

AN ENEMY? NOT AT ALL

From a reportedly true story of the Spanish Civil War 1936 – 1939

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Intent of the Story:

- ✓ *God loves all - men and women- alike*
- ✓ *We have to love friends and ‘enemies’ alike*
- ✓ *Actually speaking there no estrangers in our world, there are only brothers and sisters we have not yet discovered.*
- ✓ *God made us all alike, we made ourselves different*

The Story

In the bosom of a good and loving family in Spain, two brothers were born, James and John. Their Parents brought their sons up in the fear of God and in the practice of virtue. Once in college, however, the two brothers parted ways. John remained a responsible, religious-minded, hard-working young man. Eventually, he became a Doctor and the support and pride of his parents.

James, unfortunately, got mixed up in bad companies, went astray, dropped college and led a vicious life. Finally, he got in the company of and rowdies and criminals. For many years no one ever heard of him anymore. During the Spanish Civil war in 1936, James was conscripted in the regular army like all other young men of his age;

The regular armed forces had to fight for three long years against a medley of riff-raff crowds, international mercenaries and adventurers - backed by some foreign powers

One day, after a fierce fighting, when the battling armies retired to their positions for the night, one could hear the groans and cries of a wounded, dying man lying in between the opposing trenches. Pitifully he cried: “Help! Help! Help!” No one would venture outside the trenches to help any fallen man, much less if the dying man happened to be an enemy. .

The cries of that dying man, however, pierced John’s heart. For a long time, he resisted his impulse of jumping out of the trenches and go to help his dying enemy. At last, In a fit of generosity, he sprang to his feet and said to himself: “I’ll help him whatever happens”.

John’s companions shouted: “Don’t go! You will be surely shot! Besides, why should you risk your life for an enemy? Let that dog die! Stay in the trenches! Spare your life! Now, no one could stop him. John had made his mind... Taking a water bottle and some bandages, he jumped outside the trenches.

Under the cover of night, crawling and dragging himself, he managed to reach his dying enemy. He turned him over to give him a sip of water... When he looked at the face of

his dying enemy, he was thunder struck, He cried out: “What? You? James? My brother?”

There was a long silence.... Tears rolled down the cheeks of both brothers. John gave James some water to drink. He lied down beside him, hugged him, kissed him, spoke kind words to him and helped him to repent from his wasted life. Then, holding hands; he stayed on.... untill James passed away.

On returning to the trenches, his companions and officers rebuked James severely: “You fool! Why did you risk your life for an enemy? You have no sense!..

Peacefully and calmly, John retorted: **“An enemy? Not at all! You are mistaken. It wasn’t an enemy! It was my brother... and I never knew it!”**

1.

THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION.:

- Though we are not aware of it, all men and women are our brothers and sisters; as members of the human family
- In a truer sense, all Christians are brothers and sisters in Christ. In Christ, we are members of the Christian family, sharing the same faith, the same sacraments and the same vocation.
- Every human being has been made to the image of God. All of us are images of God’s love, beauty and power.
- God does not make distinctions between men and women, rich and poor, educated and uneducated, nationals and foreigners, masters and servants, good and bad, young and old, enemies and friends.
- Every human being enjoys the same privileges, the same favors from God. and has the same destiny.
- All human beings exist and live and move because God loved them.. St, Augustine wrote: **We love people because they are. We are, because God loved us**
- **God loved us into existence.**
- All hateful and harmful distinctions between human beings are of human making! They are ugly, dangerous and fateful. They have to be done away with.
- By helping anyone in need, truly, we help a brother and a sister in need.
- Even more, by rejecting others , we raeject God himself!
- “Actually speaking Jesus never died for his ‘enemies’ but only for his “friends”.
- Loving is divine, liking is human
- God can only love us, He cannot either like or dislike
- Though we may not be able to like our enemies, we can love them all the same.
- Liking is a feeling, love is a will! .