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Women and children as Hitler's victims.

Mann, Erika

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W o m e n a n d c h i l d r e n a s H i t l e r ' s
v i c t i m s .

Ladies and Gentlemen,-

(by Erika Mann)

The German emigration is great in numbers and diverse as to cause. The emigrées left their land for the most varied reasons . (causes?) Principally and at first they fled for political reasons, then for reasons of race persecution, and finally for generally humane considerations. Many entire families emigrated; but also men alone, leaving their wives behind them; and women alone with their children. Many Jewish women, not desiring to be a burden to their "Aryan" husbands in the home-land, left, taking with them their children, - those little "half-Jews" (What a designation for a baby!) into a future filled with uncertainty and terror. Yet this seemed better to them than a present in the third Reich, which was full not only of threats, but denuded of everything that made life worth living for anyone possessed of self-respect.

It begins with the babe in arms, - that is to say, if they happen to be "non-Aryan". And of course you are aware, that under Hitler an incomparable mathematical pedantry is applied in differentiating between three-fourths ~~HHHH~~ one half and one fourth-Jews, - here we have the Nuremberg Laws, - "A Reich's-law-book for the protection of German Blood and German honor", wherein all such matters are documented and "filed", far more to the shame of its authors, than for the protection of any one's honor at all.

Non-Aryan infants, then, cannot be given wet-nurse-milk. The municipal centres who distribute wet-nurse-milk, must, under ^{and any} all circumstances deny this milk to Non-Aryan mothers. Even if it is a matter of life or death for the child. That is the beginning. And things continue in the same strain.

If left Germany in April nineteenthirtythree of my own free will; but the period from the 30th day of January of this year (the day upon which Hitler became Reich's-chancellor),-up to the day of my emigration was long enough and it was filled with impressions of such a kind, that they will never permit me to forget them.

There was a rainy day in March,- I rem^member hold^{ing} a conversation with a friend of our family I ask her, how her little boy is, the "Non-Aryan" Heini. "Oh, thank you," she replies, "-today he is feeling better, -because, at least, there is no sunshine." And, as I gaze at her, incapable of grasping her meaning, she adds: "When the weather is clear, of course, the others play, -his friends, -they play gayly in the courtyard, - and then he always cries, because he will never be allowed to play with them again, - of course, - being non-Aryan."

"He is feeling better today, because, at least, there is no sunshine", - that sentence still rings in my ears and I can see the face of the mother, - her (this?) deeply-worried, helpless, perplexed face, on the verge of despair () because little Heini will never again be allowed to play with the others.

The psychical injury, suffered by such children, are difficult to picture, but one thing is certain, that all their lives they will remain Hitler's victims, in one way or another. Shocks of this sort, suffered in childhood, cannot be eliminated, -never completely eliminated.

But to turn from the horrible wrongs done to these Non-Aryan children, just think of the wrongs, suffered by the others, -

the pure-Aryans¹¹, if only through the speeches and doctrines, to which they are submitted. The German child learns to hate, learns to look down upon others, learns arrogance, cruelty and inhumaneness. Nor does it learn these things⁵ incidentally, or by chance. German children learn all of these things through the definite will of their teachers² and superiors, and through the fact, that the reins of education have been taken into the hands of the highest officials of the state.

Ladies and Gentlemen: do you know, what "Der Stürmer" is? You do not know that most officious weekly, repeatedly acclaimed by Hitler? You do not know, "Der Stürmer", that homogeneously pornographic publication, which deals in words and pictures almost exclusively of erotic and racial profanation, grovelling with sensual enjoyment in the details of sexual "perversions" and "derailments" of those, who have "transgressed" against its rules and describing such "transgressions" in unappetizing and drastic manner? This weekly is accessible in every other street of every German city or town, - accessible to every child. The so called Stürmer-Kästen (Stürmer-~~XXXXXXXXXX~~-boxes) liberally set up, - exhibition⁸-cases for the public, are fastened low enough, - little girls on their way to school read, what must surely be unwholesome for them, - and no mother can ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ possible^y prevent this, since it is Hitlers pleasure.

But the Aryans are supposed to read,- the "Aryans" must be "enlightened".

I should like to tell you a little story,- or rather call to life an incident, which has been buried these four years,- and since then matters have grown worse, not better. It happened during the first days after Hitler had come to power. A little "Aryan" boy fell acutely ill of appendicitis, and immediate operation was imperative. The head of a famous Berlin-hospital, a Jewish professor, who still held his position, Dr. Marcus, is performing the operation. Under the anesthetic, as the savior is bending over him with the knife, the child begins to scream,- he screams these words into the silence of the operating-room, which he is unable to forget,- even in the death-like sleep of the anaesthetic,- "Out with the Jews!" cries the child,- "all Jews should be killed,- killed should they be! (they should be destroyed!)" The knife in the hand of the Jewish surgeon did not so much as tremble. He completed the operation successfully, the boy is alive, but no one would dare to tell him, that he owes his life to a Jew. *

What is so horrible and, when we look upon our poor, maltreated land, they arouse in us not only feelings of sorrow and wrath, but also vertigo(?) (giddiness?) and nausea: That all those concepts, which seemed inviolable,- imperishable (eternal?) and plain (self-evident?) ideas out of the dictionary of our childhood,- such things as gratitude,- sheer decency, justice,- there these no longer count. Moral and humaneness have been abolished. (all such concepts as ideas of) Love and Freedom have been ruled out of current usage.

