

The Bronze Bow, written by Elizabeth George Speare, is about the journey a Jewish young adult named Daniel goes through that transforms him from hate to love. After being sold by his grandmother to an abusive blacksmith, Daniel escapes from the blacksmith and chooses to live in the mountains. Daniel does not reside in the mountains long before he is starving and freezing. Just as he thinks he is about to die, a well-known outcast and Jewish rebel leader, Rosh, finds him lying on the ground and carries him back to his camp. As Daniel recovers his strength, he is ready to work for Rosh. Together they hunt wolves and jackals, and rob villagers when the villagers travel through the mountains. Rosh's men serve him devotedly because they believe Rosh is the Messiah placed here to rid the earth of the Romans. There is only one rule in order to join Rosh: hate the Romans until the end of your days. Daniel is introduced as a character who loathes the Romans with every bone in his body, but as unexpected events occur Daniel blossoms into a young man who learns to love and accept everyone.

Unfortunate events from Daniel's past lead him to hate the Romans to an unimaginable extent. He wants them gone from his life completely. Speare indicates Daniel's feelings towards the Romans during a conversation in which Daniel states, "No one is free so long as the land is cursed with the Romans" (9). When Daniel was eight years old his parents died as a result of the Roman's actions. However, this was after Daniel's uncle refused to pay taxes. Daniel's father was crucified and his mother died from grief or possibly suicide. Not only did Daniel lose his parents that day, but he also grieved from the change that happened to his younger sister. Leah was left outside all night at the place where her father was crucified. After that she screamed in

her sleep and would throw a fit if she had to leave the house; people assume she is possessed by demons. Through these experiences, Daniel learns to fervently hate the Romans.

Daniel is on a mission to rid the land of Romans, but as he meets new people, Daniel's belief and hatred starts to shift. One day, when Daniel is in the mountains, he meets two former classmates, Thacia and Joel who are twins. Joel's hate for the Romans matches the intensity of Daniel's, and the three Jews make a decision, "Then we will make a new vow, the three of us together. We'll swear to fight for Israel; for God's Victory!" (Speare 85). Although, they keep their vow, their views change when they meet a man named Jesus. When Daniel first hears Jesus speak in the synagogue he is disappointed because he expected Jesus to tell the congregation that it is time to defeat the Romans. Instead he preaches a message of peace. However, over time as Daniel, Thacia, and Joel hear Jesus speak around the villages, they begin to realize He is the true Messiah. They are no longer fighting violently for victory, but peacefully, because everyone is equal. As Daniel and Thacia grow closer to each other, Thacia develops a friendship with Leah. These experiences make Daniel realize that there is room in his heart to love and accept everyone.

When Daniel goes to Jesus late one evening, Jesus explains an important life lesson to him. Jesus tells Daniel that if he wants to be strong, he must love. And in order to love, Daniel must give up his hate. Right before Daniel is about to leave, Jesus asks Daniel to be one of His followers and to love others including Himself. Daniel does not hesitate, "Master!...I will love you until the end!" (Speare 225). With a new leader and a new perspective, Daniel transforms from an angry and isolated young man, to a loving and caring person.

At the beginning of the novel The Bronze Bow, Daniel has deep hatred for the Romans, but when unexpected experiences happen, Daniel's perspective is transformed. Tragic events

take place in Daniel's past, like the murder of his father and the subsequent death of his mother. Because the Romans caused their deaths, Daniel considers them evil and develops an immense hatred for them. When Daniel meets Jesus, His teachings about the power of love have a tremendous impact on him. Hating the Romans made Daniel isolated and angry. Jesus, Thacia, and Joel helped Daniel experience love, forgiveness, and acceptance. Daniel was able to then experience happiness; Daniel learned how to love again. Through the story of Daniel's transformation, Elizabeth George Speare illustrates the power of love over hate.