



Trude's Story, Chapter 7

You are very focused in education work and reaching children of all ages with the message and you give a lot of talks and I wondered why you do that?

Well there are 2 reasons. One reason is people ought to know about it and my father was an optimist and therefore I would like to think that by talking and telling people about how lives are fragmented and disturbed and ruined by cruelty and that war and conflict never achieve anything I would dearly love to get that message through although in my heart of hearts history tells me we never get through but one hopes. And the other thing was I realised with Norman being so much older than me the likelihood would be I would be left on my own and I would need to fill my time so I decided when I stopped from my full time work at just about 65 I joined a political party, I joined, did all sorts of voluntary work and I found it very rewarding and much to my amazement I found I enjoyed public speaking so I find that quite useful. But as far as speaking to children, the fact that I'm Jewish is sort of a coincidence but what I want to make sure is that people realise all human beings are humans, all of us require the same things. We need food, warmth and love.

I had the kindness of strangers, I was one of the luckiest people, a) I was safe from persecution, no indignity like many people suffered or death even, and every person or family that I met has put themselves out for me. And possibly this is one of the answers why I wanted to do voluntary work because it's giving something back.

I'm not ashamed of being Jewish. I was born with that label, I'm stuck with that label but I consider myself a Jewish atheist so I've got a label but I don't believe. It doesn't mean to say I don't stick up for the culture or what has happened. There is a history there

And can you explain why you don't share the Jewish beliefs?

Well I'm a scientist and as a scientist I cannot go by stuff which hasn't got evidence and to me there is no evidence of God. You can call God what you like, nature or what you like. I know what human beings are and I know how human beings live. If there is an all-fantastic God who does everything good,

just look around you and I certainly do not believe in being a fundamentalist because you have to move with the times and if people believe in the Bible or the Koran or any other wise book, we move on. But there is one thing I must say, I do believe in morality and therefore the mosaic laws, the ten laws I think are the basic of the morals by which all of us should live so if you take that as being Jewish, right I'm Jewish. But I don't have to do the visiting the synagogue and saying the prayers.

Personally I have never encountered any anti-Semitism at all. Possibly in my latter days as a lecturer occasionally somebody might make a statement which could be construed as anti-Semitism if you were prickly, do you know what I mean? As far as I was concerned I just didn't take any notice.

I think there is a legacy of hope, there always has to be hope. Every person has survival instincts and I think survival instincts and hope are intertwined and certainly if I look back to my father who was a tremendous optimist, and if you think about what he did, he knew to save and get people right he had to save his kids. The kids are the next future and the more of them can understand that you should treat other people like you want to be treated yourself, I think that links with survival and legacy of hope. I would love to see Utopia but I don't think it will ever come certainly not in my lifetime.