

The Solution to Bigotry

By
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Introduction

The Herbert and Valmae Freilich Project for the Study of Bigotry supports research into the causes, the histories and the effects of ethnic, cultural, religious and sexual bigotry and animosity. It also promotes public discussion of how such intolerance can be combatted - and co-existence promoted - through educational and social programs. Known as the Freilich Foundation from its establishment in July 1999 until December 2018, the Project celebrates its twentieth year of continuous operations in 2019. The commemorative publication *20 Years of Freilich* has been produced to mark this occasion.

<https://freilich.anu.edu.au/>

18 million dollars of funding by Herbert and Valmae Freilich has been invested into this project as run through the Australian National University. Herbert Freilich also received an Order of Australia medal for setting up this project. Herbert was a medical doctor (specializing in radiology) and no expertise in the knowledge of bigotry. Valmae Freilich has no tertiary level education and is currently a board member of the foundation. The underlying question is, 20 years later has it made any difference to resolving bigotry?

Bhagavad Gita

The Bhagavad Gita is a conversation between Arjuna, a supernaturally gifted warrior about to go into battle, and Krishna – the Supreme Personality of Godhead, his charioteer. In the course of giving Arjuna all manner of spiritual and material advice, Krishna explains karma, the self, the Supreme Self, the purpose of yoga, the difference between our self and our material body, how our environment affects our consciousness, and how to attain the perfection of life. The Gita appears as a central chapter in the Mahabharata, the history of greater India. It is the essence of Vedic knowledge and one of the most important books of Vedic literature. Lord Krishna spoke the Bhagavad Gita to Arjuna about 5000 years ago and through disciplic succession the Bhagavad Gita As It Is gives commentary on the verses by Lord Krishna by His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Pradhupada. Essentially the Bhagavad Gita As It Is is the highest authoritative text to explain the universe and the commentary is “almost” 100% accurate.

What defines a human

From the Bhagavad Gita As It Is our bodies are composed of both material and spiritual. The material body contains the gross body (earth, water, fire, air and space) and the subtle body (mind, intelligence and false ego). But above all these elements there is the spiritual soul. There’s no life in the material elements, life is the spiritual soul which is eternal, full of knowledge and bliss. The soul contains two parts the individual soul and the Supersoul (a

plenary expansion of God). The soul is one ten thousandth the size of the tip of a hair and is located in the heart, and cannot be measured under laboratory conditions. The material body is currently dead. The only thing keeping it alive is the soul or consciousness (energy emitted by the soul). At the end of this life we reincarnate into another body depending on our karma. Ideally you want to achieve a spiritual body and escape the re-birth and death process and hence travel the entire universe with Krishna in total bliss – that is our purpose in life. Three quarters of the universe is spiritual. There are 8.4 million species of life including 400,000 species of humans (based on our level of consciousness). Every form of life contains an individual soul and a Supersoul.

Solution

Based on the above, we are not defined by whether we are Asian, Aboriginal, Jewish or this or that, but rather by our level of consciousness, and any human can increase their level of consciousness by advancing spiritually (in particular reading and understanding the Bhagavad Gita As It Is). Therefore, the best and optimally the best solution to resolving bigotry is to introduce knowledge from the Bhagavad Gita As It Is (also known as yogic philosophy) into primary and secondary school education globally, by allowing school teachers to teach this knowledge to students.