

My Idea of a Happy Life

When I think of my poverty I felt I would be most happy if I had enough wealth to spend. With money in my pocket, I imagine that I would be able to buy any pleasure in the world, command the service of people whom I may not care to know and become the master of all I survey. I look at the happy faces of people who ride in motor cars and imagine that as they possess wealth they have everything that the heart can wish for. My poverty seems ugly and shabby. How beautiful is wealth! How I wish I were wealthy!

But on a closer scrutiny, I find that money does not buy everything. On the contrary too much of it spells disaster and ruin. I want money, but I do not want too much of it. I want to be happy.

It takes all sorts of things to make life happy. I am in search of happiness. "What things would make you happy?" I ask myself.

I am in search I get confused. Then I give thought to the matter. Now I feel that I can supply a definite answer.

The first thing I would like to have is excellent health. Health will make it possible for me to enjoy other things in life. Wealth will be useless. If I lack the health which makes its enjoyment possible. I come across wealthy people who cannot enjoy wealth because they lack sound health. Health is the source of every other kind of enjoyment in life.

Next in importance is wealth. Whatever we may say about the fleeting nature of wealth, wealth, can and does buy things. A rupee in my pocket means a great deal. I am the master of a certain number of people to the extent of one rupee. I can order them about and compel them to serve me. But let me tell you at the same time, that wealth is a means to an end and not an end in itself. I value it because it is a means towards making me happy.

I would not like to live alone. My happiness would be incomplete, if I have not a few friends who double my happiness. I want the goodwill of people, and I would feel small, if others left me alone. Loneliness I would never like. My wealth would buy me many things, but it would not buy me the love of others. Love of others makes life enjoyable.

And lastly to complete my happiness, I would help those, who are less fortunate than I am. They have a claim on me; and if my help is able to lessen their sufferings, it would go a long way to make my life happy.

This is my idea of a happy life. I want the goodwill of people, and I would feel small, if others left me alone. Loneliness I would never like. My wealth would buy me alone. Loneliness I would never like. It is an undeniable fact that happiness in life depends on the contented state of mind.