

“The Family of Humanity”
By Jack Bloomfield

Characters

Announcer

Wink Spartandale

Bob Fishhead

Patty Bates

Michelle Grandwood

Peter Kelser

Synopsis

Four game show contestants are out to win the grand prize of \$1,000,000 if they can stay away from the one wrong answer to each question. One of the contestants keeps coming up with the one wrong answer and can't figure out why. He comes to realize that if he is going to win on the show and more importantly in life, he is going to have to begin looking for some new answers.

MESSAGE FOCUS: *In a comedy tone, this short play emphasizes the importance of seeing individuals for who they are and not what racial, political, religious or social group they happen to be affiliated with.*

Opening Scene:

Scene opens with the set of a television game show. There are four contestants who are introduced one at a time by the announcer. Each is wearing a large name tag with their first name showing. Contestants are standing at different podiums angled toward the audience at stage right. The host is at a separate podium angled toward the audience at stage left. (Will need a stage hand to hold up applause sign when noted.)

Announcer:

(with great enthusiasm) “Ladies and Gentleman, welcome to the #1 game show on television today, “THE FAMILY OF HUMANITY” On our show today we have four eager contestants who all hope to win a piece of our grand prize of ONNNE MIILLLLION DOOLLLLARS” (contestants show excitement) Sooooo... let’s get ready to play “THE FAMILY OF HUMANITY” And now, here is the star of our show....

(stretched out) Wiiiiiiiiinnkkkk Spartandale.”

(music plays as Wink enters the set to a podium where he will direct the show from. **APPLAUSE** from the audience. Hold up APPLAUSE sign.)

Wink:

“Thank-you. Thank-you very much. You’re so kind. My name is Wink Spartandale and I am your host. I want to start by welcoming our four new contestants. You all look eager and ready to go.

Our first contestant hails from Denver, Colorado, is single, has no friends and in reality has no life. We found one person who knew him and told us that he’s pretty much a loser. Help me say hello to Bob Fishhead.

Bob:

“Thanks Wink. I’m ready to play.”

Wink:

“Well, Bob, what’s up with the fact that you have no relationship, no friends and no life? I’ve never had a contestant with that kind of intro.”

Bob:

“I’m not sure Wink. I don’t spend a whole lot of time thinking about it.”

Wink:

“O.K. Let’s welcome our next contestant. She comes to us from Hartford, Connecticut, is married and is an assistant manager in a large bank in Hartford. Please help me welcome Miss Patty Bates.” Welcome Patty. (APPLAUSE)

Patty:

“Thank you Wink. It’s great to be on the show.”

Wink:

“Our third contestant comes to us from Wichita, Kansas, is the mother of four and loves to do volunteer work in her community. Let’s welcome Michelle Grandwood.” (APPLAUSE)

Michelle:

“Thank you Wink. It’s a pleasure to be here. I play “THE FAMILY OF HUMANITY” all the time at home when I watch the show.”

Wink:

“Great to have you Michelle. Please help me welcome our final contestant. He hails from San Francisco, California, is a part time actor and stays busy with his hobbies of photography and racquetball. Help me welcome Peter Kelser.” (APPLAUSE)

Peter:

“Thank you Wink. It has been a dream of mine to be on “THE FAMILY OF HUMANITY” and I can’t really believe I’m here. This is exciting.”

Wink:

“It’s great to have all of you. Let’s review the rules of the game. As you know our show is quite different from other game shows. Instead of there being only one correct answer to our questions, on “THE FAMILY OF HUMANITY” there is only one wrong answer. This means that you have the opportunity to win big cash prizes if you can just avoid giving the one wrong answer. Each question is worth 10 points and our bonus question is worth 30 points. As you already know, we are playing today’s game for (stretched out) ONE MIILLLLION DOLLLLARS! In case of a tie, the pot will be split amongst the winners.

SO, ARE YOU READY TO PLAY “THE FAMILY OF HUMANITY?”

All Contestants:

(Collectively) “Let’s play... We’re ready...”

(Each contestant will answer each question. They will write their answers on a card with a marker and hold up their answers so Wink and the studio audience can see their answers)

Wink:

“OK let’s begin with question #1. Remember your answers much match exactly.

Q. Name a group of people who have different skin color from you. We’ll start with Patty.”

Patty:

“African-Americans”

Wink:

“Peter, your answer please?”

Peter:

“I’ll have to go with Native American Indians”

Wink:

“Michelle?”

Michelle:

“I’ll say Hispanics”

Wink:

“How about you Bob?”

Bob:

“Well Wink, I’ll say “Those People”

Wink:

“The one wrong answer is, “Those People.” Sorry Bob. Let’s give 10 points each to Peter, Michelle and Patty. (APPLAUSE)

Next question contestants.

Q. What do you call the group that makes up 6% of the world’s population and is often ridiculed and made fun of?

Let’s start with you this round Peter.”

Peter:

“Homosexuals”

Wink:

“Michelle?”

Michelle:
“I’ll go with Gays Wink”

Wink:
“What about you Bob?”

Bob:
“I think I’ll go once again with “Those People.”

Wink:
“Patty. Your answer is?”

