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The poem, ‘The Unknown Citizen’ written by W H Auden is one which begins with an ironic epigraphy. It talks about the anonymous qualities of the Western societies. The award the unknown citizen receives in the poem is similar to that of the unknown soldiers having their memorials as they served, fought and lived for their country. We see that the Bureau of Statistics knows a lot about this particular unknown citizen as he was faithful in his duties and work while serving the greater community. The psychological workers and investigators said that he was a normal citizen and didn’t have any issues – never got fired from his job at Fudge Motors and also satisfied the customers. He was a common man who paid his dues, paid his taxes and the like. The irony that we see in the poem is that the Bureau focused on the qualities of the person which were similar to any other common man rather on the uniqueness and the specifics with his attributes. This is where the title is justified. The person might show on the outside that he is happy and joyful but we do not know what he actually goes through, what are his feelings.

In relation to this, we see the different hate crimes around the world. All the different incidents that are happening in an around only because of the difference in opinion that are there between two parties. The shooting in the United States of America, the differences that are there between India and Pakistan are a few examples to name a few. All of these people show their anger and have no peace at all within them. They express themselves in a very violent manner and that is one which is not acceptable to the community! Like the last line in the poem, ‘The unknown citizen’, we ourselves should ask the questions to reflect, contemplate and comprehend, – ‘Are we free? Are happy?’ Thinking about these questions make us realise what our objective is – as time progresses and if we follow up and act over it – this will help us overcome our shortcomings and trials with a better and clearer vision ahead of us to follow. It doesn’t matter who we impress and how much we do – but unless we are content, happy and free on the inside – we won’t be happy on the outside as it will reflect in our behaviour and our actions.

In conclusion – the only thing that we can analyse, asses and think about how our attitude is, how our emotions are – since all of these will have an impact on the people around us because of the way we react in different situations. We must take the initiative to contemplate and assess ourselves if we are really truly happy inside. It is ultimately our choice since we have a free will on how to go about our lives. Therefore, it is up to us on how to behave in the different phases of our lives. We should be able to respect other’s lives and their opinions but not take advantage of that! In regard to the various hate crimes around the world – everyone should just be able to respect each and every one’s lifestyle and go accordingly. There is no point trying to fight about it and arguing about it – each of us are born with different views and so everyone has their own views. It is my desire that people take a pause from their busy routine and analyse on how to make themselves truly happy on the inside. Once that is worked on – it will start reflecting on the outside and there will be complete peace and harmony among everyone.