بسم الله الرحمن الرحی

***Worship is Happiness***

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In the Name of Allah, the All-Merciful, the All-Compassionate.

“O you people, worship...” (2:21)

**Respected Muslims!**

If you want to understand what **great profit** and **happiness** اَلْعِبَادَة–the **worship is**, and what **great loss** and **destruction** اَلْفِسْقْand السَّفه **–** the **vice** and **dissipation are**, listen to and take heed of the following parable:

One time, two soldiers received orders to proceed to a distant city. They set off and travelled together until the road forked. At the fork was a man who said to them, “The road on the right causes no loss at all, and nine out of ten of those who take it receive a high profit and experience great ease. While the road on the left provides no advantages, and nine out of ten of its travelers make a loss. Both roads are the same length. Only there is one difference: those who take the left-hand road, which has no rules and no one in authority, travel without baggage and arms. They feel an apparent lightness and deceptive ease. Whereas those travelling on the right-hand road, which is under military order, are compelled to carry a 5kg bag full of food and a 3kg superb army rifle which can overpower and defeat every enemy.”

After the two soldiers had listened to what this instructive man had to say, the fortunate one took the road to the right. He loaded the weight of 8kg onto his back and shoulder, but his heart and spirit were saved from thousand loads of fear and feeling obliged to others. As for the other, unfortunate soldier, he left the army. He did not want to conform to the order, and he went off to the left. He was released from bearing his heavy load, but his heart was constricted by thousand loads of indebtedness, and his spirit crushed by innumerable fears. He proceeded on his way both begging from everyone and trembling before every object and every event until he reached his destination. And there he was punished as a rebel and a fugitive.

As for the soldier who loved the order of the army, had guarded his bag and rifle, and taken the right-hand road, he had gone on his way being obliged to no one, fearing no one, and with an easy heart and conscience until he reached the city he was seeking. There he received a reward worthy of an honorable soldier who had carried out his duty faithfully.

**Dear Muslims!**

Know that one of those two travelers represents those who submit to the Divine Law [القانون الإلهي], while the other represents the rebellious and those who follow their own desires. **The road** is the **road of life**, which comes from the world of the spirits [عالم الأرواح], passes through the grave [القبر], and carries on to the hereafter [عالم الآخرة]. As for the **bag** and **rifle**, they are **worship** [العبادة] and **piety** [التقوى].

There may seems some burden, but **in reality the worship gives indescribable peace and comfort.**

For in the prescribed prayers the worshipper declares,

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَآ إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا ٱللَّهُ [*ash-hadu an laa ilaaha illa Allah*] - ***“I bear witness that there is no god but Allah.”***That is to say, he finds the door of a treasury of mercy in everything because he is believing and saying, “There is no Creator [خالق] and Provider [رازق] other than Him. **Harm and benefit are in His hand.** He is both All-Wise [الحكيم]; He does nothing in vain, and He is All-Compassionate [الرحيم]; His bounty and mercy are abundant.” And he knocks on the door with his supplication [دعاء]. Moreover, he sees that everything is subjugated to the command of his own Sustainer [رب], so he takes refuge in Him. He places his trust in Him and relies on Him, and is fortified against every disaster; his belief gives him complete confidence.

Indeed, like with every true **good deed** [الحسنات], the source of **courage** [الشجاعة] is **belief in Allah** [الايمان], and **worship** [العبودية]. And as with every **bad deed** [السيئات], the source of **cowardice** [الجبن] is **misguidance** [الضلالة].

In fact, for a worshipper with a truly illuminated heart, if the earth were to explode, it would possibly not frighten him. He would watch it with pleasurable wonder as a marvel of the Eternally Besought One’s power [القدرة الصمدانية]. A rationalist but unbelieving philosopher might tremble at the sight of a comet, lest it should strike the earth.

Yes, although man is in need of innumerable things, his capital is as nothing, and although he is subject to endless calamities, his power too is as nothing. Simply, his capital and power extend only as far as his hand can reach. However, his hopes, desires, pains, and tribulations reach as far as the eye and the imagination can stretch. Anyone who is not totally blind can see and understand then what a great profit, happiness, and bounty for the human spirit, which is thus impotent and weak, and needy and wanting, are worship [العبادة], reliance on Allah [التوكل], affirmation of His unity [التوحيد], and submission to Him [التسليم].

It is obvious that a safe way is preferable to a harmful way, even if the possibility of its safety is only one in ten. But on the way of worship there is a nine out of ten possibility of it leading to the treasury of eternal happiness, as well as its being safe.

While it is established by the testimony –which is at the degree of consensus– of innumerable experts and witnesses [اهل الاختصاص والاثبات] that besides being without benefit, and the dissolute even confess to this, the way of vice and dissipation ends in eternal misery. According to the reports of those who have uncovered the mysteries of creation [اهل الذوق والكشف] this is absolutely certain.

**In conclusion:** just like the other world’s bliss, **happiness in this world is in worship and being His devoted servant**. In that case, we should always say:

اَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ عَلَى الطَّاعَةِ وَالتَّوْفِيقِ

“Praise be to Allah for obedience and success in His way,”

and thank Him that we are Muslims.

**References**

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