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## LIFE IS A PIECE OF CAKE

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In this article, I am trying to find similarities between life and cake. Cake is made up of different ingredients like flour, butter, eggs and cooking oil. If they are not cooked, these ingredients taste bad. Have you ever tasted raw eggs? Have you ever sipped a cup of cooking oil? Have you ever tried to dry swallow few cups of all-purpose flour? Have you ever tried to lick some baking soda? Taken separately, each ingredient tastes awful but if you cook them together, you make a delicious cake. (1)



Basically, there are two ways of looking at things: 1) looking at the “parts”, or 2) looking at the “whole.” The way you look at things makes a lot of difference for the “whole” is yummy and the ‘parts” are “yucky.” Life works the same way. When we ask ourselves some distrusting questions, we do not realize what and where these events may bring us. Examples are: “why does Allah make me go through difficult times?” and “what did I do to deserve this?”

Only He knows and He will not let us fall. We do not need to settle for the raw ingredients; we ought to trust Him and He will deliver fantastic



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gifts to all of us. His mercy stretches to cover all of us regardless of our belief. He sends flowers every spring. He makes the sun rise daily. He forms clouds and move them by the wind to bring life to

dead earth and thirsty people. He keeps the stars and planets in orbit. Any time you need to talk, He listens.

Yes, we have problems and so, do other people. Allah created life to work in this fashion. "Allah willed for this world to be filled with two opposites: good and evil, righteousness and corruption, happiness and misery. Thus goodness, uprightness, and happiness are for Paradise; evil, corruption, and misery are for the Fire." (2)

As Muslims we are either expressing thanks or gratitude (shukr) to Allah in case of pleasure or showing patience (sabr) in case of pain. Allah wants us to be "pain embracers" not "pain avoiders." The Quranic verse goes like this: "Be sure we shall test you with something of fear and hunger, some loss in goods or lives or the fruits (of your toil), but give glad tidings to those who patiently persevere." (3)

The message is: accept your life as a package; don't focus on details; express gratitude to Allah at times of pleasure; be patient at times of pain and trust Allah and His wisdom. Enjoy you life as a piece of cake.

### Notes:

- 1) My thanks go to several friends around the world who suggested this topic.
- 2) Aaidh ibn Abdallah al-Qarni. DON'T BE SAD. International Islamic Publishing House (IIPH), Riyad, 2005. (Page 53)
- 3) Quran 2:155 (Al-Baqarah)