



No One is Better Off, by Carlos Castaneda

All human beings are at the same level. At the beginning of my apprenticeship with Don Juan Matus, he tried to make me see how common

man's situation is. I, as a South American, was very involved, intellectually, with the idea of social reform. One day I asked Don Juan what I thought was a deadly question: How can you remain unmoved

by the horrendous situation of your fellow men, the Yaqui Indians of Sonora? I knew that a certain percentage of the Yaqui population suffered from tuberculosis and that, due to their economic situation, they couldn't be cured. "Yes," Don Juan said, "It's a very sad thing but, you see, your situation is also very sad, and if you believe that you are in better condition than the Yaqui Indians you are mistaken. In general the human condition is in a horrifying state of chaos. No one is better off than another. We are all beings that are going to die and, unless we acknowledge this, there is no remedy for us." -- Carlos Castaneda, <http://www.castaneda.com>