



What happened to Mr. Floyd in Minneapolis is unconscionable. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of Mr. Floyd. The killing of yet another African American by a police officer is unacceptable.

As history has taught us, behavior rooted in discrimination leads to injustice and persecution in many forms as we are seeing with the killing of Mr. Floyd in Minneapolis or the grandfather from India Mr. Sureshbhai Patel in Alabama who was paralyzed by a police officer for no reason in 2015.

The notion that one group of people is superior to another due to skin color, education, economic status, religious beliefs, gender or sexual orientation is racism and has no place in civil society.

As it says in the Upanishad :

शृण्वंतु विश्वे अमृतस्य पुत्राः

*There is divinity in all beings*

All living beings are souls who are fragments of God and are therefore divine in nature. All are eternal souls and hence must be viewed with an equal eye.

Now is a time to remember what our leaders have said:

*No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite – Mandela*

*I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear – MLK*

As Americans we have a lot of work to do in educating ourselves about equality, racism, discrimination, persecution and human rights. In the days ahead we plan to bring together activists and leaders in the community to facilitate a discussion on ways forward to change this evil mindset which prevails in our societies.

Om Shanti, Om Shanti, Om Shanti