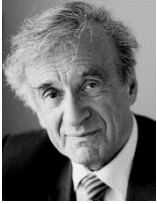


Quotations for Lecture: Auschwitz: Historical Context



Blockelder to Elie Wiesel, *Night*:

"Listen to me, boy. Don't forget that you're in a concentration camp. Here, every man has to fight for himself and not think of anyone else. Even of his father. Here, there are no fathers, no brothers, no friends. Everyone lives and dies for himself alone." (105)



Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*:

Upon having reached out of the barrack's window for an icicle to quench his thirst, the German ripped it from Levi's hand. He asked "Why?" and the guard responded: "There is no why here" and pushed his hand back inside. (29)

"... in the face of driving necessity and physical disabilities many social habits and instincts are reduced to silence." (87)



Shlomo Venezia, about his initiation to the Sonderkommando:

It's difficult to imagine now, but we didn't think of anything – we couldn't exchange a single word. Not because it was forbidden, but because we were terror-struck. We had turned into robots, obeying orders while trying not to think, so we could survive for a few hours longer." (59)

In speaking about witnessing a cold-blooded shooting of a Sonderkommando, Venezia, "[The SS] ordered us to undress him ... I had not choice if I was to avoid the same fate as this poor man. We didn't know what to think; we were outside the world, already in hell. But on seeing the body burning I thought the dead were perhaps luckier than the living; they were no longer forced to endure this hell on earth, to see the cruelty of man." (61-62)

~ *Inside the Gas Chambers: Eight Months in the Sonderkommando of Auschwitz* (2009).