

# Demolition of man essay



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

Holocaust can be described as the worst crime against human that the world has ever experienced. It brings memories that most of us forever want to forget but again generations must know what happened so that from the horror stories they can learn something and prevent such atrocities in the future of the humankind. Human beings were subjected to suffering which has been described as very dehumanizing. They were holed up in the concentration camp where they knew no freedom or what it means to be a dignified person.

Auschwitz was one of the largest concentration camps during the world war two. Its remnants are found in the present day Poland. Just like other concentration camps life in Auschwitz was characterized by torture which was meted out on the Jewish people. They were subjected to the hard labor and other types of suffering which was so dehumanizing. (Levi, Primo 1965) Levi Primo describes life in the concentration camps especially in Auschwitz where he spent eleven months as a prisoner as a place where human life was not valued.

In this camp just like any other one lost his or her identity once in, the name was substituted with a number. He says in his work that your name was taken away and even if the prisoner wanted to take it away he or she must be very strong to keep it. One would be forced to do things which can be described as dehumanizing so as to retain his name. (Levi, Primo 2002). Life in the Auschwitz concentration camp was so bad for the prisoners such that many of them died due to the various problems that existed here.

Levi narrates how the prisoners were stripped, beaten and subjected to many types of torture. The prisoners had no say, if the spoke nobody was willing to listen to them, their fate was sealed, if they die or survive, nobody cared. Those who survived did so by the mercy of the Lord. Most of them wished to die rather than to continue being subjected to this type of misery. All the same there are those who survived the demolition of man as Levi Primo puts it.

They were able to avoid the dehumanizing conditions such as hard labor, through various situations which arose and sheer luck. In his book Primo Levi describes a situation where prisoners after they have been subjected to a hard labor gathered to sell their food ration and other wares which have been stolen. This was one of the survival tactics for some prisoners and in this way they were relieved as they could afford some of the basic commodity which were very scarce in this area. (Levi, P 1995).

For Levi, he was lucky to have an Italian friend who orientated him to the camp ways of survival. In his work he says he was able to be orientated to the survival tactics without calling for too much attention from those prisoners who were privileged. Privileged prisoners are those who were given some positions to be in charge of other prisoners. Levi was given German lessons by his Italian friend who was more experienced; these lessons were very useful to him as a prisoner since they enabled him to avoid some of the problems faced by the other prisoners.

Most prisoners died due to starvation, food was scarce and whatever was available did not reach to everybody. Those who were not in a position to

secure food ended up starving and eventually succumbing to hunger. For Levi and some other prisoners, hunger was avoided through making connections with those who were charged with the role of supervision. Lorenzo Ponone was of great use to Levi as he provided his fellow Italian with the ration soup which enabled him to gain some strength and push on with life despite the camp humiliating condition.

Another aspect that favored Levi was his background; he was professionally qualified as a scientist making him to be deployed to the factory where he was given the role of an assistant in the laboratory. This position enabled him to escape the hard labor which was subjected to the other prisoners. Those who lived to tell the story have done their part as the world came to know what hatred can do to a fellow human being. We can all learn from this part of history and unanimously agree that never again in the human history should any person be subjected to such kind of treatment.