

## Vita of the Author of “Honorable Peace”

Gottfried Hutter has been born December 23, 1944, in Eberschwang, a small village in Upper Austria.

He studied Catholic theology in Salzburg, Austria, to become a Catholic priest. But the spirit of the Second Vatican Council carried him “somewhat away”, as his superiors thought. They suggested that he should study on his own in a different city. He chose Vienna. Nobody could have guessed that this would be the year of the “student revolt”, 1967/68. Together with friends in this new city he was attracted to the latest fashion among students, Marxism. So, after his return to the seminary in Salzburg, his superiors clearly didn’t want him to become a priest.

He completed his studies in theology and then began a new curriculum, history, and political science. But before he could finish that he had to earn money, and after he got it, he took a vacation, the first one in his life. He went to New York, got invited to San Francisco, and stayed there for nearly five years. There, his Marxism dissolved into thin air, but something else came instead, spirituality. Especially, he found spiritual insights into the underlying unity of religions. For these insights he sought living confirmation. He met a highly respected Muslim teacher, spent a full year with him and in the community of his disciples in Cairo. From that trustworthy source, he came to know Islam quite well. His teacher, Shayk Mohammed Osman, approved of his insights. After receiving that affirmation, he moved back to Europe, this time to Munich. He used his diploma in theology and began to teach Catholic religion in different schools.

In inter-religious events he encountered aspects of Jewish theology and tradition which, so far, he had hardly known. Thus, he came to understand and to appreciate Judaism as well.

Altogether he realized that his subject was not religion, but psychotherapy.

He became a psychotherapist and began to work in a psychiatric institution. There, he wrote a book defining the basic concept of his approach to psychotherapy and to theology, “*Resurrection— before Death: Using Biblical Texts in Psychotherapy*”, which was published in 1994 by the well-known Koesel publishing house in Munich.

Then, 9/11 brought into focus all the experiences he had gained from the three Abrahamic religions. At that point, he realized that true peace in the Middle East must encompass al Haram ash Sharif, the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

Finally his ideal of reconciliation between Jews and Muslims eventually led him to the biblical origin of the name “Israel” and with that to Jakob's reconciliation with his brother Esau – and from there to Sura 5:51 (5:48) in the Koran: “If God had so willed, He would have made you a single people, but (His plan is) to test you in what He hath given you: so strive as in a race in all virtues.”

Hitherto, this model of reconciliation had not occurred to politicians on either side. Yet could it not accomplish what everyone has been longing for: to unite all factions of the conflict while simultaneously accepting their differences? To Mr. Hutter it is only logical that this would lead to a state of Palestine, side by side to the state of Israel – in peaceful coexistence and in self-evident cooperation.

But please also read the flyers Mr. Hutter has given me to add to my nomination. There you will find much information.