

Rote

Rob Scott

The following are the first few pages of “Rote” by Rob Scott

Chapter 1

Around 4000 B.C. there was a man who was seventy-five years old named Abram, advised by God that he was to lead a great nation to be known as the Jews. However, Abram became impatient for the birth of his firstborn son and instead impregnated the servant Hagar and Ishmael was born, the father of Islam, creating the Arab or Muslim religion. At 100 years of age, Abram's wife Sarai bore Isaac, the father of the Jewish religion.

King Nebuchadnezzar enslaved the Jews in Egypt until Moses was born and whom later led them to Canaan or the Promised Land. Jesus was born, Rome ruled the world, the Catholic church became the Christian global authority, Rome fell to England eventually establishing the Church of England as the global church.

In 1492, during the Crusades, after Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand defeated the last Muslim stronghold on the Iberian Peninsula, they forced the Jewish community throughout their Spanish kingdoms to choose to leave or convert to Catholicism. Spanish Catholics believed that the Jews had too much economic influence over the kingdoms, and this resentment, combined with religious prejudice, led to their expulsion. During the 1500's the Catholic Church sold indulgences and caused

a rift, prompting Martin Luther of Germany to establish the first Protestant Church. In 1660 England persecuted the Catholics and non-conforming Protestants across England, Scotland and Wales.

Religious persecution of all kinds followed and is what led the world to move onto new lands, to be allowed to be left alone and permitted to thrive in their desired manner, particularly in America, where the savages were annihilated as the immigrants claimed Manifest Destiny and spread out over North America.

No religion has been more habitually and repeatedly persecuted than the Jews. As is true with anyone who has been fortunate enough to experience a great deal of success, there are many people gunning for your position in life. The very definition of rote is habitual repetition of something to be learned. Jews are a highly successful group; they have been the leading authority in credit and financing throughout history. While other religions have prohibited charging usury or interest, Jews have been permitted as is written in Deuteronomy 23:19 prohibits lending "upon usury to thy brother", and the next verse 23:20 permits charging of interest from the Gentile as is written "Unto a stranger thou mayest lend upon usury."

Jews were not permitted to belong to craft trades nor to own land throughout the Middle Ages (500 A.D. – 1500 A.D.) and these prohibitions were expected to force their population to exist at the bottom of the economic classes. However, instead of working the land or honing a trade, Jewish people excelled in becoming merchants and financiers; they also advanced in medicine, astrology, mathematics and the arts. These activities elevated the Jews to the highest level of the economic classes. As this occurred, the powerful sought to displace them, to take their spoils and to exterminate their kind.

This behavior repeated throughout history; Spain (653 A.D.), Germany (1096 A.D.), France (1147 A.D.) and England (1188 A.D.). During these periods of expulsion, Jews had to find new places to call home. 1800's Napoleonic France granted Jews citizenship, a few years later the Russian Revolution granted Jews citizenship there as well. In the 1880's there was a rise of Zionism, a Jewish Nationalist Movement that had a desire to see the self-determination of the Jewish people through the creation of a homeland for the Jews in Palestine at the place of Canaan. The British controlled the region, it was called Mandate Palestine, under the Balfour Declaration.

Then the Holocaust in 1930's followed by World War II led to the mass migration of Jews worldwide to their permanent home. In 1947, British exited the region

56% of it occupied by Jews and 44% occupied by Arabs or Muslims. In 1948 the Arab-Israeli War expanded the area of Israel to include West Bank from Jordan and Gaza Strip from Egypt. This forced 711,000 Palestinian Arab refugees out of their homes, which they will forever want back, thus war will continue to ensue until the displaced Muslims have a similar place to call home.

Chapter 2

Beeville, Texas 1999

Caleb Ebersole was twelve when he arrived Beeville among five large Amish families who settled there, seeking new land and opportunities to thrive while practicing their traditional way of life. Born in 1987, Caleb had lived his entire life off the grid, apart from the world, following rules set forth by his Amish elders. The law against using electricity, plumbing and other modern technologies is rooted in the Amish faith, as modern conveniences may lead to distractions and temptations from the Amish way of life. Amish believe that if tied too closely to the world they would lose their focus on their simple life of faith and devotion. Caleb always wore a white, long-sleeve shirt, black trousers and suspenders. The Amish discourage interest in outward appearance, as such an interest could promote vanity and pride.

Caleb knew the rules but did not follow them very well. Amish are not permitted to socialize outside of their community. But the best fishing hole in all of Beeville was located near my house. Caleb and I soon became great friends. I too was born in 1987, making me twelve as well, and I did what every other twelve-year old boy did; I read my comic books and I fished. Caleb had never

seen a comic book before and he came to love my collection.

Amish normally do not allow teenagers to leave the community during Rumspringa, although most of them allow teenagers to "court" in order to find a marriage partner, which includes hugging in a bed while being fully clothed and rocking in a chair together. Rumspringa normally begins at age sixteen and ends when a youth chooses either to be baptized in the Amish church or to leave the community. About 85% of Amish children choose to join the Church. Meaning about one child out of every family chooses not to continue in the Amish faith. Although the Amish do not actively evangelize, several dozen outside people have joined the Amish. Potential members must be willing to learn the Old German dialect and accept the rules of the church in order to be baptized and become members of the church. Some outsiders have become well accepted and respected members of the Amish community. If members break their vows of baptism by disobeying the regulations of the church or the authority of its leaders and refuse to confess their error, they will face excommunication. The church, using several biblical scriptures, teaches that members should shun ex-members to remind them of their disobedience in hopes of winning them back.

