

TEXT 1

HAPPY DAYS? UNITED ARAB EMIRATES APPOINTS FIRST MINISTER OF HAPPINESS

Sheena McKenzie, CNN, February 15, 2016

1 The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is not leaving the cheerfulness of its citizens to chance, appointing its first Minister of Happiness. Ohood Al Roumi was sworn into the post this week, one of eight female ministers in the Persian Gulf nation's 29-member Cabinet.

5 So just what does a Minister of Happiness do? Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the UAE's Prime Minister and the ruler of Dubai, spelled out his vision in a series of tweets, saying the new position will help create social good.

'A new post, Minister of State for Happiness, will align and drive government policy to create social good and satisfaction ... We look to the future with a spirit of change and progress' said Rashid Al Maktoum.

10 Al Roumi will be joined by a new Minister of Tolerance, Sheikha Lubna bint Khaled Al Qasimi, previously the Minister of Foreign Trade, who became the UAE's first female minister in 2004.

Also joining their ranks will be Shamma Al Mazrui, 22, the new Minister of Youth Affairs. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum qualified the appointment on Twitter.

15 'Shamma Al Mazrui is the new Minister of State for Youth Affairs. She's 22 yrs old, with a Masters' from Oxford, and a BSc from NYU'.

The appointments are all part of the Cabinet's focus on 'the future, youth, happiness, developing education, and combating climate change,' the Prime Minister added.

But just how in need of happiness is the wealthy, oil-rich nation?

20 According to the latest United Nations World Happiness Report, which measures everything from a nation's generosity to its gross domestic product, the UAE is the 20th happiest country in the world. But it seems that not everyone is feeling so chipper about the UAE's future.

25 Resident Sona Bahri, who runs meditation classes, told CNN that attendance has spiked 500% in recent years as people seek a sense of calm in an increasingly fast-paced business hub. She says she believes the UAE's rapid modernisation has also added strain to relationships.

30 This isn't the first country to have a government minister dedicated to happiness. In 2013, Venezuela reportedly created a Ministry of Supreme Social Happiness. But it didn't appear to boost the country's international happiness. The country dropped from 20th happiest in the world in 2013, to 23rd happiest in the world in 2015.

Will the UAE's attempts be more successful? Time will tell. Though not everyone appears convinced. 'There will also be ministers for grumpiness, sleepiness, bashfulness and dopeyness,' blogger Karl Sharro tweeted.

[Adapted from: <<http://edition.cnn.com>>]

TEXT 2

'Happiness is a serious job': UAE's Minister of Happiness embraces new role

Amna Ehtesham Khaishgi, March 20, 2016

1 The UAE's new Minister of Happiness, Ohood Al Roumi, has spoken for the first time publicly about her role and what she is trying to achieve during her time in office.

'Happiness is a serious job for governments,' said Ms Al Roumi. 'The main job for the government is to create happiness. In 2011, the UN encouraged the member countries to
5 look at happiness for a holistic approach for development.'

Ms Al Roumi said: 'The role of the government is to create an environment where people can flourish – can reach their potential – and choose to be happy.'

'For us in the UAE, happiness is very important. I am a very happy and positive person and I choose to be happy every day because this is what pushes me, this is what motivates me,
10 this is what gives a sense of purpose to my life, so I always choose to see the glass half full,' she said.

During the World Government Summit in Dubai last month, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid announced: 'We want a government that works on building the skills of its people, aside from providing services ... a government focused on putting the happiness of citizens at the
15 forefront of its priorities.'

The UAE is ranked as the 28th happiest country in the world, according to last year's UN World Happiness Report. The previous year, the country placed 20th, down from 14th in 2013.

Switzerland, Iceland and Denmark sequentially¹ occupied the top three slots. The UAE was
20 the happiest country in its region. Saudi Arabia placed 34th, Qatar 36th and Kuwait 41st.

[Adapted from sources: <<http://www.thenational.ae>>, <<http://edition.cnn.com>>, <<http://www.thenational.ae>>]

¹ sequentially – following in sequence, e.g. number 1, then 2, then 3.

