

Honorable Mention

Division I – Writing

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The Gates of Auschwitz

Word Count 287

The Gates of Auschwitz

“Arbeit macht frei.” This very sentence has hate immeasurable, invokes a memory.

A memory of which no one should have known in their life, an evil, looming shadow of the past. For the many who passed those gates of evil, few came out. The few that came out, came out with that memory. A memory of evil, of work unending, of torture, whilst their captors with their whips laughed terrible, bitter laughs. Yet none would have known of this if there were not that few who emerged, or those few who dared to speak out in a sea of hate.

But it would not be a sea of hate, if there were none to cross it, to free those that were imprisoned by it. For these people that crossed it, crossed it in many ways, but all similar in the way of hope. For hope is the light that lightens the dark.

This is what they, the Nazis feared, hope, yet they gave no heed to the cries of the Jews. Save, they gave heed to the lies of their master, the fool that fooled them.

This darkness is not forever, for fools fail when light blinds them, when those who speak out speak with a true memory of light.

This sea of hate was the Holocaust ushered in by the Nazis, who were led by Hitler, who believed that he was chosen by god, to eradicate those who, in truth, were chosen by god.

“Arbeit macht frei” means ‘work shall make you free’ and this sentence was made to extinguish hope. And if those who had made it had not twisted it, it would be “Work not under cruel masters, be free.”

Works Cited

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