



# GET CONNECTED

WEBINAR SERIES



## Approaching Religion & Donation with Cultural Humility

November 10, 2020 | 2-3pm ET

**Speakers:** Brian Carwana | Susan D. Cochran, MA

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- You will receive a certificate via email upon completion of a certificate request or an evaluation.
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# WEBINAR SPEAKERS



Moderator:

**Amanda Habermehl**

Manager of Hospital Development  
ConnectLife  
Williamsville, NY



**Brian Carwana**

Executive Director  
Encounter World Religions Centre



**Susan D. Cochran, MA**

Aftercare Specialist and Interfaith  
Outreach  
Gift of Hope



Approaching Religion  
and Donation  
With Cultural Humility

Presenters: Susan  
Cochran and Brian  
Carwana

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Assistance from Jennifer Aguilar, Gift of Hope



# Susan Cochran Gift of Hope







Dr. Brian Carwana (ReligionsGeek)

Religions Geek



Encounter World Religions Centre

## Brian Carwana (aka ReligionsGeek)



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# Brian Carwana (aka ReligionsGeek)

## 4 Day In-Person Programs

- Gift of Hope
- LiveOnNY
- NJ Sharing Network



## Objectives:

Express the value of **cultural competency** as it relates to religion becoming aware of the importance and complexity of **“Religious Literacy”**

Describe the value of **cultural humility** as it relates to interacting with donor families, recipients, hospital and OPO partners

Identify best practices

“**Culture**” is a term that goes beyond just ethnicity. It can also refer to such characteristics as age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, **religion**, income level, education, geographical location, or profession.



## What is Cultural Competence?

The knowledge and interpersonal skills that allow providers to understand, appreciate and work with individuals from cultures other than their own. It involves an **awareness** and acceptance of cultural differences; **self-awareness**; **knowledge** of a patient's culture; and **adaptation of skills**.