TEXT 3

THE SCIENCE OF HAPPINESS PRODUCED RESULTS MOST WOULD NOT ANTICIPATE

The most celebrated finding in happiness research is that money doesn't buy happiness. Studies have shown that above a certain income – enough to give us the essentials of life, plus a few perks – money loses its happiness-boosting power.

For many of us, more money means being able to buy more stuff. But research suggests the problem with stuff – cars, clothes and bling – is that it triggers unpleasant comparisons with what other people have and leads to us fretting whether we made the best choice.

In contrast, studies found that we'd be better advised to splash out on experiences. When we do this, we're less bothered by comparisons, or about choices we didn't make.

Research has further provided evidence that spending money on others brought more happiness than self-indulgence. Determined shopaholics should therefore not despair – the surest way of turning stuff into feel-good is to buy it for other people.

The finding also hinted that happiness lies in our connectedness to other people and other living things. Married people have been shown to be happier on average than those who remain single whilst those who enjoy being outdoors and feel a sense of kinship with living things typically have higher levels of happiness.

Studies have also revealed significant genetic influences on our happiness levels. One of the happiest nations in the world, the Danes, has an unusually low proportion of people carrying a gene linked to neuroticism and unhappiness with life.

[Adapted from: Robert Matthews. <<http://www.thenational.ae>>]

TEXT 4

i thank You God for most this amazing

by e.e. cummings

1 i thank You God for most this amazing
day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees
and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything
which is natural which is infinite which is yes

5 (i who have died am alive again today,
and this is the sun's birthday; this is the birth
day of life and of love and wings: and of the gay
great happening illimitably earth)

10 how should tasting touching hearing seeing
breathing any—lifted from the no
of all nothing—human merely being
doubt unimaginable You?

(now the ears of my ears awake and
now the eyes of my eyes are opened)



[Source: <<http://imgstocks.com>>]

[Source: *Whisperings – An anthology of poetry in English* by Malcolm and Morag Venter, p. 52]

TEXT 5

Mending Wall

by Robert Frost

- 1 Something there is that doesn't love a wall,
That sends the frozen-ground-swell under it,
And spills the upper boulders in the sun;
And makes gaps even two can pass abreast.
- 5 The work of hunters is another thing:
I have come after them and made repair
Where they have left not one stone on a stone,
But they would have the rabbit out of hiding,
To please the yelping dogs. The gaps I mean,
- 10 No one has seen them made or heard them made,
But at spring mending-time we find them there.
I let my neighbour know beyond the hill;
And on a day we meet to walk the line
And set the wall between us once again.
- 15 We keep the wall between us as we go.
To each the boulders that have fallen to each.
And some are loaves and some so nearly balls
We have to use a spell to make them balance:
'Stay where you are until our backs are turned!'
- 20 We wear our fingers rough with handling them.
Oh, just another kind of outdoor game,
One on a side. It comes to little more:
There where it is we do not need the wall:
He is all pine and I am apple orchard.
- 25 My apple trees will never get across
And eat the cones under his pines, I tell him.
He only says, 'Good fences make good neighbours.'
Spring is the mischief in me, and I wonder
If I could put a notion in his head:
- 30 'Why do they make good neighbours? Isn't it
Where there are cows? But here there are no cows.
Before I built a wall I'd ask to know
What I was walling in or walling out,
And to whom I was like to give offense.
- 35 Something there is that doesn't love a wall,
That wants it down.' I could say 'Elves' to him,
But it's not elves exactly, and I'd rather
He said it for himself. I see him there
Bringing a stone grasped firmly by the top
- 40 In each hand, like an old-stone savage armed.
He moves in darkness as it seems to me,
Not of woods only and the shade of trees.
He will not go behind his father's saying,
And he likes having thought of it so well
- 45 He says again, 'Good fences make good neighbours.'



