

## **RELIGIOUS RACISM**

"Religism" is religious racism. Some want a future society that only includes their skin color. Likewise, some dream of a day with only their religion. While some think their bloodline is the most pure, others believe their religion is the most true.

Religions are like different football teams in a league. There are several teams, but they play the same sport. Some teams are older, and some are newer, but they all have similar goals. Periodically new ones are added. New teams fill needs in the sports community, build stadiums, and hire exciting new coaches.

These new teams exhibit new strategies, but the older teams watch and learn too. But regardless of new or old, all teams watch one another, rid themselves of old ineffective plays, and develop new ones.

Likewise, new religions fill needs in society. A new religious Prophet reveals new teachings not just to followers, but to all of humanity. No football team is the same after the addition of a new team, and no religion remains unaffected after the birth of a new religion. After the dawn of every new religion, all prior ones were transformed by the newer teachings. Judaism today is not the same as it was before Christ, Muhammad, or Baha'u'llah.

Just as several football teams make up one sport, various 'religions' in essence make up one single 'Religion'. If there is only one omnipotent God, it seems reasonable that there's also one, progressive 'Religion'. Just as there is only one human race regardless of color, there's only one Religion regardless of prayer. It essentially doesn't matter what team you like most or which religion you best identify with (or not). What really matters is how well you play the game of kindness.

To assume you're a member of the most authentic religion is like thinking only your team plays real football! Keep your eye on the spiritual ball, and not on the shiny new uniforms. We're all in the same game but got drafted to different religions for reasons we don't have full control over, even subconsciously.

If you're religiously inclined, investigate all major religions from the oldest to the youngest – from Hinduism to Baha'i – and choose one you feel most benefits yourself and others. I chose Baha'i as a good fit. Most of my family members were born into or chose other religions, or none at all. But as a family we find that our diverse choices help unite us.

Whatever path you follow, be grateful your religion is essentially part of one single Religious Reality, and its teachings benefit people of all faiths, and those that don't adhere to any. Sometimes those furthest from a bright light see the best, while those closest are blinded the most.

*Please see References*