



Human Being on Board

I've come to realize that one of the reasons I love to travel internationally is because everywhere I've gone, people are much nicer than in the United States! Kind of sad, yes. Sure there are exceptions to everything, and yes, there are a TON of very nice, genuine people in the U.S. too, but so far, everywhere I've visited outside the country, in general, have just been so much more respectful! I have found exceptions in small pockets in the U.S. too, and that's where I tend to vacation. Higher standards do exist out there, where strangers actually look you in the eyes and greet you, and take the time to ask if you need anything. Many have become real friends.

Some say, "It's because they know you're a tourist." That's not true, a lot of the time. I tend to stay in less-touristy areas, and sometimes for a couple of weeks at a time. No matter where I've been, many just assume I'm a local. It's probably my laid-back, content look. I mean, they ask questions about local things and they speak to me in their language and are surprised when I'm clueless. When I visited the national parks in Canada, more than ever, people from all over the world would start talking to me and I had no idea what language they were even speaking! I seemed to be the one in line at the outhouses that looked like I could help? Hand gestures and a friendly smile goes a long way, whether you're talking the same language or not!

Kind of wish I had studied some foreign languages now, but I get by. A recent trip to Mexico surprised me, too. Very few knew English where I was, but they were very patient with my killing a few simple words in Spanish as I needed things. When we did find someone that spoke English, we learned of all the turmoil of a very corrupt government, with nearly all tourist money going outside the country. Still, suppressed as they were, some honestly not making enough to have food that night, they were still very kind and respectful (most of these people had no money and nothing to gain from us—we were just talking with them). They didn't want sympathy; they seemed very accepting of it as everyday life. Obviously, it's been that way a long time! They knew where we were from, yet there was no hard feelings or animosity at any point. Talk about someone deserving of it . . . money-fat Americans keeping their desperate loved ones from coming into our country, even though their lives depended on it. (Just one example: Several women and children were burned alive when gasoline they were trying to steal from the pipeline ignited, just while we were there! No one wanted sympathy; they just explained it's their job to steal the gas for the black-market money. Can you imagine not having access to food, gas, or medical help as a normal part of life? Especially for your children?)

The longer I'm away, the more I feel the lower standards we tend to have here. I get so used to the kind people, that when I return home and see all the drama and negativity on horrible display, I'm just so embarrassed for the drama queens. I tend to forget how sickening it is and feel blindsided and dumbfounded. It's always a confirmation that I just don't want to be in that circle anymore, and I don't miss it at all. I can't find any more excuses for their behavior. There is nothing, nothing to justify disrespectful behavior, any time!

My point is, Human Beings should behave as Human Beings, shouldn't they? I recently saw one of those yield sign car signs that read, "Baby on Board," and pondered why people advertise that there's a baby in the car? Is it a plea for people to drive a little safer around that car? Obviously, with all the road rage, we have all forgotten that every single car has at least one "Human Being on Board!" Then again, anywhere we go, we seem to forget that every BODY has a Human Being on Board! Don't you think so? I mean, if we remembered

for one second that there's an actual person, a soul that you impact, at the other end of your words or actions, wouldn't we act a little nicer?

So, the #1 cause of people not acting like humans is that obviously, they have forgotten. They have forgotten everything. Some blame it on something that happened to them, but once again, they have forgotten that bad things have happened to everybody! In some of my talks, I ask people to raise their hand if they have NEVER had anything so horrible happen to them that they didn't think they could get through it. I have yet to have one single person raise their hand and say they've never had a huge trauma in their life. What more proof do we need to realize we are not the only one, and our pain does not entitle us to be a SH**!

Still, the "poor me" attitude in people rages on, each person thinking they somehow have it worse than everybody else. Some think it justifies the harm they do to others. If that was the case, we wouldn't need jails now, would we? Anyway, the biggest thing they have forgotten is how to like themselves. Self-respect is impossible for someone that doesn't like themselves, and we can only give others what we have first, for ourselves. So a person that does not have self-respect means that person cannot truly respect anyone else. No self-love means a person cannot truly and genuinely love anyone else. The same applies to what a person is capable of doing to another in a hurtful way. If a person is willing to harm themselves (even in subtle ways, like not taking care of themselves), they can and usually do inflict harm on others. They have forgotten they have a soul. Yet, there is a Human Being on board and so it is always affecting the world, in a good, bad, or even ugly way. They DO matter on a universal level. They are inflicting love or harm—it's one or the other.

What do we do with all these people (maybe the majority, sometimes)? For one, be honest with yourself about their behavior and whether it is self-respecting of you to hang out with them. Don't be too timid to casually question the lies or excuses they feed you, realizing it could bring harm to others, let alone the harm it does to the liar as we enable them. When I don't have the choice and have to be in negative environments, I set my intention on thanking God for only "being visible" to mutually-beneficial, positive interactions. It works, I tell you, and it works every time. Just trust and observe and ask that everyone see the truth clearly, including the offender. It's not our job to correct or judge anything, just to do our best, and remember we have a soul that we are responsible for, too! One of the hardest things for me to remember is to not take it personally; I know logically and in my heart, it's that person's inability to love (or even like) themselves. It's really not about me at all. I'm just the scapegoat of the moment for them. Again, self-respect demands that you not suffer because of their issues; keep yourself out of their harm's way and use loving, respectful ways to keep them in check and clarify things when needed! The truth will come out.

As we interact with any person, remember, there is a Human Being on board, even if they have forgotten what they are. It's not our job to fix them, but be sure to help in a harmless way, should they ask. Be kind enough driving the car, making eye contact, using the phone or social media, etc. to prove that you remember there are actual humans with souls inside all those bodies walking around! If we remembered that one thing, what a different, happy world we would have! A little appreciation for what's in front of your face, right in your hands, or embedded in your character from your experiences goes a long way! Every single one of us makes a difference, so make your impact GOOD, so you don't ever feel like you've wasted your life. Keep your self-respect and self-love intact so you DO make a wonderful difference, every day! ~Mary Anne