerned about, alleviating their difficulties, and helping them fulfil their needs. Making others happy is a very important channel of goodness and reward. It is a prominent quality of people who have genuine eemaan, and the similitude of the mutual love, mercy, and sympathy that are to exist between the people of eemaan is that of one single body. When one part suffers, the entire body experiences sleeplessness and fever. Consequently, our righteous Salaf – the esteemed foremost generations of Islaam – would seek nearness to Allaah, the Most Exalted, by assisting others in having their needs fulfilled, providing them with benefit in some way, striving to alleviate their difficulties, and interceding on their behalf.

Al-Bayhaqee collected a narration² in Shu‘ab al-Eemaan [3679] mentioning that ibn ‘Abbaas (may Allaah be pleased with him) was performing i’tikaaf at the masjid of Allaah’s Messenger (may Allaah grant him commendation and protection) when a man came, extended the salaam, and then sat. Ibn ‘Abbaas addressed him by name and said, “I see you looking sad.” The man replied, “Paternal cousin of Allaah’s Messenger (may Allaah grant him commendation and protection), what you said is true. Such-and-such person owes me something and I am unable to obtain it from him.” Ibn ‘Abbaas inquired, “Shall I not speak to him on your behalf?” The man said, “If you wish.” Ibn ‘Abbaas got up from his place and then left the masjid. The man asked him, “Did you forget what you were engaged in?”, referring to i’tikaaf. He replied, “No. However I heard the person in that grave (may Allaah grant him commendation and protection) say that ‘if a person sets out with a brother of his who needs something, and the need is fulfilled, that would be better than spending ten years engaged in i’tikaaf.’”

At-Tabaraanee also collected a hadeeth stating, “If a person sets out with a brother of his who needs something, and remains with him until the need is fulfilled, Allaah will establish that person’s feet firmly on the day when feet will slip.”³

Another way of bringing happiness to others is smiling, and the Prophet (may Allaah grant him commendation and protection) was the individual among all people who had smiled most. Jareer ibn ‘Abdillaah (may Allaah be pleased with him) said, “Every time Allaah’s Messenger (may Allaah grant him commendation and protection) saw me, he smiled at me.” [saheeh] Another hadeeth in Sunan at-Tirmitheeh mentions that the Prophet (may Allaah grant him commendation and protection) said, “You are rewarded for smiling at your brother just as you are rewarded for giving charity.” [saheeh]

¹ Graded inauthentic (munkar) by al-Albaanee. See ad-Da‘eefah (1286).

² Graded inauthentic (da‘eef) by al-Albaanee. See ad-Da‘eefah (4345).

³ Graded authentic (hasan) by al-Albaanee. See as-Saheehah (906).



Servants of Allaah, giving gifts establishes love between people, brings their hearts together, and removes hatred that might exist between them. The Prophet (may Allaah grant him commendation and protection) used to both give and accept gifts. A hadeeth in Saheeh al-Bukhaaree mentions that the Prophet (may Allaah grant him commendation and protection) was once brought some garments, and among them was a small black one with patterns on it. He asked the Companions present, “Whom should we give this one to wear?” They remained quiet and he then said, “Bring Umm Khaalid”, referring to a little girl who had been born in land of al-Habashah. Someone came carrying her and the Prophet (may Allaah grant him commendation and protection) then took the small garment he had in his hand, dressed her with it while she was happily admiring it, and told her “May you live for a very long time. Umm Khalid, this dress is sanah”, which means “beautiful” in the language of al-Habashah.

It was part of the Prophet’s guidance (may Allaah grant him commendation and protection) to speak with his family and Companions in a light-hearted way sometimes so as to make them happy. A hadeeth in the Musnad of al-Imaam Ahmad mentions that there was a bedouin named Zaahir whom the Prophet (may Allaah grant him commendation and protection) liked very much. One day, while Zaahir was selling his goods, the Prophet (may Allaah grant him commendation and protection) went to him, took hold of him from behind, and said, “Who will buy this slave?” Zaahir responded, “Messenger of Allaah, if I were up for sale, I swear by Allaah that you would find me of little value.” The Prophet (may Allaah grant him commendation and protection) replied, “However, to Allaah, you are not of little value”, or he said, “However, to Allaah, you are very valuable.” [See also at-Ta’leeqaat al-Hisaan (5760)].

