



Benevolence
vs.
selfishness

*"Giving to others' basic needs without having
as my motive personal reward."*

I will:

- look for people in need.
- treat others how I want to be treated.
- give food, clothing, and shelter.
- be patient with others.
- give more as I get more.

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What is Benevolence?

The word "benevolence" comes from the Latin word bene (well) and volens (willingly). A person who is benevolent does good things for other people willingly. He freely chooses to help others, even though it might mean he won't get to do some things he would like to do.

Because he wants to help others, he is always looking for someone who needs help and he provides practical help such as food, clothing, or shelter. He also patiently gives his time to help those in need.

Many can give gifts, but a truly benevolent person does not expect anything in return, not even praise from others. In fact, he quite often gives secretly. Sometimes the people he gives to are ungrateful or mean to him, but he still tries to help them without being angry. He truly thinks about their well-being above his own needs.

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What does Benevolence look like?

1. Giving my sandwich at lunch to a child who didn't have a lunch to bring.
2. Giving up my place in line at the water fountain to a friend who is really thirsty.
3. Saving part of my allowance so I can buy a small toy to go in a gift bag for a needy family.
4. Looking through my toys to see what I really don't use anymore to give away.
5. Encouraging a friend who isn't very good at baseball by practicing patiently with him.



Memory Work

I'll open my eyes to see the ones who really are in need,
Some need clothes and some need food,
for shelter some will plead.

I'll think of the way that I would like for others to treat me,
And with patience give more as I get more
to the needs that I will see.

Before me lies an open map,
The choice is mine to make,
I'll live a life of character,
And that's the road I'll take!

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CONTENTMENT IN HISTORY
Queen Elizabeth



Elizabeth I, served as the Queen of England from November 17, 1558 until her death in March 1603. Queen Elizabeth was good to her people and asked for nothing in return. However, she did receive the loyalty of her subjects.

The British tell a story about the meeting of Queen Elizabeth I and an English housewife. According to the legend, Queen Elizabeth I used to dress as a common citizen and roam the streets of London. One afternoon,

walking alone, a rainstorm began which sent the plainly dressed queen running for cover. The rain continued and it appeared that it was not going to let up for some time. In her dilemma, the Queen knocked on the door of a nearby house.

The woman who answered the door was fearful about the intentions of the stranger on her doorstep and was relieved to find that her unwelcome stranger was simply asking to borrow an umbrella and promised to return it the next day.

The housewife asked the strange woman to wait a moment and closed the door in search of an umbrella. Not being sure if the stranger would keep her promise and return it, the woman passed by the brand new umbrella she had recently purchased to replace her husband's old, worn out umbrella and presented the umbrella destined for the trash heap to the woman on the doorstep.

The next afternoon, there was another knock on the housewife's door. This time, to her surprise, she was greeted by a palace courtier who handed her the unsightly umbrella, expressing the queen's gratitude for its use. With that said, he mounted his horse and returned to the castle.

If the housewife had known the identity of the person on her doorstep, which umbrella do you think she would have selected for the queen to use? Which umbrella would you have given to her?

True benevolence is giving to meet the needs of others, with no expectation of receiving anything in return. Benevolence is marked by generosity to those who may never be able to return the favor.

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--adapted by Kelly Sorge

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