



Research Paper

## Analysis of the "imbalance between pleasure and happiness" based on the perspective of Motahari

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## Abstract

Man is naturally happy and pleasure-seeking. But what is the relationship between happiness and pleasure, the main issue of this research and its study is the view of Martyr Motahari. This research has used the descriptive and analytical method in collecting information in a documentary and library manner, and in processing them. According to the findings, a group of principles as "cancellations" such as the alignment of happiness with the Lord, desire, satisfaction, pleasure, as well as the relationship of happiness with the intellect and the objectivity of perception with pleasure, are involved in explaining the misalignment of happiness and pleasure. According to human characteristics and examples of pleasure, Ostad Motahari has made a meaningful distinction between happiness and pleasure. Therefore, not only is it not necessary that the ratio of pleasure and inclination to it is equal and on par with happiness itself, but also, first of all, there is a level of separation between them; Secondly, happiness is all about pleasure; Thirdly, happiness has a rational and expedient aspect; That is, the more happiness, the better, but the tendency towards some types of pleasure should be moderate and in the direction of expediency; not profit, and avoided indulging in some pleasures; Fourthly, true happiness has a rational and spiritual aspect. Therefore, immersing in some levels of pleasure (sensual, imaginary and illusory) and overdoing them, not only does not lead to happiness, but will also cause man to slip in this world and his misery in the hereafter.



## Extended Abstract

### 1. Introduction

Happiness and misery have been the fundamental issues and main concerns of mankind since the beginning of its existence. Just as pleasure is naturally desirable for man and he understands it with the knowledge of presence, happiness is also the natural and involuntary desire of man. It may be thought that the meaning of "happiness" seems obvious, but it gradually becomes clear that the correct definition of "happiness" and "pleasure" is difficult, because happiness is closely related to concepts such as pleasure, desire, satisfaction, joy, comfort, etc. Therefore, the semantic separation of each of them is difficult and difficult. Perhaps the aforementioned concepts can be grouped under "contentment with life", but the Holy Quran has warned a lot about man having raw and elementary satisfaction. If man remains in a purely natural life, he will have a material and lowly life, but if he enters the higher life, he will have a reasonable life. Therefore, satisfaction in natural life is an obstacle to the growth and independence of the personality. Whenever a person goes through all the levels of his powers and develops his talents, in fact, he reaches the "true self." Therefore, if we understand happiness as developing talents and perfecting them, satisfaction with natural life and enjoyment of it will not be synonymous with perfection or true happiness.

Therefore, the main issue in this research is the alignment or imbalance of happiness and pleasure based on the perspective of Professor Motahari. By examining the published works on the relationship between happiness and pleasure from his perspective, no research was found that directly addressed this issue. However, the issue of this research is new in terms of its background and is completely original and innovative in terms of its foundations and results, as well as the imbalance of happiness and pleasure. At the beginning, a question is raised: Does the concept of happiness have substitute concepts (such as joy, satisfaction, comfort, and pleasure...)? Is happiness the same as achieving pleasure and vice versa? Are happiness and pleasure on the same level? In this study, an attempt has been made to analyze the issue of the

imbalance between pleasure and happiness, based on the perspective of Motahari.

### 2. Methods

This research has used a descriptive-analytical method in collecting information through documentary and library methods and in processing them. In the first stage, the relationship between happiness and the rational faculty and the objectivity of perception with pleasure has been explained. In the following, the exchange relationship between this world and the hereafter, as well as the alignment of happiness with concepts such as joy, desire, satisfaction, and pleasure as "abolitions" has been explained and analyzed from their perspective.

### 3. Results

Based on the results, there is a close relationship between happiness and rationality and objectivity of perception and pleasure. Also, according to Motahari's perspective, the alignment of happiness with concepts such as joy, desire, satisfaction, and pleasure is considered as "nullifications." Therefore, considering human characteristics and instances of pleasure, a meaningful distinction has been made between happiness and pleasure.

### 4. Conclusion

Happiness is not synonymous with pleasure, nor are they synonymous in concept, nor do they share the same meaning in all instances; rather, there is an imbalance and inequality between the two. In other words, it is not the case that wherever pleasure exists, happiness is also achieved for humans.

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### Conflict of interest

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