In the narration about the three Companions regarding whom judgment was deferred after they remained behind from the expedition to Tabook, we find that that the Companions in general – may Allaah be pleased with all of them – were keen to make others happy. One night, during its last third, Allaah – the Most Exalted – sent revelation down mentioning that He had accepted the repentance of Ka’b ibn Maalik and the other two Companions in the same situation as him. At the time, Allaah’s Messenger (may Allaah grant him commendation and protection) was with his wife, Umm Salamah. Allaah’s Messenger (may Allaah grant him commendation and protection) said, “Umm Salamah, the repentance of Ka’b was accepted.” She asked, “Should I not send word to him about this happy news?” He replied, “If you do that, you will be overwhelmed with crowds of people and they will prevent you from sleeping for the rest of the night.” Then, after performing the Fajr prayer, Allaah’s Messenger (may Allaah grant him commendation and protection) announced that Allaah had accepted the repentance of those three Companions. Consequently, some of those present rode to tell them that happy news while others climbed the mountain called Sal’ and proclaimed the news in the loudest voice they could muster. Ka’b (may Allaah be pleased with him) recounted, “While I was sitting in the state that Allaah had described – feeling that the earth had become constricted around me despite its vast expanse, and that my very own soul had become confined [see 9:118] – I heard the voice of someone shouting out from the Sal’ mountain at the top of his voice, ‘Ka’b ibn Maalik, glad tidings are being conveyed to you!’ At that point, I fell to the ground in prostration to Allaah, knowing that relief had come. I then went to Allaah’s Messenger (may Allaah grant him commendation and protection) and people came to me in groups upon groups expressing their happiness that my repentance had been accepted.” Ka’b further said, “I eventually entered the masjid where I found Allaah’s Messenger (may Allaah grant him commendation and protection) seated, and surrounded by people. When I extended the salaam, he said to me while his face was gleaming with happiness, ‘Receive glad tidings of the best day in your life since the time your mother bore you.’ I asked, ‘Is this from you, Messenger of Allaah, or is it from Allaah Himself?’ He replied, ‘It is not from me. Rather, it is from Allaah Himself’, and at times when Allaah’s Messenger (may Allaah grant him commendation and protection) was happy, his face would light up like if it was a piece of the moon.” This was collected by al-Bukhaaree. [See also at-Ta’leeqaat al-Hisaan (3359)].



Dear people of eemaan, you must strive to make your brothers happy by asking about those who are absent, visiting those who are ill, reconciling matters between them, alleviating their pains and sorrows, feeding the hungry, and settling their debts. A truly discerning individual would never be at a loss for finding a way to make his Muslim brother happy. Ibn al-Qayyim (may Allaah have mercy upon him) commented that rational evidences, evidences from Islaam's texts, innate human disposition, and human experience throughout history – across the entire spectrum of peoples and paths they follow – all indicate that drawing nearer to the Lord of all creation, seeking to please Him, and extending kindness to His creatures are among the greatest means of attaining all goodness; and that their opposites are among the most major causes of incurring all ills. When it comes to attaining Allaah's blessings and averting His wrath, there is nothing that compares with obeying Him, seeking nearness to Him, and extending kindness to His creatures.

((Mankind, there has now come to you an admonition from your Lord and a source of healing for your hearts. It is guidance and mercy for the people of eemaan. Messenger of Allaah, say: all people should be glad to have the bounty and mercy of Allaah. That is better than anything of this world they can amass for themselves)) [10:57-58].

May Allaah bless all of us by the Qur'aan and Sunnah, and may He enable us all to glean benefit from the evidences and wisdom they contain. I say this much, and I implore Allaah to forgive myself and all of you for every misdeed. Thus, you should also ask Allaah's forgiveness, as He is always Most Forgiving.



All praise is due to Allaah, the Most Generous, the One who continually accepts repentance, the Most Kind, and the Bestower of mercy. He opened for His servants the gates to repentance, made the path to it easy, and conveyed to them the glad tidings that He is happy when they repent. I bear witness that none has the right to be worshipped except Allaah alone, without any partner, and I bear witness that Muhammad is Allaah's worshipping servant and Messenger. May Allaah grant an abundance of commendation, protection, and blessings to His Messenger, as well as to the Messenger's family and Companions.