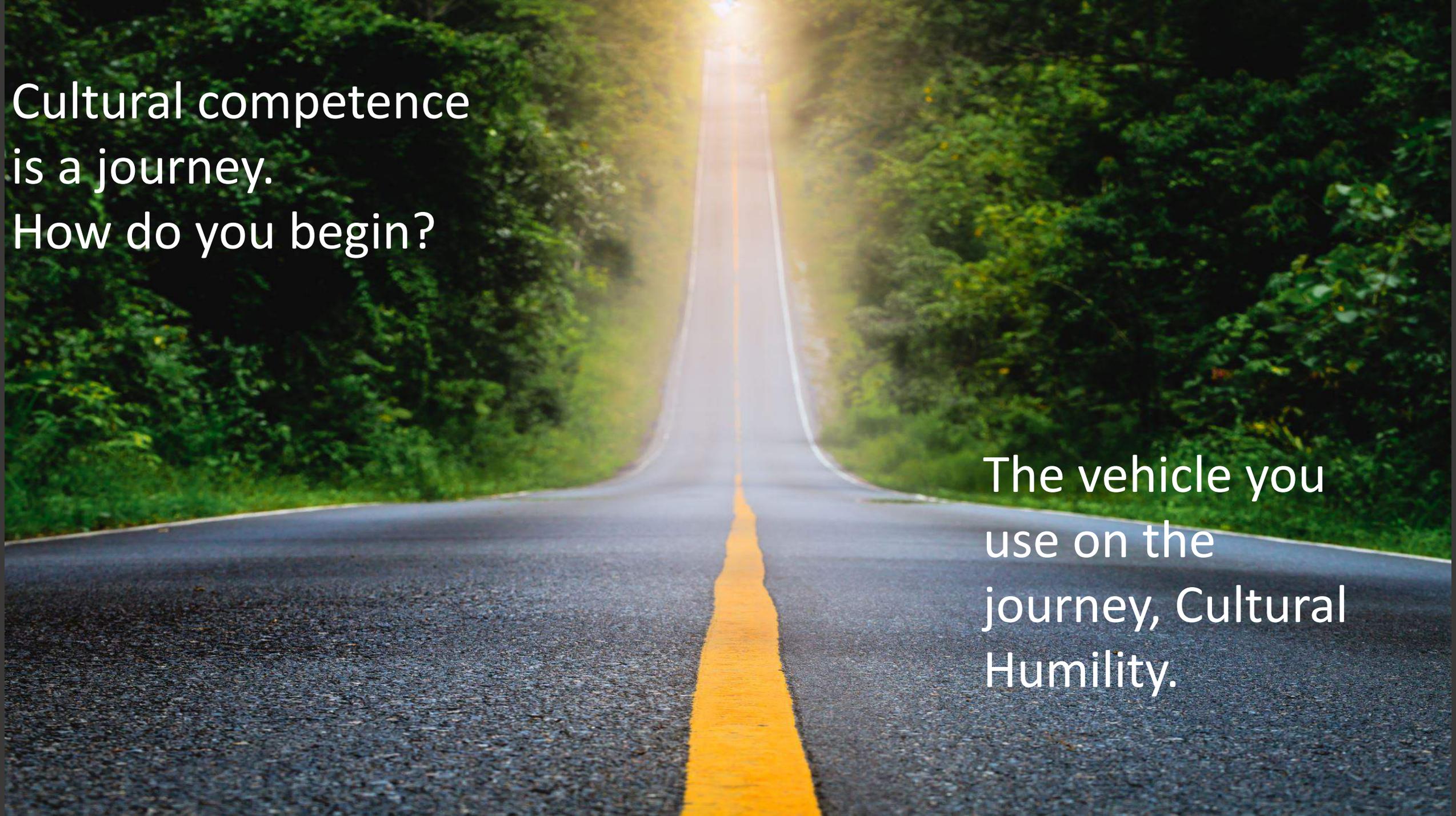
The American Medical Association



Why is it important to understand culture and religion regarding organ, tissue and research donation?

Helps us better support our  
diverse families.



A photograph of a paved road with a yellow center line, receding into a dense green forest. At the far end of the road, a bright, glowing light source creates a lens flare effect, illuminating the path ahead. The overall mood is one of hope and forward movement.

Cultural competence  
is a journey.  
How do you begin?

The vehicle you  
use on the  
journey, Cultural  
Humility.



Challenge  
Add  
Ask  
Remember

# Challenge

## Implicit Bias is...



Attitudes, Stereotypes, & Beliefs  
that can affect how we treat others.

Implicit bias is not intentional, but it can still impact how we judge others based on factors, such as:



Race



Ability



Gender



Culture



Language



“I’m not biased.”

-----Everyone

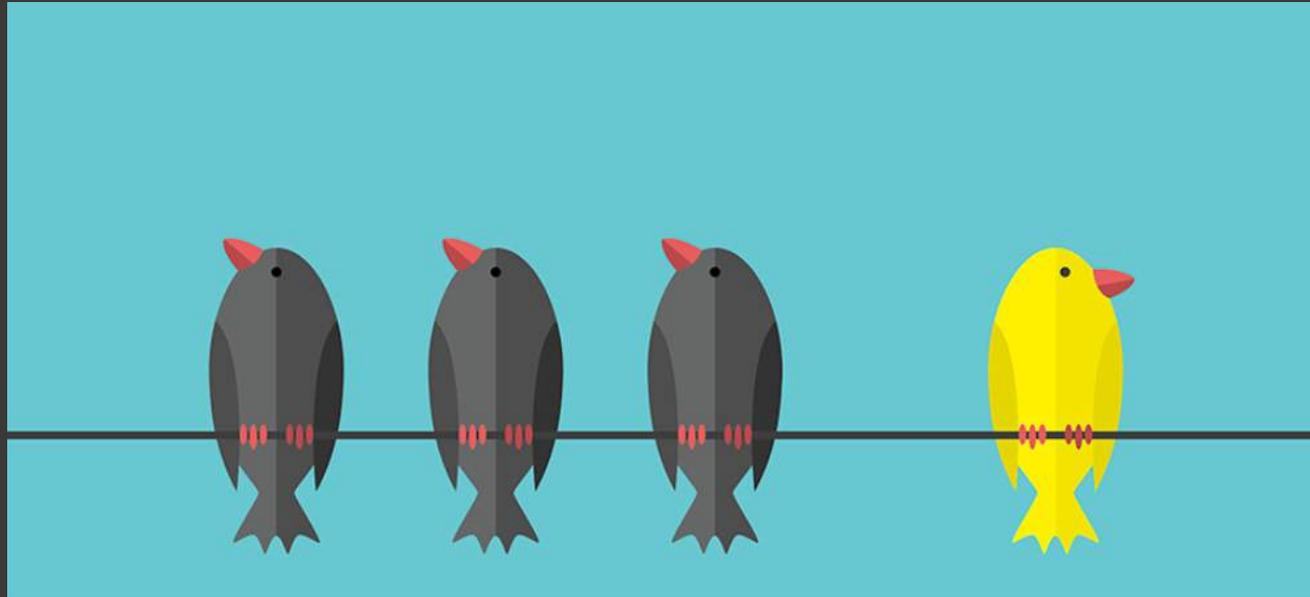


**IF PITBULLS ARE SUPPOSED  
TO BE MEAN AND DANGEROUS**



**WE MUST SUCK AT BEING PITBULLS**

# How does implicit bias show up



# Challenging Implicit Bias

How do I do that?

