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In a completely free society, individuals have the ability to express their thoughts and opinions without fear of legal repercussions. Insults and threats could be screamed from the rooftops and despite any range of severity, it would be within a person's rights to do so. Threatening to shoot a school and someone calling someone else "dumb" would be granted the same amount of consequences, which is to say none. The society we live in today is not a free society, at least not completely, and maybe that is for the best.

In our society today, we have laws such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. If we were in a hypothetical free society where one could call on the law to defend them against being offended or insulted and one person insults or discriminates against another and claims that their actions are protected by being in a free society, does that not go against the other person's right to live free from discrimination? Who is in the right? Who is in the wrong? In 2017, *Matal vs Tam* set a precedent with a unanimous vote that "speech may not be banned on the grounds that it expresses ideas that offend," but does that go against a person's right to live a peaceful life? The subjectivity that is wrapped around the concept of a free society is almost too thick to see through. Is it even possible to have a completely free society where everyone's individual rights are protected and ensured?

A society is made better when those in it have a sense of comfort in the insurance of justice if they are offended. It is a key component of keeping a society in balance. Legal protection against offense, insult, and discrimination is important for fostering an inclusive society, but it must be carefully balanced with the fundamental right to free speech and expression. And while this is not a society that is completely free, it is one that is relatively free. That is the price for living in a society with social balance, you have to give up some personal freedoms for the common betterment.

Ultimately, what we need is not a free society, but a balanced one. What is needed in the possibility to live without discrimination or insult and have that right protected by the government and law. A society that is respectful of others while also having the chance to voice their own opinions.