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One Page Assignment #Snow Day

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“If I could enclose all the evil of that time in one image”, according to *Levi*, he chooses a Nazi concentration camp inmate who has experienced cruel, inhuman, degrading treatment, punishment, torture and deconstruction of his personhood. This is “the evil of that time” as representative of what he didn’t know, how to explain completely the evil of that look. To *Levi*, the holocaust is the paradigm of evil of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The innocent victims arrive to be deconstructed of their personhood and reduced to forced labor until an inevitable death.

“Can someone’s humanity be destroyed while they are still alive?” The answer is yes. In a world where rights are advisory, money equals justice, and poverty and want prevail in even the richest countries on Earth, the powerful will always decide in a meaningful way what is and is not considerable as belonging to humanity for the many in a world ruled by the wealthy few.

The holocaust is the paradigm of evil for the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. It is our benchmark. Our response ought to rightly be to honor the survivors by becoming witnesses unto witnesses and not allowing room for indifference. The banality of evil seems to be that very thing that is cautioned against in our era where indifference may turn to apathy then obdurate disregard or outright forgetting of the wholesale slaughter of over 6 million people in but a few years.

I listened to this entire lecture and although I could spell out some words like 1.) homicidal, 2.) drugged

up, 3.) lunatic, 4.) murderous, 5.) bloodthirst, 6.) vengeful, 7.) hateful, 8.) criminal, 9.) evil, 10.) baseless, 11.) obdurate, 12.) psychopathic, 13.) depraved, 14.) ruthless 15.) brutal and 16.) megalomaniac, it's my contention the Jews get it right when they say merely "indescribable evil" to characterize the holocaust, which still must be memorialized in all its depictions.

It's my personal opinion that powerful images with powerful captions tell the story best.