



THE UNITED JEWISH CONGREGATION OF HONG KONG SHABBAT SHALOM

6 – 7 May, 2005 28 NISAN, 5765 Parashat Kedoshim (Leviticus 19:1-20:27)

Rabbi Michael Schwartz
Cantorial Soloist Julie Howard

D'var Torah from Rabbi Michael Schwartz

Yom HaShoah 5765 – Wednesday night/ Thursday May 4-5, 2005

Shalom chaverim,

There are some memories we would prefer to forget, but are unable to forget. There are events we are commanded to remember. There is that which we must remind others.

“Many people – many nations – can find themselves holding, more or less wittingly, that “every stranger is an enemy.” For the most part, this conviction lies deep down like some latent infection; it betrays itself only in random, disconnected acts, and does not lie at the base of a system of reason. But when this does come about, when the unspoken dogma becomes the major premise of a syllogism, then, at the end of the chain, there is the *Lager* [concentration camp]. Here is the product of a conception of the world carried rigorously to its logical conclusion; so long as the conception subsists, the conclusion remains to threaten us. The story of the death camps should be understood by everyone as a sinister alarm-signal...

You who live safe
In your warm houses,
You who find, returning in the evening,
Hot food and friendly faces:
 Consider if this is a man
 Who works in the mud
 Who does not know peace
 Who fights for a scrap of bread
 Who dies because of a yes or a no.
Consider if this is a woman,
Without hair and without name
With no more strength to remember,
Her eyes empty and her womb cold
Like a frog in winter.
Meditate that this came about:
I commend these words to you.
Carve them in your hearts
At home, in the street,
Going to bed, rising;
Repeat them to your children,
 Or may your house fall apart,
 May illness impede you,
 May your children turn their faces from you.”

-Primo Levi's introduction to If This Is a Man

The Hong Kong Jewish community's observance of **Holocaust and Heroism Remembrance Day**, *Yom HaZikaron L'Shoah u'L'Givura*, will begin tonight with a ceremony at 7:00pm in the JCC. Please attend.

Rabbi Michael
25 Nissan 5765
10th day of the Omer

28th April, 2005