All the bones in the human body emerged from the closet (where they had been hanging out together) to discuss distressing developments in the body politic. The “leader of the free world” had claimed that he did not have a “racist bone in his body”, unnecessarily dragging them into his personal prejudices some said came from a dark heart. Meanwhile, a few people in the “world’s largest democracy” were “making no bones” about their bigotry, including cancelling orders from delivery folks of a different faith, their biases coming from a closed mind. Planet Earth was becoming an ugly, illiberal place and dem bones wanted to make it clear they were not to blame.

“Let the meeting come to order,” said Femur, the biggest bone in the human body, slapping his thigh to call the 206 agitated members to attention. “Aren’t we the same bones in people of all races, ethnicities, regions and religions? Why is there a sudden uptick in prejudice and intolerance?”

“Well, blame it on the skin and the melanin it processes,” explained his understudies Tibia and Fibula. “Because the skin has changed colour over millennia due to differences in climate and exposure to the Sun, humans believe they are different depending on colour of their skin.” Added Humerus, always ready with a wisecrack, “So apartheid isn’t a pigment of the imagination?”

All the Ribs laughed at the joke, but Sternum was glum. “I want to make a clean breast of things and that will probably take a weight off my chest,” he said gloomily. “I think we have been harbouring a dark heart amidst us.”

Hearing this, Incus, Malleus and Stapes, who were always hanging out together, said, “We are all ears, but it is a closed mind and not a dark heart that is to blame.”
The eight Cranial bones bristled at this, but Innominate, a hipster who was always jiving, told them there was a difference between brain and mind, and in any case he did not like the idea of blaming organs, which like dem bones, were all the same in the human body. It was a matter of what experience they had been through and how humans processed that.

“I agree with Innomin ate. You got to hand it to him,” said Metacarpals, exchanging high fives. “Me too,” chimed in Metatarsals, adding that maybe if people voted with their feet, travelling and intermixing more, there would be less prejudice in the world.

One thing they all agreed: They hated discrimination. There was no bone of contention between them, whether they were in the closet or outside.