Patty:
“Wink, I’ll go with Lesbians”

Wink:
“The wrong answer is once again, “Those People.” Bob is losing ground with 2 out of 2 wrong answers. Let’s give our other contestants 10 more points each. (APPLAUSE)
Once again, the wrong answer is the one where some believe that people who are different than themselves can best be described as “Those People” This way we can separate ourselves from groups we don’t feel comfortable with.
We have one more question worth 10 points and then it is on to our bonus question. Here we go. Listen carefully because your answers can’t be the wrong answer.

Q. “What would you call a group of people or an individual who practices a different religion than you do?” We’ll start with you Michelle.”

Michelle:
“I know I’ve got this one right. I’ll go with “Muslims”

Wink:
“Bob? You could get back in it right here with the correct answer.”

Bob:
“I’ve got to go with the only answer I know Wink. I’m going with “Those People”

Wink:
“So far that answer hasn’t been working for you. Maybe it will this time. How about you Patty?”

Patty:

“I’ll go with Christians”

Wink:

“This is it Peter. What is your answer?”

Peter:

“I’m going to say Jews”

Wink:

“Hold your breath everybody. The wrong answer is.... “THOOOOSE PEOPLE”
You all answered correctly, except Bob. (APPLAUSE)
Everyone but Bob has a total of 50 points and sadly, Bob has no points.
Bob, you still have a chance though if you don’t answer our 50 point bonus question with the wrong answer.”

It’s time now to move on to our big bonus question, which is worth 50 points and will decide our winner or winners. ARE YOU READY?

Name a group of people who we often look at as very different than ourselves, but in reality are just fellow human beings that are sharing the planet with us. It is a multiple choice question and you can only choose one. Pick one of the following. Remember, all you have to do is avoid the wrong answer.

Is the Group?

- A. South Americans
- B. Middle Easterners
- C. Asians
- D. Those People
- E. Canadians

I’ll repeat the question one more time and then I’ll need your final answer for the opportunity to take home “ONE MILLLLLLLLLLLION DOLLARS!”

(REPEAT QUESTION and multiple choice answers)

(Music begins to play and the ticking of a clock can be heard as the contestant’s show their anxiety with trying to avoid the wrong answer. 20 seconds goes by.)

Wink:

“Contestants, here we go. What do say Peter?”

Peter:

(in the form of a question) B. “Middle Easterners?”

Wink:
Patty. What’s you’re final answer?”

Patty:
I’ll go with C. Asians.”

Wink:
Michelle? What do you say?”

Michelle:
“This is a no brainer Wink. I’m going with E. Canadians.

Bob:
“I’ve got to go with my gut feeling on this one, Wink (holds up his card with the answer) I’m going to say,
D. “Those People”

Wink:
“Is this your final answer?”

Bob:
“That’s my final answer”

Wink:
(slowly pulls out an envelope with the answer on the card inside.)
The wrong answer is..... D. THOOOOOOSE PEOPLE. (everyone but Bob goes wild with excitement) **(APPLAUSE...)**

(After the excitement calms down.)

We have a three way tie for first place with 80 points each between Michelle, Patty and Peter. Congratulations to the winners who will each take home \$333,000.00 and 33 cents.

(Wink looks over to Bob) Bob, you are the first contestant in the history of our show to get shut out. Can you explain that?”

Bob:
Wink, I pretty much go with the same answer to every question. I was just going with my beliefs that I was raised with. I was taught since I was a little boy that anyone who did not share my race, religion, political beliefs, nationality, sexual orientation or financial status was to be avoided. My dad would always refer to people who were different from us as “Those People” so that’s the answer I went with.

Wink:

Sadly Bob, not only did you lose the game today, more importantly with your attitude and beliefs, you're losing in the game of life as well. You see, by keeping the attitude that anyone that is different than you can all be lumped into one group and referred to as “Those People,” you've eliminated the opportunity to get to know many different human beings that are a lot of times, awesome people! Your attitude automatically eliminates you from ever getting to know anyone that is different than you. By just sticking with what you would call (holds up two fingers of each hand implying quotation marks) “YOUR KIND,” your life will have little meaning and purpose.”

Bob:

“I always figured that I'm better off keeping to myself. It's safer that way. I've really never looked at it in this way. Is it possible that I could have a more meaningful and fulfilling life if I change the way I look at others?”

Wink:

“I've got a suggestion for you my friend. From now on, instead of looking at a person's race, religion, sexual orientation, financial status or political affiliation, try to see their heart and get to know their character instead. See what kind of person they are as an individual and not as someone who belongs to a group that you don't relate to. You can then drop your references of “Those People” and begin to see each person you meet as an individual.

This will be the day that a whole new world will open for you.

With this way of looking at it my friend, a whole new world awaits you.

Fade to Black.....

THE END.

Dialogue and Questions:

What groups have you heard of that are referred to as “those people”?

Why do we often believe that a certain group of people that we are not a part of or don't relate to are all one in the same?

Do you ever use the phrase “Those People”?

Why do people often stay away from entire groups of people?

Are people that are a certain religion, race or sexual identity always the same as individual people?

Isn't it likely that there are good people and bad people in all groups?

What would the world look like if there were no groups that often separate themselves from other groups and where people got to know each other as individuals?