

Jewish Characters

<p>1. Hanna Rosenthal 37 / married 1 daughter (Hanna's daughter is 16-17 years old and is a friend of Selma with whom she grew up in the same neighbourhood)</p> <p><i>Romantic and modern woman; Because of the business trip of her husband she is invited to take part in the delegation to the Mayor to represent the family.</i></p> <p><i>Feelings:</i> I support the young couple's love. I think that we all have the right to make a free choice of a partner in life – the choice of the heart... Being a mother of a girl I would support my daughter's choice of a husband in the name of her happiness rather than a pre-arranged marriage.</p> <p><i>Position:</i> I condemn the murder... I'm empathic to the girl who lost her lover... Proper investigation is needed and the guilty should be punished. I would like to invite the Muslim girl and an older lady from her family (as girl's chaperon) to join me and my family for a trip abroad. I believe that such a trip would console her...</p>	<p>3. Jacob Fridman 25 / married His wife is pregnant with their fourth child</p> <p><i>Representative of the sailors and dockers; not very romantic, but tall, dark and handsome</i></p> <p><i>Feelings:</i> I'm not well educated, but I'm concerned about my family... I'm also concerned about my job and the families of my compatriots... We can't afford to stay without job while the harbour is blocked, because we all have families to support... Love is just love and it is a private matter. It should not be a reason for public disturbance...</p> <p><i>Position</i> We need to find a fast solution of the crisis and to get back at work.../ We need our work because we have families to support.../We are strong men and we could help to open the harbour with force if necessary...</p>
<p>2. Aaron Levi 60 / married 6 children, 25 grand-children, 7 grand-grand children</p> <p><i>Rabbi</i></p> <p><i>Feelings:</i> As a Rabbi I am against the mixed marriages. Traditions should be obeyed! We should stick to our traditions and to our community... And as Jews, we should be impartial and to avoid involvement in this conflict between Muslims and Christians, but this conflict is harmful for everybody...</p> <p><i>Position:</i> We should not take either of the positions of the other 2 communities. We should try to help them to solve this conflict situation. We should talk to each party and mediate to reach a compromise.</p>	<p>5. Rebeca Isaak 42 / widow 1 son (a schoolboy)</p> <p><i>Owner of a small shop; Feels endangered about her business and incomes</i></p> <p><i>Feelings:</i> We, the Jews, should be rational and think about our interests. Too much emotion is bad adviser in any case and this conflict has proven this. We should not surrender to the emotions! I have customers from all communities and confessions and don't want to lose them, nor to lose my business.</p> <p><i>Position</i> I'm against the violence. We should seek for a fast solution and try to help the other two communities to come together. We should be ready for a compromise. I'm concerned about the future if the conflict prolongs...</p>

<p>4. Samuel Visenthal 36 / married 2 children</p> <p><i>Doctor & owner of a drug store. Neutral, rational, modern.</i></p> <p><i>Feelings:</i> Traditions might be outdated. Obeying such traditions is stupid. We should be modern. I'm concerned about the good health of the local community. Huge crowds at the harbour could be a focus of inflammation of epidemics...The rebellion situation endangers us with injuries and more victims...We need to search for a peaceful solution and to get crowds off the streets and the harbour!</p> <p><i>Position</i> All people should be treated equal...There should be true investigation about the guilt of the imprisoned youngster. Jews are minority and we should not involve in this conflict, which is not ours. We should stay neutral.</p>	<p>6. Moise Merkado 43 / married Has a big family</p> <p><i>A gross trade with silk/leather/textile</i></p> <p><i>Feelings:</i> I'm confused about the rebel situation... / And I'm against the lovers who disturbed the peace in the society with their deed. / We should not surrender to the emotions! / I'm afraid for my family and for my personal safety in the streets... / I'm also afraid that my merchandise stocked at the harbour store-houses might be damaged.</p> <p><i>Position</i> We need fast resolution of the conflict! / We should be ready for a compromise... / My intensive trade might suffer if the harbour remains closed. / I'm waiting for a ship with goods... If I can't get my goods on time, my business reputation might be harmed.</p>
<p>7. Avraam Lazarovich 27 / just married no children</p> <p><i>A gross trader with spices/groceries</i></p> <p><i>Feelings:</i> I'm full with compassion to the couple in love. I'm just married and in love with my wife and I can understand them... / I condemn the murder of the boy! We should help the authorities to carry out their investigation.</p> <p><i>Position</i> We should not stay aside, but we should help the authorities to find out who is guilty... We must help to find solution of the conflict and open the harbour, since this situation harms the interest of all communities...</p>	<p>8. David Zahalon 56 / married 3 children</p> <p><i>Ship owner; Owner of a joined venture company with Christian business partner</i></p> <p><i>Feelings:</i> I'm afraid about my business and the safety of my family... Authorities have their right to imprison those who are considered guilty, so that they could easily find out the truth.</p> <p><i>Position</i> Jews are minority and should support the Christian authorities. We should support the position of the ruling majority... Those who are guilty should be punished.</p>

<p>9. Jozsef Samuel 38 / married 1 daughter</p> <p><i>Bank owner</i></p> <p><i>Feelings:</i> I'm concerned about the future of our city. I'm afraid that my debtors would be ruined and would not be able to pay back their credits... I feel endangered that my bank might be ruined by this rebellion...</p> <p><i>Position</i> Fast solution is needed! My bank will give money to the family of the killed Christian boy and will ensure money for a lawyer for the imprisoned Muslim guy...</p>	<p>10. Sarah Cohen 25 / not married</p> <p><i>Teacher from a Jewish Women School; idealistic and romantic; She lost her father who was robed and beaten to death in the street</i></p> <p><i>Feelings:</i> I support the young couple in love... They are right to fight for their happiness... I'm not interested in economical issues, but the Muslims have no right to close the harbour and to prevent the authorities to carry our investigation ... That means that the imprisoned Muslim boy is guilty...</p> <p><i>Position</i> I think that there should be punishment for the one who is guilty for the death of the Christian boy! Eye for eye...The criminals must be punished! Young people have the right to love and be happy with their love. We don't need more tragedies!</p>
<p>11. Lihor Ben Menahem 28 / married 2 children</p> <p><i>A teacher from the rabbinical school; Member of the rabbinical court</i></p> <p><i>Feelings:</i> We should stick to the tradition. I'm against the couple who disturbed the peace in the city with their foolish feelings. I'm also against this conflict: Jews might be harmed since we are minority! We, the Jews might become innocent victims of the conflict.</p> <p><i>Position</i> We should not interfere... We should stay out of the conflict! We may invite the Muslim and the Christians to a joint discussion of the problem... We will help them to find solution of the conflict. However, we should stay impartial and should not take sides in the conflict.</p>	<p>12. Josef Fintsi 26 / not married</p> <p><i>poet & journalist, secular Jew, writing critical articles against the traditions</i></p> <p><i>Feelings:</i> There must be justice for the death ... We should not stick to the traditions at any rate! They might be so outdated! I am so disappointed by the conservatism of our society! We should be more open...</p> <p><i>Position</i> I support the right of the young people to love and to follow their hearts. We should set on stage "Romeo and Juliet" as a "moral". We should educate our youngsters to be more open minded. If it was not the burden of the past, this tragedy could have been avoided – we should listen to our hearts, not to obey to the will of the old people in our families...</p>