



4. How does the poet juxtapose the human condition with the behaviour of the political class?

Answer: The poem is crafted in the environment when the whole of Germany rose to the ideology of Nazism and the political thinkers were determined to terminate the whole of Jew community. The thunderous rumbling of Adolf Hitler that “they must die” shook waves of terror across Europe paralysing Jews to utmost horror. The narrator exclaims at this that they are in his mind! In a public meeting in USA, where they took refuge, the speaker spoke anti Jews as well. He possibly meant that if Jews were allowed to settle in they would steal their jobs and food. Jews across the America and Europe were looked at with bitter hatred. Everyone wanted them dead. At this time the couple is left destitute at the hands of fate. They are scared and bewildered. They have nothing to go back to the nation that was once their. They suffer the loss of identity and are threatened with death constantly. A striking contrast is drawn between the two sects that the world around them is divided into. One is comprising of people like them, the Jews and the other is the one hunting for them, wanting to kill them. One is the sufferer and the other is the one inflicting pain on the first one.

5. How is the essence of the poem captured in the lines ‘two tickets to Happiness’?

Answer: The narrator and his partner are homeless and they have nothing to go back to. They grieve on their loss of identity and home. Desperate to be happy, they are ready to pay for it. The picture presented is piteous and lamentable. Though they can not have the happiness in reality, they imagine an express that goes to a land of happiness and wish to purchase two ticket of it, one for the narrator and other for his partner. The narrator desperately looks for some place to board the train but every coach was full. It is death present everywhere and they can not afford to be happy as Hitler has called the whole Europe that “they must die”. Even in the end on a land far stretched with whiteness of snow everywhere, it is displeasing to see the Nazi army hunting the Jew couple, obviously, to kill them.

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