



DISCUSSION GUIDE

How does the power of conversation bring out the best in us?

In This Episode...

What does it mean to be human? How do we want to live and who will we be to each other? For Krista Tippett, the award-winning radio host and creator of the On Being project, these questions animate her life's work. Krista and Eboo discuss their shared interest in American religious diversity, where On Being is headed next, and why they're both excited about the religious "nones."

Episode Guest: Krista Tippett

Krista Tippett is a Peabody Award-winning broadcaster, a National Humanities Medalist, and a New York Times bestselling author. Known for her work on "On Being" - a weekly national radio program - Krista has published three books at the intersection of spiritual inquiry, social healing, science, and culture.

Suggested Discussion Questions

- Eboo and Krista discuss the relationship between human interdependence and human existence. Krista asserts that the question of "who will we be to each other?" is "absolutely inextricable from the basic question of what it means to be human." What do you think Krista means by that? How do you think about the relationship between those questions? In what ways do you think that human relationships are separate from human nature?
- Krista says, "What is astonishing about the early 21st century [is that] in the whole history of humanity, really all cultures and civilizations ... have had religious underpinnings and religious and faith identities that were as much inherited as chosen. And we are the generation of our species ... where that is loosening."
- What do you consider to be your cultural, religious, and/or spiritual "inheritance"? In what ways, if at all, does your inheritance differ from your "chosen" identity? Are there ways in which you have chosen to alter the inheritance that you will leave for the next generation? If so, how? If not, why?
- Eboo asks Krista how an historian in the future might describe her in a broad way, outside of the narrow labels of her profession. How would you like your future biographer to describe you and your work in the world?
- Eboo describes Krista as a "conversation holder." Why do you think that is such a meaningful descriptor to Krista? What conversations do you hold? Which ones would you like to hold?
- Eboo and Krista discuss the fact that, although contemporary events may sometimes be grim, people still exhibit positive qualities. Krista says, "our human capacities to be generous, to be loving in muscular ways, to be socially creative, to be kind, to orient towards goodness and wholeness; those things are also fierce and alive." In what ways have you seen or experienced these human capacities at work in the world? In your life?