Acknowledging biases allows us to exercise **cultural humility**.



# ADD - Cultural Competency

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- Religious Literacy
  - **Is not:** promoting any religion or religion generally
  - **Is:** gaining basic knowledge to recognize religious identity and know enough not to feel ignorant, or fear the topic

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(as we shall see)



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- Will **not** give iron-clad ANSWERS  
(as we shall see)
- Facilitates richer conversations



# 4 Principles of Religious Literacy\*

\*Source: Harvard Religious Literacy Project

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# Case Study 1: Organ Donation in Islam



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A matter for individual jurists and imams



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*Internal diversity*



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- Fear of interfering with God's appointed time for death (for recipient)
- Sometimes: believe donor may be held responsible for recipient's actions



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# Case Study 1: Organ Donation in Islam

## Assets

- **Qur'an** says: to save a life is as if one has saved all of humanity
- Legal principle:
  - Extreme need overrides prohibitions
- Support of influential bodies:
  - Sunni** - Al Azhar university (Egypt)
  - Sunni** - Grand Ulema Council of Saudi Arabia
  - Shia** - Iranian Religious Authority
  - Assembly of Muslim Jurists of America



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  - Also holds for American immigrants

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## Who Accepts?

- Arab Muslims are more accepting than Indo/Pakistani Muslims
  - Also holds for American immigrants
- Acceptance in USA often hinges on theology
  - Key issue: is illness perceived as a suffering imposed by God

*Culturally embedded*

*Internally Diverse*

# Takeaway

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  - E.g. not mutilating a body; that God owns the body; they may fear the donor will be responsible for recipient's actions; they may see illness as God's punishment

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- The Qur'an compares **saving a life to saving the world**
- Key influential Muslim bodies both here and abroad support it
  - The basis to make the person feel seen and heard.*
  - The grounds for a deeper conversation.*

# Case Study 2: Organ Donation in Judaism



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Key Asset: Saving life

*“Whoever destroys a soul, it is considered as if he destroyed an entire world. And whoever saves a life, it is considered as if he saved an entire world.”*

Mishnah Sanhedrin 4:9; Babylonian Talmud Tractate, Sanhedrin 37a.



# Case Study 2: Organ Donation in Judaism

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Considered a *mitzvah* (commandment)



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*Saving a life should override these*

(May hamper donation for  
medical research or tissue)

# Case Study 2: Organ Donation in Judaism

Main Obstacle: Defining Death (i.e. whether to accept brain death)

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Breathing Death

Heart Death

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# Case Study 2: Organ Donation in Judaism

Main Obstacle: Defining Death (i.e. whether to accept brain death)

Breathing Death



Brain Death



Heart Death



Brain Death

(murder)



# Case Study 2: Organ Donation in Judaism

The image shows a screenshot of the HODS (Halachic Organ Donor Society) website. The browser address bar shows 'hods.org'. The page features a navigation menu on the left with links for 'ABOUT HODS', 'REGISTRATION', 'DONATE MONEY', 'HODS ACTIVITIES', 'HALACHA', and 'TRANSPLANTATION'. Below the navigation menu are social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube, and a BBB Accredited Charity logo. The main content area has a header with the text 'Make Your Last Mitzvah The Most Important One!'. Below this is a promotional banner for a 'VIRTUAL KAYAK RACE FROM NY TO TEL AVIV (5,700 miles)'. The banner includes a red button that says 'SUPPORT OUR WORK' and a blue button that says 'CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO'. The banner also features a map showing the route from New York to Tel Aviv and a photo of a man in a blue HODS t-shirt kayaking. Below the banner are four buttons: 'GET YOUR ORGAN DONOR CARD', 'VIDEOS', 'BROCHURES', and 'GIVE YOUR OWN LECTURE'. At the bottom of the page, the text 'HODS MISSION' is visible.

hods.org

Make Your Last Mitzvah The Most Important One!

