

Recently there is a lot of talk about racism and police brutality. As usual the public opinion is split. Some are quick to pass the judgement on the entire police force; as if they operate like the 'Borg Collective' and operate under a hive mindset. Whereas the others seem to dismiss the issue entirely and describe the issue as an isolated incident; an 'outlier/anomaly'. No wonder – the issue of racism/prejudice/discrimination rages on in the so-called enlightened societies of the modern day.

In my opinion – this is so – because everyone is talking 'at each other' and does not have the courage to talk 'with each other'. Why is it so? Very simply 'building is harder than destroying'. It is very easy to pass a judgement from the sideline or be a spectator and a Monday-night Quarter Back. Whereas to take on the issue head-on and do something about it may take courage, effort, patience and resilience.

The irony is that the solution is rather simple and straightforward. Whereas the solution may be simple – certainly the implementation is not.

The solution lies in exercising 'Absolute Justice'. Such justice would demand that first and foremost we (as a society) recognize that the issue exists. Secondly, we stop giving excuses and somehow try to justify the actions on either side. This simply means to call-out the injustice within the police force and for that matter in every public institution. This also means that the public does not resort to violent means and cause civil disturbance.

As Americans and conscientious citizens of the world, it is not only our right – but our duty to point out injustice and actively work to rid our societies of this plague. The question is not 'if', but 'how'. Chaos and anarchy can only lead to self-destruction. Such an environment provides the opportunity for the 'radicals' to 'hijack the issue'. Case in point: today there is more talk about riots, looting, destruction of public and private property; whereas the actual dialogue of racism and injustice seems to fade away into the abyss.

It is a shame that all the good and heroic work by so many of our police men and women seldom gets any attention; whereas every ruthless and cowardly action by a man/woman in uniform somehow is portrayed as-if the entire force is systematically going after a certain population of our society. Never mind that the same police force employs many people of color, and in many communities is headed by a non-white officer.

The police are not 'aliens' from another planet. They are regular people; they are our neighbors and have the same everyday concerns and challenges. They have a duty to 'serve and protect'. This sensitive, yet important bond is dependent upon a sacred trust that must be respected by the people in uniform and the civilian population. It is necessary that our police must not abuse its authority; and we the civilians – respect their authority.

Being a brown-skin male, a Muslim with a stereotypical beard – I could be refused boarding a plane, pulled aside for 'random search'; or at minimum get the occasional stare in a mall. Worst, someone calls the police, because they 'suspected' something. Whereas the reality is that such people are a victim of their own prejudice. However, in such case, I have a choice to comply with the authorities (who are only reacting to the information that they would have received); or raise a havoc. I am certain – the latter will not play out very nicely for me. In such situation – I must trust the law enforcement and rely on the 'justice system'.

I have lived in Oshkosh, WI for more than 30 years. Over the years, I had the opportunity to meet many policemen and women. I found them to be sincere, compassionate, helpful and always willing to assist. I am proud of our police and want my kids to grow knowing that they can trust them. The alternative may be futile. I am sure we all will agree – the police play a key role in ensuring safety and security of our communities; so that we can let our kids and loved ones roam around safely and securely. Let's make an effort to 'know our police, before we need them'.

It is true – the 'system' is flawed. But know this: we are the system. There is a lot to be desired, but we have also come a long way. The key is to make consistent and sustainable advancements. Whereas we all hope for a quick-fix and an overnight change – the reality is that only a slow-moving change will result into a lasting change.

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