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### Stirring the Conscience to Love

I opened up the book of time and saw a man reach toward me,  
Hitler, a man engulfed by rage and terror held his hand in a suffocating grip.  
I heard the screams of innocent children and saw mothers' faces marred with anguish and  
despair  
Six million Jewish lives extinguished; their souls cried out, for who could justify their  
death?  
Hate's twisted smile and silenced conscience haunted the world and plagues it still.

But in the midst of a torn and darkened chapter in history, there was light.  
Though hatred reigned as dictator, some chose to love mankind.  
At a time when communities of people were destroyed, they built up.  
When hopes were shattered, they made miracles.  
When the conscience was put to rest, they awakened it into life.  
Their stories and words reached out to my indifferent soul, and I did hear them.

Imprisoned within the walls of the Warsaw Ghetto, Jews were clutched,  
Stripped, stifled and blindly led to a hidden grave  
Until a group of young people resisted the iron fist.  
A well-trained German army against bare hands and rusted weapons of the Jews  
Fighting with their hearts and hands, they impeded deportment  
And from the graves, they reminded me of the courage to right wrong.

In Denmark, it was a miracle by midnight.  
An entire community rose to save another.  
Resistance to German authority, a spirit of courage, and a sense of unity,  
They defied the works of evil, and saved the sons of Israel.  
Smuggling them into the embracing arms of Sweden.

A tribute to those who honored human life  
Bless the town that rescued Jews from the gates of death  
Never forget the boy who handed in his life for a chance to resist evil  
Nor lessons learned from the ashes of tragedy.  
I awoke to consciousness to make a difference for  
He who saves one life, saves the world entire  
I opened up the book of time, a blank page lay before me  
Remembering the destruction of hate, I began my chapter with love.

**Sources:**

Block, Gay and Malka Drucker. Rescuers: Portraits of Moral Courage in the Holocaust. New York: Holmes and Meier Publishers, Inc., 1992.

Hogan, David, ed. The Holocaust Chronicle: A History in Words and Pictures. Lincolnwood, Illinois: Publications, International, Ltd., 2001.