[Source: <<https://daleswaytrek.files.wordpress.com>>]

[Source: *Whisperings – An anthology of poetry in English* by Malcolm and Morag Venter, p. 84]

TEXT 6

Pursuit of Happiness

By Vernon Waring

1 The waitress doesn't smile
The cabbie doesn't speak
The salesman is all business
(This hasn't been his week)

5 The boss is rude and angry
He drives us all to tears
The barber flails his scissors
And almost cuts my ears

This band of moaners and groaners
10 Is no treat for a happiness glutton²
The only grin I've seen all week
Was on a "SMILE" button



[Source: <<http://rlv.zcache.com>>]

[Source: *Whisperings* – An anthology of poetry by Malcolm and Morag Venter]

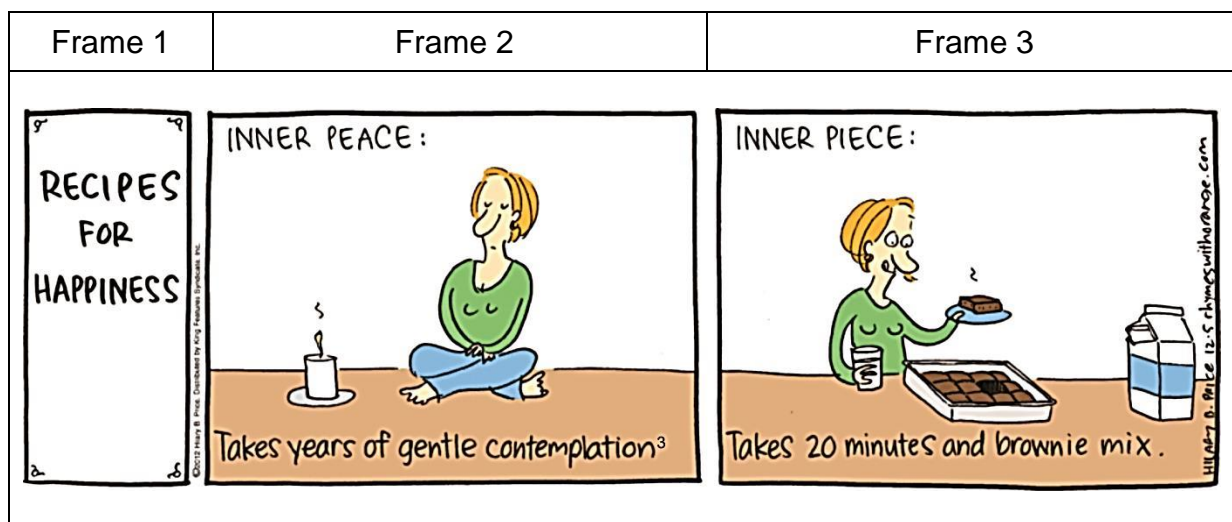
² glutton – overeater

TEXT 7



[Source: <<http://graphicdesignjunction.com>>]

TEXT 8



[<<http://3.bp.blogspot.com/>>]

³ contemplation – meditation, reflection, inspection, thoughts

TEXT 9



[Adapted from Source: <<http://www.glasbergen.com/>>]

TEXT 10

NOTE: DELIBERATE ERRORS WERE MADE IN TEXT 10.

Get happy in the world's happiest countries

Katia Hetter, CNN, April 23, 2015

1 The third World Happiness Report shows that people who live in the world's most
happiest countries experience the following: longer life expectancies, more social
support, experience more generosity, have more freedom to make life choices, have
5 lower perceptions of corruption and have a higher gross domestic product per
capita.

Through the happiness report, the Sustainable Development Solutions Network
hope to encourage governments at every level to measure and improve **(8.5.1
there/their)** people's happiness.

10 'There is no single key to happiness,' said Jeffrey Sachs, the network's director and
an economics professor at Columbia University. 'All of these countries do well in
several ways. Being rich? That's good, **(8.5.2 and/but)** it's only a modest part of the
story. Trusting society, having a government that ranks on low in corruption, a
society where people are generous and volunteering – all of these are important for
happiness.'

[Adapted from: <<http://edition.cnn.com>> Accessed on 23 April 2015]