**WIN A FREE ROUND-TRIP AIRLINE TICKET TO ISRAEL!!!**

**VIRTUAL KAYAK RACE**  
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**CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO**

**SUPPORT OUR WORK**

**HODS RABBIS**

**ON-LINE QUIZ**

**GIVE YOUR OWN LECTURE**

**GET YOUR ORGAN DONOR CARD**

**VIDEOS**

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**HODS MISSION**

**HODS**  
Halachic Organ Donor Society

Search  **Go**

Select Language

Powered by Google Translate

ABOUT HODS

REGISTRATION

DONATE MONEY

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**ACCREDITED CHARITY**

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**HODS MISSION**

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HODS RABBIS

ON-LINE QUIZ

GIVE  
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GET YOUR ORGAN  
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VIDEOS

BROCHURES

HODS MISSION

*Internally  
diverse*

# Takeaway

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However, we do know:

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- There are several religious objections...most overruled by **saving a life**

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- Denominations matter
  - Orthodox Jews more often opposed...but some Ortho. Jews **ADVOCATE** for donation

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  - Orthodox Jews more often opposed...but some Ortho. Jews **ADVOCATE** for donation

*Literacy provides the grounds for a more informed conversation.  
The person feels understood which builds trust & opens doors.*





Ask

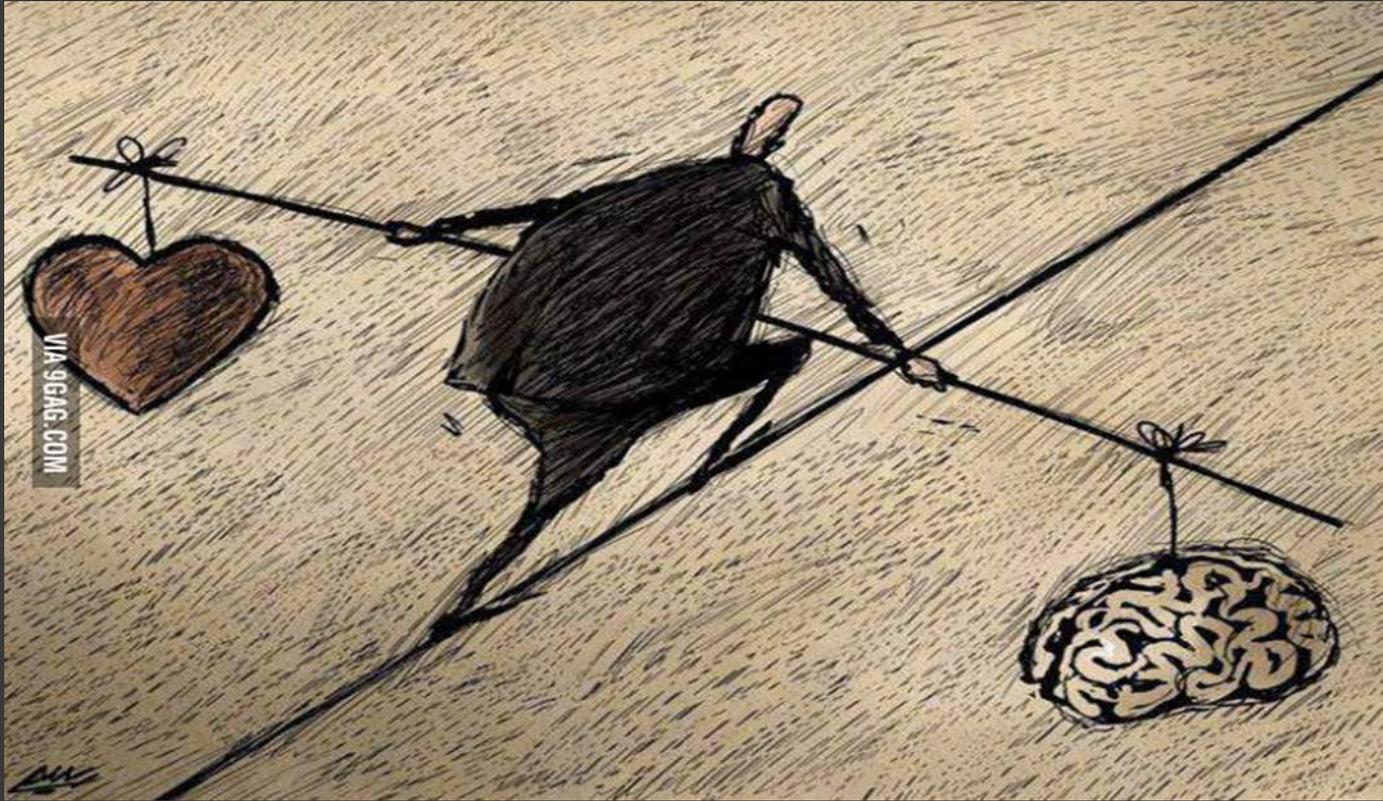
# Remember

The most powerful energy you have is **COMPASSION**



# Challenge assumptions





Add Knowledge

ASK



KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
ASK  
QUESTIONS

# Remember Compassion

