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A Private Experience **By Chimamanda Adichie**

During an uproar, a Christian man ran over the Koran with his vehicle, and a Muslim man executed him for it. Chika, a Christian Igbo clinical understudy, moves into a vacant store, looking for cover. The minuscule store is more modest than Chika's stroll in the storeroom at home, she notices. She was slithering in after she is the Hausa lady who halted her in the city and advised her to run this well-being approach. The lady says she lost her neckband. Chika realizes the lady is Muslim from her conspicuous, pink scarf, similarly as the lady should realize Chika is Christian from her silver rosary. The lady advises Chika to get comfortable because it will be quite a while before they can leave. Chika says she lost her sister.

After a long intimate night spent together between the Muslim women and the Christian Chika, the road is quiet, and Chika wishes she could discover a taxi, ideally a taxi with Nnedi in it. She sees a consumed body and scents cooking substance. She will see different bodies. She will take a gander at one of them when she understands she can't tell if the halfway consumed man is Igbo or Hausa, Christian or Muslim. She will think the news presents the story in a misrepresented variant of occasions. She begins to return to the store and feels a sharp torment in her leg. At the store, the lady puts her scarf on Chika's

wicked leg. Later Chika will find out about the brutality of Hausa-speaking Muslims toward non-Muslims. They state their farewells, and Chika inquires whether she can keep the lady's scarf, on the off chance that the draining beginnings once more. The lady offers it to her. Afterward, Chika will locate a bloodstained stone on her way home and suspect she'll never discover Nnedi.

Two unique individuals from completely distinct backgrounds, two different ethnicities with their religions, and two unconnected lifestyles who are forced into a moment neither one could ever forget. The short story looks deep into the fundamental issues we still face today, including one's socioeconomic status, class, ethnicity, religion, and violence, which impacts Chika and the world's view.

Socioeconomic status seems to be the first theme. To begin, the woman is unnamed. She is just "the woman," which shows the lack of power or even lack of position in society to be named. Throughout the story, we can see that Chika continues to compare herself to the woman and the surroundings "smaller than Chika's walk-in closet back home." It is almost as if she thinks she is on a pedestal, higher than everyone else. For most people, the size of a room would not matter; it would be safe. Chika had never been through any experience like this before, which affected her and her outlook.

Both women lost something along the way, and the woman lost her necklace, "My necklace lost when I'm running." And Chika lost her bag. As we know, Chika is wealthy; she had a designer bag, yet when the women talk about what they lost. Chika assumes that her companion's possession was next to nothing, "probably plastic beads threaded on a piece of string." in other words, the necklace was not worth anywhere near as much value as her expensive bag. However, they are both very much affected and mourn for their missing

belongings. As Chika carries on comparing, she moves onto the woman's ethnicity and physical appearance "Chika can tell she is a Northerner, from the narrowness of her face, the unfamiliar rise of her cheekbones." We can tell Chika is insecure; she looks down on this poor lady who is just trying to help her.

Meanwhile, Chika is judging her as if she is royalty and expects the woman to protect her. She also "wonders if the woman is looking at her as well, if the woman can tell, from her light complexion." She portrays someone as quite ignorant because she does not worry about the outside world and what harm it could bring; the woman's facial features impact her.

Religion and perceptions of people shouldn't matter, but unfortunately to some, it still does. We know that both women have different religious backgrounds; the woman "she is Muslim," yet Chika assumes this because of her scarf. Chika comes across as overly critical, maybe because the woman is "unfamiliar" and different from what she is used to, which scares her, and as a result, she distrusts her. The woman has done no harm to Chika, but it's like she doesn't want to relate in any way; she wants to remain distant and detached.

The short story "A Private Experience" by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie began with Chika climbing into a window of this abandoned place with a woman she did not know because a riot broke out. Not knowing each other, they ran to safety with a common goal, survival. The riot started because of an incident between two religions: Christianity and Islam. At first, Chika was a little timid and did not know what to expect from the women because Chika was Christian, and the women were Muslim. "Chika wonders if the woman is looking at her as well, if the woman can tell, from her light complexation and silver finger rosary her mother insists she wears, that she is Igbo and Christian" (Adichie, 44). Chika was

afraid of the assumption the woman might have made or if she was willing to betray Chika. It was only natural of Chika to think like that; they were rivals; well, at least their religions were. Since the riot broke out between the two religions, Chika was unsure what to expect from this woman because they were of a rival religion.

Throughout the story, Chika keeps wondering what the woman is thinking. "Chika wonders if that is all the woman thinks of the riots if that is all she sees them as-evil. She wishes Nnedi were here. She imagines the cocoa brown of Nnedi's eyes lighting up, her lips moving quickly, explaining that riots do not happen in a vacuum. Religion and ethnicity are often politicized because they are safe if the hungry ruled are killing one another. Then Chika feels a prick of guilt for wondering if this woman's mind is large enough to grasp any of that..." (Adichie, 48). The assumption Chika made critiquing the woman's ability to comprehend the situation base on her appearance and profession was prejudice. This is a common mistake that numerous of us commit; maybe it is cliché but does not judge a book by its cover.

After the women finish praying, Chika touches her rosary and feel the connection between the woman and her, having faith that everything will come to pass, and everything will be fine. "She touches the finger rosary that she still wears, sometimes on her pinky or her forefinger, to please her mother. Nnedi no longer wears hers, once saying with that throaty laugh, "Rosaries are magical potions, and I don't need those, thank you." (Adichie, 52). After some time, Chika sits next to the woman when she is hesitant to do so. Chika spends the whole night next to a stranger who belongs to religion, killing her kind; what made her do that? Chika realized despite being part of different religions, they were part of the same species, human, with a common purpose. The horrible night they spend together

made Chika realize that women are no different than her, and instead of looking at the woman inferior, they shared empathy for one another.

Chika's experiences impacted her in a way in which it made view this war between religion different. It made me realized that she was judgmental toward the women before even meeting her. That is one of the many conflicts we face today; we judge prematurely when meeting someone we are not custom to see. In the begging, Chika did not know what to expect from the women, but as the story progressed, Chika realized that they were both in the same situation, and the best solution is to stick to get through it together. The private experiences that Chika and the women shared changed the way she views the women and the Muslim.

References:

“A Private Experience” By Chimamanda Adichie