

'Black Lives Matter' is not opposing 'All lives Matter'.

The aim of this text is to appeal to those who are feeling inconvenienced by the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement. This is an effort to show that we understand all sides to the story. Yet, we ask for empathy and patience in the matter.

Naturally, all lives matter. But, the system of slavery and other factors recreated a world in which 'All Lives Matter' (ALM) except those of Black people. This system was designed to devalue the Black group. Also, to keep them in a disadvantaged position (economically and psychologically).

There are several examples we could use to explain the importance of BLM. And do so without diminishing the values of ALM. But to keep the text short, we will use only three scenarios.



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Patient scenario

When one is a patient, the Doctor does not say, "hey, get yourself together; you're not the only sick person here. All patients are sick. Thus, stop whining about your pain. You should behave yourself and accept that you're in pain and move on with your life. It's not my fault that you're sick. It's not anyone's fault. Blame the universe, god or ancestors. I'm not the one responsible for your illness." You're disturbing the peace of other patients. Your cries from your pain are not welcome here because other patients are trying to get some sleep."

Imagine how unethical that would sound coming from a doctor. Imagine the psychological effect it would have on the patient. Imagine how much sicker the patient would feel. In fact, the patient could give up on health and choose death instead.

Instead, the doctor usually focuses on the patient as an individual, and not part of a group of patients. The doctor then reassures the patient that they have all her attention. In fact, the Doctor will make it seem as if the patient is the only person that she is taking care of in the whole hospital. Hence, a patient will usually refer to the Doctor and say, "MY doctor this, MY doctor that...". This is because the doctor has created a safe place of healing for the patient. She does this by focusing on the patient and without reminding the patient of others.

We urge the world to be kind to the BLM. We ask for it to focus on the group's healing. And to do so without reminding us that there are other patients in the same hospital. We want the world to be attentive to us, reassure us and make us have a trusting feeling. We wish to say "OUR lives matter" without feeling any guilt. We want our Doctor to come into the room and tell us that she is all ears. She must tell us that she's here to listen to us, to care for us, to give us advice, and to bring us back to health. We want the Doctor to ask us, "How do you feel today?", "How does that make you feel?". She must not blame us for falling sick from a chronic and deadly disease.

Since the doctor is trained to handle many patients in a day, once done with BLM, she will move on to help the next patient. So, one by one all patients will be healed and sent back home in good health. In the end, the whole community will receive some healing.

Restaurant scenario

The waiter at the restaurant is the busiest worker there. And yet, he will tell each single client that, "I'm YOUR waiter today; if you need anything, let me know." The waiter does not approach the client and say, "I'm your waiter today, but I also attend to table number 5, 3, 8 and 11. So, be resourceful and make your orders fast. And if I don't attend to you quicker, you already know you're not the only client. So, keep your complaints to yourself."

Imagine, if he were to address a client like that. How would the client feel? Yes, the client would be annoyed, and they would feel undervalued. Some clients would leave but, in this case, both the restaurant and the client lose. The client loses enjoying their favourite meal and the restaurant loses money. All due to an impersonal approach in dealing with the client's needs.

The waiter's job is to make the client feel like that they're the only client in the restaurant. He ought to assure them that their needs are urgent. That their complaints are valid. And that, in fact, they are right as a customer.

In this context, the voices and complaints of the group are important and urgent. BLM is raising an issue that the waiter could resolve. Or if it's bigger than him, he could refer it to the chef or the manager. BLM is saying that the food is burnt, and we cannot enjoy the meal in this condition. The water is not fresh. We're saying that we're overcharged and need a refund.

Other clients could either join and support BLM in raising the complaints or remain silent and wait for the manager to resolve the issue. Other clients shouldn't come up and compare their complaints to those of BLM. It's not a competition. Everyone has a right and time to be heard; and right now, BLM is leading the queue. We ask for empathy and patience at this time.



Parent scenario

For this last scenario, we should personalise it to afford everyone a chance to be in the situation. A good parent who has two or more children will relate perfectly. When one of your children is complaining about their suffering, you don't turn them away. You don't say, "my other children are also going through some difficulties. You're not special. You must toughen up and just go on with your way and pretend that everything is fine." You don't say, "your siblings matter too. Their problems matter too. So, shut up and accept things as they are."

If you were to be insensitive to your child's suffering, it would make them feel rejected. They would feel unimportant, devalued and unappreciated. They would think that their pain didn't matter to you. Your rejection would probably create anger and disappointment. Your cold approach would lead to self-destruction or the distraction of others who encounter your child. That's not what you would like, is it?

As a solution, you could take some time off from your schedule and give attention to your child. Or reassure them that you're there to listen to them or help them. You could focus on this child without bringing up the issues of their siblings. You could stop guilt tripping your hurting child into being silent about their pain. You could choose to dedicate your time into healing the troubled child. In return, your home would be at peace.

BLM is that child who needs your attention right now. BLM has been calling for your attention for years now. BLM has been telling you that they're not feeling alright, that they're not well and that they need your help. Are you going to help?

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