Small human examples serve us best to help

point out, that inhumaneness, which, - over there, - is ruler of human souls, - and I hope I not wear you with my examples, which are indeed meant to be nothing more nor less, than (living?) prayers for your comprehension and for assistance.

The "Non-Arya" (at the same time "Non-Jewish"!) Head of the Protestant Augusta-Hospital in Berlin, - famous all the world over as brain surgeon, Dr. Heymann, dies. He dies of heart failure, just a few weeks after his dismissal ~~from~~ ^{al} from the ~~respected~~ ^s institution, whose Chief he had been for thirty years. There is no doubt, that he dies as a result of the sorrow caused by this dismissal. Be that, however, as it may; The "Workers's Front", the most powerful organisation in the existence of workers in Hitler's Germany, issues an interdiction, - "ein Verbot;" no one may attend the funeral services of the man, who, for thirty years, was Head of the personnel of the hospital and their leader and honored example. Two nurses, devout Protestants, are unable to coordinate this interdiction with their feelings, ^{te} their thoughts, their conscience. They al^xone dare to follow Professor Heymann to his last resting-place. Whereas all the others, colleagues and nurses, afraid acquiesce. The two nurses are discharged without notice, - nor is there any possible future open to them any longer in this land. Their life is over. No one is permitted to employ them. There is nothing left (open) to them, but suicide or emigration.

Ladies and gentlemen, - that was just one more sad little story, chosen haphazard out of the lives of those, who are at home in the third Reich. I could tell you hundreds of similar ones, and all of them would have to deal with (and the basic theme of them all would be?) ^{conflicts(?)} timidity of conscience, fear of those in power, and all of them would be supposed (and it is for all of you) to help

rectify the general idea of the "Type" of political emigré. For the majority still conceive^{of} him as a radical and a rowdy; as someone, who in some insubmissive way is simply unable to get along with the government of his own country. The Emigré of today is in many cases a man, who could not, having a conscience^{and a sense and justice} of dignity continue to live where dignity and justice have cease^d to exist. Nor is he by any means always a Jew, although it well suits Hitler's purpose to have it appear so. ~~Of course~~ I feel the deepest sympathy with all those Jewish families, who, without the faintest idea of what was happening to them, - simply because of their descent, lost offices, livelihood and bread and had to flee the country to save their naked lives; and it is of the greatest and most comforting importance, that they are receiving assistance as in case, through the generous and noble intervention of various Jewish organisations. But my sympathy is perhaps even greater for those, who had the clearest idea, of what was happening, - for those Non-Jews, who could very well have remained, but who left, because the gale from hell, blowing over their home-land with such horrible and sudden force, took their breath away. To help these is the dignified duty of all, who are able to do so.

I am very happy to be in a land, where freedom rules, and where this freedom is used to help, wherever help is so bitterly needed. I am happy at the praiseworthy activity of the "American Committee for Christian German Refugees" and I am happy to be in your midst today, where such things, as lie nearest to my heart, are being treated. I am looking forward to seeing your film and I wish ^{for} the "Modern Christian German Martyrs" a triumphal march throughout the world. It will be the triumphal march of Truth, - Humanity, Readiness to Help, - and the Will to Good.

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11 Women and
Children 11

English 5 pages

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As we examine the situation of youth in the Third Reich more closely, we find a number of dangers, to which they are there exposed from birth, as well as from childhood.

Women and children as Hitler's victims.

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children's book for both children and grown-ups. It is most ~~impressively~~ ^{impressively} made up, with excellent and suggestive ~~illustrations~~ ^{illustrations} and is only too well fitted for deepening the effect of the Stürmer-~~books~~ ^{books} on the mind of the quite young. Were in the ~~tales~~ ^{tales} of our childhood perhaps the devil and his grandmother painted in such loathsome way, ~~that~~ ^{that} they even poisoned our dreams? Was our imagination being

crammed with aspects of evil spirits and monstres of all kinds?
The Streicher-fairytales know of only one kind of monstre ,one kind
of devil, only one sort of dirty, lowthsome ghoast: the Jew.

Von Anfang an der Jude ist
Ein Mörder schon,-sagt Jesu Christ.
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
"From the very beginning the Jew is
A murderer,- so told us J asus C hrist."

This is just one of a hundred ^{of} such instructiv rhymes, out of this little verse interesting ~~book~~ ~~Yuma~~ glorifies the fact , that Jews are not admitted to the public Baths in Germany,-

"Weil Juden unerwünscht sind.
Den Deutschen nur gehört die Luft,-
Drum, Freundchen Jude, hier verduft!"

"because Jews are not desired here.
To Germans only belongs the air.
Therefor^e, my Jewish friend, - just scream!"

and the illustration shows, how a perspiring jewish family has to leave, while the "Aryan" youth, spitefully laughing, enjoys the German Air. "

It is shocking indeed, - and harmed are not only the Jewish children, -
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Do not cut this!

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Children

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