

POISONOUS MUSHROOM TESTIMONIALS

The following testimonials appear on the last pages of the anti-Semitic reader, The Poisonous Mushroom as a form of advertisement.

The comments clearly demonstrate the type of primitive appeal which the book had for many Germans.

A teacher from Hollenegg writes:

I consider the Sturmer book, The Poisonous Mushroom, especially valuable in presenting an explanation to the Jewish Question. As a teacher, I use it in the course of a lesson to enlighten the children on the subject since their parents are often unable to purchase the book. The book should not be missing from any educational institution.

Hansi Arstenzes-Reiner,
teacher in Hollenweg near
Deutschlandsberg, Stevermark

A German woman from Selm I.W. writes:

I also wish to send you my respects regarding your book, The Poisonous Mushroom. It is simply wonderful how subtly depicted and yet so easy to comprehend everything is. Our son even forgot to eat his Easter eggs on Easter morning because he was so engrossed in the book. He sat in his little room all day long and read and read. Well, he even takes the book along with him everywhere and reads passages from it to others.

Frau S. Esterl, Selm I.W.

Did this reader say that the book's descriptions were **sublte??** Look up the meaning of the word in any dictionary. Now read one of the stories included in the *Poisonous Mushroom*. Is the description subtle? Give specific reasons.

<http://www.calvin.edu/academic/cas/gpa/story3.htm>

A salesman from Zirndorf writes:

I wish your work, The Poisonous Mushroom will find a wide public reading. As for us, we give the book as a gift at every fitting occasion – birthday, Christmas, Easter, Pentecost.

It is a duty to one's people to place The Poisonous Mushroom on someone's birthday table.

Karl Jager, Jr., salesman from Zirndorf

A dentist from Ludwigsburg writes:

When I first read The Poisonous Mushroom, I knew that it was the best book from my waiting room.

The examples which the book gives about the Jews' treachery are so clear and simply described that every reader must say to himself: "Yes, that's just like a Jew." My patients like to read the book so much that it is falling apart and I'll soon have to exchange it for a new one. In the interest of arriving at a clear answer to the Jewish Question, I wish you great success with this "book of struggle."

Dr. J. Guntner, Dentist from Ludwigsburg

A party member from Schmalkalden writes:

The book The Poisonous Mushroom surpasses everything. It belongs in **every** school.

A party member from Dresden writes:

I read the book The Poisonous Mushroom joyfully and enthusiastically with my two daughters. Our oldest daughter who is a teacher considered the purchase of the book especially important. Young people must be constantly made aware of the Jewish question, since only then will it never again be possible for the Jew to subjugate the German people.

Georg Schellmann, Dresden

QUESTION: Why do you think several of these testimonials are from teachers? What do you think is the difference between education and propaganda?

Read the following excerpt from a speech by Propaganda Minister Goebbels. If propaganda is a means of getting the masses “on your side,” what role would education play?

There are times when statesmen must have the courage to do something unpopular. But their unpopular actions must be properly prepared, and must be put in the proper form, so that people will understand. The man on the street is usually not as unreasonable as some think. Since it is he who usually has to bear the heaviest burdens that result from unpopular policies, he at least has a right to know why things are being done this way and not that way. All practical politics depends on its persuasiveness. It is no sign of wise leadership to acquaint the nation with hard facts from one day to the next. Crises must be prepared for not only politically and economically, but also psychologically. Here propaganda has its place. It must prepare the way actively and educationally. Its task is to prepare the way for practical actions. It must follow these actions step by step, never losing sight of them. In a manner of speaking, it provides the background music. Such propaganda in the end miraculously makes the unpopular popular, enabling even a government's most difficult decisions to secure the resolute support of the people. A government that uses it properly can do what is necessary without running the risk of losing the masses.

Propaganda is therefore a necessary life function of the modern state. Without it, seeking great goals is simply impossible in this century of the masses. It stands at the beginning of practical political activity in every area of public life. It is its important and necessary prerequisite.