



February 18, 2008

Ahh, Contentment . . .

By Teresa Hampton

Ali Hafed owned a very large farm in Persia. He was a contented man. One day a traveler from the East told him about diamonds and how wealthy he would be if he owned a diamond mine. Ali Hafed went to bed that night discontented. Craving a mine of diamonds, he sold his farm to search for the rare stones.

Ali traveled the world over, finally becoming poor, broken, and defeated. But one day the man who purchased Ali Hafed's farm led his camel into the garden to drink. As his camel put its nose into the brook, the man saw a flash of light from the sands of the stream. He pulled out a stone that reflected all the hues of the rainbow. The man had discovered the diamond mine of Golconda, the most magnificent mine in all history. Had Ali Hafed remained contented at home, he would have owned acres of diamonds.

Do you suppose that at times we're somewhat like poor Ali? We search and search for something that brings contentment, a sense of fulfillment. The truth is, we could search the world over, but, as children of God, the real 'diamonds,' are in our possession the entire time.

The apostle Paul said he had learned in whatever circumstance to be content, whether living in the midst of plenty or in the clutches of poverty (Philippians 4:11-12). If he was in the palace of kings or living as a shackled prisoner in a dark dungeon, he was able to be content. How, you ask?

Paul was focused on the Savior and eternal life with Him. He said, "I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me." The beauty is, we have the same assurance. Jesus is, after all, the Rock of our salvation! Ahh, contentment . . .

Today's Verse: *"Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content"* 1 Timothy 6:6-8.

Today's Challenge: Treasure the things that money cannot buy.

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