

People That “That” People
by Kris Freeberg
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People that “that” people:
How can this be?
Objectification
Is troubling to me.

People are people.
Why treat them as things?
Why can't you see
All the trouble this brings?

We fought a war over this
Long time ago,
A war for humanity.
Outcome: to know

That people aren't things.
This shouldn't seem odd.
People are made
In the image of God,

Aflame with a spark
That's divine and God-given;
Sacred, and precious,
And destined for Heaven.

Why treat them like things?
What's wrong with you?
Can't you tell the difference
Between “that” and “who”?

“Who” is for people.
“That” is for things.
The lesson's so simple.
The truth of it rings.

Why don't you get it?
What's wrong with you?
Do you not know the difference
Between “whom” and “who”,

And use “that” as a work-around?
I suspect so.
Schools failed to teach it
A long time ago.

Subjects and objects . . .
“I” versus “me” . . .
“He” versus “him” . . .
“Her” versus “she”

The pattern's the same
With “whom” and with “who.”

I hope these few verses
Help untangle you . . .

. . . or will they? Perhaps
This is more involved:
Something a short
Grammar lesson won't solve.

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How do you feel  
Toward your fellow man  
Or woman? Do you view them  
As pawns in your plan?

Means to an end?  
Instruments, tools?  
Simps, chumps, and suckers?  
Contemptible fools?

Do you have drawn swords  
While your words drip like honey?  
"I hate you  
And I love your money."

No wonder you "that" them.  
Your words are a "tell."  
They indicate that  
You are a son of Hell

Who harbors contempt  
Toward his fellow man.  
To use and abuse  
Is your hidden plan.

A spiritual flaw  
Grammar lessons won't solve;  
A sin that requires  
Spiritual work to absolve.

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So go to your prayer closet.
Get on your knees.
Look deep within.
Recognize your disease.

I pray God illumine,
Show what you must do
To treat people like people.

Learn when to say "who."