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### **LIFE, SELF-SACRIFICE AND HUMANITY AS THE BASIS OF HUMAN EXISTENCE IN ERIC-EMMANUEL SCHMITT'S NOVEL "NOAH'S CHILD"**

Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt is a prominent writer and dramatist, a doctor of philosophy, and the creator of several plays and performances that are now being staged in theatres around the world. Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt, raised by his parents in the spirit of atheism, claimed to be an agnostic, but recently the famous author recognized the importance of religion in his work and declared himself a Christian.

"Noah's Child" is a narrative that consists of numerous elements. This is a puzzle story. Everything is there: the terrible battle, the formation of a religious worldview, and simple human actions. The Jewish child Joseph tells the story from the first-person perspective. Little Joseph found himself in the middle of a violent and devastating time, on the eve of a huge flood. This was only possible since he was born in a Jewish family. It all began on the tram. Joseph and his mother were leaving towards the other side of the town. He was only seven years old at the time. When the German troops appeared in the carriage, Joseph pretended to be a mute child because of the agreement with his parents, who were frightened that Yiddish might reveal his identity. They were obligated to wear a yellow star, but Joseph's father, a brilliant tailor, was able to create them jackets that kept the star invisible, yet it could be seen if necessary.

Mother stepped out of the wagon with Joseph at the next stop after she had overheard the soldiers' conversation and said that they were going to meet a great woman, Countess de Sully. The countess warned Joseph and his parents that they were in serious danger because Jews would be arrested in their neighbourhood. Mom and dad stated there was a roundup, so the parents had left in the afternoon the next day and they never returned.

The police surrounded the home one morning, then broke into the countess's bedroom, where she had already placed Joseph. The police departed murmuring apologies after an unsuccessful investigation, and the Countess promised them that Priest Pons would visit the next day to care for the boy.

The priest put his own life at danger by sheltering Jewish children in an orphanage. Father Pons is an example of a priest who has never pushed his beliefs or Religion on others. On the contrary, he attempted to develop in Jewish children a love for their parents' faith. According to Schmitt's perspective, the figure of Father Pons is the personification of an ideal priest.

Shemle is a village in Belgium where Father Pons resides. Mademoiselle Marcel, a pharmacist, decided right away that Joseph's new surname would be Bertin, and that his name would stay unchanged. The boy was now a year younger.

Joseph was meant to be a guest. He was relieved that he had a locker and a godson named Rudy. Rudy was frequently punished and he did not do well in school. He instantly figured that Joseph was Jewish. And Rudy was Jewish as well. The boys instantly became friends and

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respected each other as brothers. Joseph promised his father that one day he would become a Catholic. The boy's father thought that he should stay a Jew. He said that Hitler began by completely destroying Jews since there were fewer of them, but that he would eventually kill Christians as well.

The father kept a Torah scroll and a picture of Jerusalem which showed where to turn during the prayer. The father's collection included prayer books, and mystical poetry. According to Father Pons, Noah was the first collector in history: he found the male and female of every living creature to preserve and rescue from the flood on his massive ship. God created humans with the instinct and intellect to save themselves. As a result, Noah acted as a model for his father.

The Gestapo attacked the Yellow Villa that evening at eleven o'clock. The children were identified. Father Pons came up with a new lie: police had broken into the Yellow Villa, the students were beaten and tied to beds, and the Jews had escaped.

Joseph and Rudy were on their way to have tea with his mother one day when they ran into his parents. The adults informed Father Pons that they survived by working as field labourers on a huge farm not far from here, and they sent the boy to Brussels. Because the child was lonely, he ran away from home and came to Priest Pons. He said Joseph was one of the few surviving children of a beautiful nation that had recently been mostly destroyed.

Six million Jews were murdered. The father convinced Joseph to speak about the Jews who were no longer alive. To take care about the Jews, now there is Joseph, who will be known as Noah. Those events occurred half a century ago. Joseph took over the priests' advice, and did not become a Christian. He actively learned his parents' faith and carried it on to his children.

Schmitt's characters are real and honest people who represent a specific stage in their life while feeling extremely close to the reader, as if they are great friends. The heroes have doubts, but they listen to the voice of their inner world and heart. Goodness always triumphs because it is deep, diverse, and genuine!

### References:

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