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Our Duty

It is a fact, which sadly we shall be unable to alter, that our generation - the generation of remembrance - is departing from us. With every day that passes, some of the Jews, who survived the Holocaust, also pass.

We, the small group of the Jewish *Surviving Remnant*, with roots in the large Jewish community of Częstochowa, who still had the good fortune to become imbued with the great spiritual legacy, the great cultural values of centuries of collecting treasure troves of creations of Jewish ethics and morals, of Jewish lifestyle and folklore - we have become imbued with the great song, which incessantly sings inside us - the song of the Jewish people's life in Częstochowa.

We had the even greater honour to be alongside our Częstochowa Jews during the times of the great destruction, when the German cannibals fell upon us and began their great, bloody slaughter of extermination and total obliteration of a thousand years of Jewish life in Poland - including that of our great Jewish community of Częstochowa, with its population of nearly fifty thousand Jews.

We shared in all the tortures and grisly torments which the demonic Germans employed against the Jews in Częstochowa. The Germans carried all this out in broad daylight - before the eyes of the entire world - and the world either helped the Germans in their extermination, or was utterly silent [in the face of] our annihilation. For the first time in human history, the German murderers applied their great scientific and technological knowledge towards destroying, in a sadistic manner, the entire Jewish people in Europe.

The hatred of the Germans toward the Jewish people is an eternal one. As long as the German people have existed, their will to annihilate the Jewish people has existed. It became their national ideal - their ideal as a people - to destroy the Jewish people. The German massacres upon Jews in the Middle Ages were among the most gruesome in history, until the Jews fled from there and, thus, Eastern European Jewry was established.

Those medieval slaughters were attempts, by the German people, to annihilate the Jewish people. Later, in modern times, Germany became the home of antisemitism - antisemitism became a distinct German ideal. It strove to spread this ideal across the entire world, and to prepare the ground for the global extermination of the Jewish people in its entirety - until Hitler arrived and began putting the old German theories into practice.

He was not ashamed to proclaim, freely and frankly to the entire globe, that his first and last goal was to exterminate the Jews to the end. Overtly, before the entire globe, he carried this out.

After all these sorrowful events in Jewish history, we continue witnessing the same phenomenon to this very day - Jews who forget, Jews who convince themselves that such things will never happen again. But we must always remember that it is an old German national ideal to see the end of the Jewish people. It is an eternal war between Amalek and the Jews - and from a national, historical standpoint, Jews must no longer close their eyes to this.

Our fellow [townsman] and friend, Cwi [Hersz] Klajner (nowadays, Harry Klein, in Montreal, Canada), deserves great thanks for his great efforts and toil in publishing this Cześćochower book in English and in Yiddish. Of particular importance is his achievement of eliciting the interest of the second generation of those Cześćochowa Jews, who survived the Holocaust to contribute material to this book.

We must bear in mind that, if we Jews are to continue existing as a people, we cannot let pass the fact that the Germans brought to ruin Jewish life in Europe. We still have a long and bloodied account with the German murderers. That, which the Germans have wrought upon our people, cannot be paid with "reparation monies". The generation, who lived through the Holocaust, was the generation of the *Deluge* - a generation who was physically too weak to demand a just trial against the Germans.

It is our hope that the forthcoming generations of Jews - if a Jewish people will [continue to] exist - will demand an account for the Jewish life that has been laid to waste.