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Law Day Essay

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Equality for All

It seems that mankind is at its worse doesn't it? There is war in the Middle East and in the Congo, war brewing in North Korea, and the constant threat of nuclear war hanging over our heads. Every time you turn on the news you see something bad that has happened. None of it looks too good for mankind. Yet truth is we're at our greatest now. You see stories daily of horrors in one land or another because we're all connected at the speed of electricity and light. We see a war in the Congo that claims less lives per year than one day of Europe's 7 Years' War. We see stories of rape because rape is no longer a property crime; in fact women in most of the world are no longer property. We are getting better and because of this it has caused us to cast our gazes critically upon the bad that remains. Are we at the end though; can we honestly say we have reached true equality, even just in this country?

Marriage is defined as the union between two consenting adults. Nowhere in the definition does it say "man and woman," yet two men or two women still cannot marry in most states. While this will change in the future and may indeed change very soon, but the fact remains we are denying marriage to thousands of people right here in the land of the free. This is one of the things that strike me as plain inhuman. The prisoners in the Nazi concentration camps, arguably one of the worse civil rights offenses in history, weren't even denied the right to marry

so long as it wasn't with an Aryan. Yet we deny it here in the land of the free. Ignoring the 1st and 14th amendments which together should illuminate any arguments against marriage equality, the problem goes deeper. Homosexuals are being denied one of the three inalienable rights, the pursuit of happiness. That sure doesn't seem like equality to me.

A quarter of mankind's population is of the Islamic religion; one and three quarters billion people, more than the population of China. Yet here in the USA being Islam immediately makes you a terrorist in the eyes of the people. The US writes off almost two billion people as a hate group and murderous. All of this because of the acts of terror committed by a single group representing less than 0.01% of the Islamic peoples; that would be like righting off all Christians as medieval-minded murders because of the actions of the Spanish priests and Knight-Templars in the crusades. The thinking is simply put bigoted and medieval. This country was first settled because people wanted religious freedom, yet here we are two-hundred and fifty years later heavily discriminating against the second biggest religion in the world and in honesty, most religions that aren't Christian and some that are. Religious equality seems like it would be easier than sex equality yet I feel we've made far more progress in the latter in just the past hundred years than we have the first in civilization's history. Even lack of religion is discriminated against. In some states Atheists are banned from holding public office. That definitely isn't equality.

Sex and race equality seem to have actually made quite a bit of headway in the past hundred years. While we have not reached full equality, for the day we judge no human by their appearance will only come the day all mankind becomes blind, we as Americans and as humans in general have reached a point we should all be proud of. We have a black president, a high number of women senators and congresswomen, and a third of our Supreme Court justices are

women. I feel that if Martin Luther King Jr. or Alice Stone Blackwell were to be here they would both be pleased with the progress we have made.

The US and humanity as a whole are far from perfect, but despite some of our more obvious transgressions such as our lack of marriage or religious equality we are bettering ourselves every day. If humans are to stay the way we are now we will never have true equality, but no one is to say how the future might play out. The thing about fiction is it has to be believable, reality holds no such constraints. Some day we may have perfect equality and no man or woman shall be judged by their sex, skin, orientation, or beliefs, but that day is not now. We have made great leaps and bounds in every field though and with the acceleration of culture, education, and science, it may even be within our lifetimes that we can proclaim "all life is equal!"