

HE IS A JEW!

*From an incident reportedly true
during the Nazi occupation
of Austria at the II World*

On Prejudices, Biases, Communalisms, N nationalisms and other Distinctions.

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All men and women on earth are one single family'
God created one human race, we divided it into 'races' and nations/
'First we are citizens of the world, all other denominations come later
'Though the color of skin varies, and the languages of the world differ
and people belong to different nations, all human blood is red,
and all human hearts beat alike'
Every man and woman in the world is a brother and a sister of mine
whom I have not yet discovered

The Story

During the Nazi occupation of Austria, there were severe floods in Vienna. Just then, a man fell into the swollen waters of the Danube. There was a crowd of onlookers, all too afraid of jumping into the swirling waters of the river, to save the drowning man.

All of a sudden, courageous youth removed his coat and made ready to jump into the water to rescue the drowning person. Then, someone in the crowd shouted aloud: "Do not jump! This drowning man is a Jew! Let him die! Don't risk your life for a dog! The crowd too joined in, in a chorus, shouting : "Do not jump! Let him drown! He is a Jew!, Do not jump!".

"The rescuer quickly replied: "No! He's not a Jew! He is German! I am sure" Against everybody's approval and at a great risk of his life, the young man plunged into the swollen waters. . After a long struggle, he brought the drowning man to safety. When the crowd came close to see the man who had been saved, in amazement exclaimed: "Oh, Thanks be to God! He's a German."

Then, the savior picking up his clothes, slowly walked away and emphatically for all to hear, remarked: **Yes, he is a German! I am a Jew!"**

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. Before God, are there any differences between Jews and Germans? Negroes and Whites, Brahmins and Harijans, Rich and Poor, Men and Women, Christians, Muslims, Hindus, etc?

2. Who has made all those hateful distinctions between man and man? What are their
Why do we stick to them?
3. How do prejudices pass on from Parents to children, from generation to generation?
4. Can we break away from them? Is it easy? Is it possible?
5. Have you ever been a victim of prejudice? On what grounds? . How did you feel?
6. What are the consequences for the 'self-image' of the prejudiced against?
7. Have you ever been prejudiced against others? In what way? Were you aware of it?
8. Was Jesus ever prejudiced against anyone at all? Why? Could he really be? Why?
9. What happens to people who fight against prejudices? Are they liked or disliked?
10. Remember the names of persons of our days who paid with their lives for fighting
against prejudices
11. Which 'prejudices' are more common in India today? Are they reasonable? Can
they be uprooted only by law? What else is winter?