

Human Beings With Human Souls

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"We may have all come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now." — Martin Luther King Jr.

As people, we grow up being taught that everyone is different. A factual statement, yes, and one of the most important ones you can teach a child. But we must be careful with this wisdom. After all, when everybody is different, how can anybody be equal? It is you versus them. It is one without another. There's no common ground.

Except there is. We are all the same in one single way: we are all human. All of us— the exact same species. Human beings worthy of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, as said by Thomas Jefferson.

As human beings with human souls, struggle is something that we are destined to face. Every single one of us, no matter how sheltered someone is. We go through different situations and different lives, and yet that one very concept remains universal: hardships. It is the one thing we can all relate to. Some may have only struggled a little, while others struggle a lot. Some may face internal troubles, while others face the external. Yet, the point remains the same.

We all bleed the same human blood. And we bleed a *lot*.

Martin Luther is correct in the sense that we have all experienced different things and “come on different ships,” and I would add onto this that we were always in the same sea. The sea of being a person. Simply because of the fact that we are all humans trying our best to survive in a chaotic world. And why add to that chaos? Why make the waves rock the ship even harder?

The world we live in is incredibly divided. Not just on borders, but on ideas and personalities. It’s okay to be different. It’s completely natural to not understand others’ perspectives at first glance. After all, you are not that person. The trouble arises when you don’t attempt to listen and respect.

You and this other person came from completely different boats. You do not know what they truly experienced on their boat, and they don’t know what you experienced on yours. Now that almost all of us are on the same boat of modern human experience, shaking the ship and splashing the waters with hatred and fear is going to get everyone deeper. Fights spread like wildfires, and this boat might as well be made out of wood.

Hatred fuels hatred. When you’re in a state of hatred, it spreads. When you’re in a state of anger, it spreads. And since not everyone agrees on everything, this hatred will be directed towards *you* and the people you *love*. The brain’s flaw of being too caught up in disagreements and hatred for anything different will be the downfall of the human race. When you’re sinking the boat, you’re taking everyone else down with you. Your loved ones included.

The ability to despise something or someone so carnally takes a massive amount of energy. Direct that energy towards something better. Recognize that you are speaking to other human beings with human souls and try to *learn*. Would you like it if someone burned your side of the boat, only to claim it was in their best interest?

If we can recognize we are all in this boat together and need everyone on board to keep the ship afloat, we can cooperate better. Our energy can go towards keeping our ship from sinking if we can find a way to work together and not battle over our ideas.

Learn the idea of loving every single person you see, and the odds that we stay above the ocean on a strong ship increases greatly.