Amish rules allow marrying only between members of the Amish communion. The elderly do not go to a retirement facility; they remain at home but maintain social contacts through community events, such as frolics, auctions, weddings, and holidays.

Caleb's grandfather, Abram, sensed the pent-up angst within Caleb and he sympathized with the young boy, often answering for him while he was out fishing with me.

Middle school was a confusing time. I was starting to become interested in girls, but I really just preferred to talk and fish with Caleb.

"Do you know what you want to do when you grow up?" I asked Caleb.

He just shrugged his shoulders and said "I don't know, do you?"

"I don't know, they keep asking me about it in school. I am supposed to be thinking about what I want to become. Career day is Friday and I am supposed to say what I want to do when I get out of school."

“Next year I am finished with school”, Caleb announced.

“How are you done with school already, are you like really smart or something?”

“We only go to school through the eighth grade, then we are done.”

“Man, Caleb, you are so lucky! I still have to go to high school for four years, then go to college for four more years.”

“What is college?” Caleb asked.

“It is where you go to learn stuff about a job and doing what you want to do for the rest of your life. I am probably going to become an engineer.”

“John, what does an engineer do?”

“I don’t know really, it is what my dad is, he fixes stuff, like machines, and makes the manufacturing plant run again to make more stuff. There are all kinds of engineers in the world; some are mechanical, some are electrical and there are other kinds too.”

“Electrical? People are allowed to work with electricity?” Caleb asked, puzzled.

“Yes, everything pretty much runs on electricity.”

“Not for me, we aren’t allowed to use electricity.”

“Why, Caleb?”

“I don’t know, it’s just a rule.”

August of 2001, I turned fourteen and went into high school. I got so busy with high school stuff and I rarely ever fished anymore. I never saw Caleb after that Summer.

The Amish do not educate their children past the eighth grade, believing that the basic knowledge offered up to that point is sufficient to prepare one for the Amish lifestyle. No Amish go to high school, much less to college. In many communities, the Amish operate their own schools, which are typically one-room schoolhouses with teachers from the Amish community. These schools provide education in many crafts, and are therefore eligible as vocational education, fulfilling the nationwide requirement of education through the 10th grade or its equivalent. The Amish claim that educating their children beyond eighth grade is a violation of their religious beliefs, and so, have been granted exemptions of the State mandate. In the past, in comparisons of standardized test scores of Amish students, the Amish have performed above the national average for rural public-school students in spelling, word usage, and arithmetic; however, they performed below the national average in vocabulary.

After formal education ends, the children are trained for their adult tasks. Boys work with the father in the fields, in the barn, and around the buildings slopping shit in buckets out of the outhouses and spreading in upon the fields; girls work inside the home and garden, alongside the mother.

The Amish generate revenues in a variety of ways, from making rustic and traditional bedroom, kitchen,

living room and outdoor furniture to making stoves, furnaces, and boilers. The Amish grow a particular kind of tobacco, heavy-bodied, dark-colored, gummy leaf for cigar and chewing tobacco. Amish-made selections of leather belts, wallets, bags, and other accessories are highly sought after; which is weird because the Amish only wear suspenders to hold up their pants, no belts are allowed because of the flashy belt buckle. They also make woven products such as baskets, quilts, textiles, cloth, rugs and carpet. And food, lots of delectable foods. They even run Bed & Breakfast lodging.

The Amish are not a communist society. Each Amish household is independent in a financial sense, and Amish people may compete against one another in business and other ways. However, there is a strong community ethic, and the church community helps provide and support those who have fallen into financial hardship; typically, due to things such as large medical bills or disasters such as fires destroying homes, barns or businesses. Amish practice mutual aid motivated by a spirit of Christian love for one's neighbor. Additionally, Amish often hold benefit auctions to fund community needs such as school benefits, or to help raise money for hospital bills larger than the community can reasonably handle.

The Amish trace their roots to the Anabaptist movement in Switzerland in 1525 at the time of the Protestant Reformation. The Anabaptists emphasized voluntary adult baptism and a church that was free from state control. Because most had been baptized as infants, they were nicknamed re-baptizers or Anabaptists. The Amish were part of this movement until 1693 when they formed their own group in Switzerland and the Alsatian region of present-day France. Their first leader was Jakob Ammann; hence, they became known as Amish.

There are no Old Order Amish in Europe or anywhere outside of North America, they completely emigrated in the 1700's from Switzerland, Germany, Russia, France and Holland to eastern Pennsylvania. As each encampment grows and exceeds 75 members, because they hold church in their homes, they divide into smaller autonomous congregations. There are no church buildings on Amish land. The Amish are in the world but not really of it, as they try, in their simple ways, to maintain the greatest possible separation from the rest of society.

Chapter 3

Kingwood, Texas 2024

“I don’t know, John, how does the world write over four million book titles every year? With three point five-two million titles of non-fiction and approximately four-hundred and eighty thousand fiction titles”, Brenda moved her arms like a robot exclaiming in a robot tone, “I mean burp, beep, boop, boop! Seventy-five percent written by female authors and eighty-two percent read by women!”; Brenda relaxed her arms and spoke sweetly again, “John, it’s not rocket science or artificial intelligence, just plain old women describing their wishes and feelings to other women. You know, like your statistics show, that women who read the romance and erotica books have seventy-five percent more sex with their partners than those who do not read it.” Brenda caressed John’s arm softly, “It is okay to think privately that the volumes of written books are computer generated, but it is not cool to state it as fact. It is not correct and you come across as ill-informed and crazy.”

I stared beyond Brenda for a few seconds then focused back onto her face, “I thought women despised porn.”

I hope you did enjoy reading the first few pages of “Rote” by Rob Scott. Please note all books can be located for sampling and purchase at:

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