Dear people of eemaan, happiness is also among the attributes of our Creator – Allaah – the Most Majestic who is perfect in every way. It is to be affirmed as happiness that befits Allaah's magnificence, without distorting what it means, denying it, explaining the manner of how it exists, or claiming that there is resemblance between it and the happiness of created beings. **((There is none like Allaah and He is the All-Hearing, the All-Seeing))** [42:11]. A hadeeth in Saheeh Muslim mentions that Allaah's Messenger (may Allaah grant him commendation and protection) said, "Allaah is certainly even more happy when a servant of His repents to Him than any of you would be if he was riding his mount in a desolate area, his mount then flees while carrying all of his food and drink, he despairs of finding it, he then goes to a tree and lies in its shade having lost all hope of locating his mount; but then, while in that state, his mount suddenly shows up right where he is, and he takes hold of its reins with immense joy and he mistakenly exclaims, 'O Allaah, You are my servant and I am your Lord' due to being overwhelmed by happiness." When a servant of Allaah who has eemaan repents to Allaah, Allaah is even more happy than the aforementioned person who finds his mount and provisions.

Ibn al-Qayyim (may Allaah have mercy upon him) commented in his book Tareeq al-Hijratayn that Allaah brought His servants into existence for Himself, and this is why He purchased the souls of the people of eemaan. This transaction indicates that they are beloved to Him, chosen by Him, and pleasing to Him. The value of a commodity can be known by the price it carries as well as the status of



the buyer. You are the commodity, Allaah is the buyer, and the price offered is Jannah and being able to see Allaah's face and hear His speech in the abode of security and peace. When a slave flees from his owner while not wanting to please him, gives his opponent allegiance and becomes one of that opponent's supporters, and gives pleasing the opponent priority over pleasing his master, such a slave exposes himself to being punished. However, if the slave subsequently returns to his master and remains dedicated to him alone, how could his owner who loves him not be immensely happy about that? Such is Allaah's favour which He grants to whomever He wills, and Allaah is the owner of limitless favour.

My dear brothers who have eemaan, when a servant of Allaah repents to his Lord, acknowledges his wrongdoing, regrets the wrong done, and resolves to not do it again, his Lord is happy with that repentance. Additionally, the fact that Allaah is happy with him further implies that Allaah would grant him favour and kindness. Allaah has no needs whatsoever, and when His servant genuinely repents, He grants that servant happiness. In other words, Allaah being happy with the repentance of His servant entails that Allaah would also grant that servant happiness and delight within his heart. A hadeeth qudsee mentions that Allaah, the Almighty and Most Majestic, said, "If someone performs one righteous deed, he would be recompensed for ten like it, and I may grant him even further reward. If someone commits a sin, he would be recompensed for it alone, and I may even forgive him. If someone draws near to Me by a hand-span, I draw near to Him by a forearm-span; if he draws near to Me by a forearm-span, I draw near to him by two full arm-spans; and if he comes to me walking at normal pace, I come to him walking swiftly. If someone meets Me with sins that could almost fill the entire earth, but without ascribing any partner to Me, I will meet him with a similar amount of forgiveness." This was collected by Muslim.

Allaah – the Most Majestic – loves for His servants to repent to Him and remain steadfast in obeying Him, in order for them to please Him and be admitted to Jannah. He said about His obedient worshipping servants, **((When they commit sins – whether major or anything less – they remember Allaah and ask His forgiveness for their wrongdoing, since none forgives sins except Allaah. Furthermore, they do not persist in their misdeeds when they know that what they are doing is wrong and that Allaah would forgive them if they repent to Him sincerely. Their recompense is that their Lord will forgive them, conceal their faults, and admit them to gardens in Jannah beneath which rivers flow, to abide there endlessly. Those are the finest rewards for people who obey Allaah))** [3:135-136]. In fact, out of Allaah's mercy, kindness, and favour, He would even change their misdeeds to righteous deeds. He said, **((except in the case of those who repent, have sound beliefs, and subsequently perform righteous deeds. Allaah will change the sins of those people into righteous deeds, and Allaah is Most Forgiving, Bestower of mercy))** [27:70]. Therefore, servants of Allaah, we must be sincere in repenting to Allaah. Repentance is the beginning, middle, and end of the path that leads us to Allaah, and a person must not forsake repentance for as long as he is alive in this world. **((People of eemaan, all of you must repent to Allaah in order for you to be successful))** [24:31].

O Allaah, make us people who are happy with obeying You, make our hearts find complete solace with You, bring us nearer to You, be pleased with us, and grant us the recompense that makes us pleased. We call upon You, the Ever-Living Self-Sufficient Sustainer of all, the owner of all majesty and favour.