

## **The Fate of the Bereft Reggie Chamberlain-King**

*The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust and the Holocaust Centre, Beth Shalom ([www.holocaustcentre.net](http://www.holocaustcentre.net)), ran a creative writing competition for young people for Holocaust Memorial Day 2007. The theme for entries was "The Dignity of Difference".*

*The winning entry was from 15 year old Reggie Chamberlain-King from The King's School in Ely, Cambridgeshire:*

We are the forgotten.  
No-one cared, no-one listened.  
In our time of need,  
People looked the other way.  
We did not matter: we were different.  
The outcasts, the evil, the damned.

They came.  
Those preachers of hate,  
Infecting minds with their lies of scandal and conspiracy.  
The fine mist of prejudice  
Gave way to clouds of abuse.  
Our friends didn't care; why should they care?  
We were kicked to the side, and forgotten.

Taken away.  
Bound like cattle, treated like dogs.  
People struck down in their primes.  
A knife through the heart.  
How could we fight?  
How could we stand up for ourselves?  
We were cold, confused, exhausted.  
We knocked on the door, but we were ignored.

Where are we? Who can tell?  
We rabbits quiver as the hawk circles above.  
Sounds of hunger, strife and suffering fill our ears.

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Families wrenched apart.  
Mothers crying for their babies.  
Spirits broken.

Our time had come.  
Like lambs to the slaughter we marched,  
Cowed by the greedy wolf luring us into his grasp.  
In silence we stood,  
Staring fate in the eye.  
What a waste.

We feel only pain, and then,  
Nothing.  
We are the forgotten.  
No-one cares, no-one listens.  
We are numbers on a list.  
Even today, our kin are ignored.  
And even as the corpses are piled,  
You turn away.

Yet they are human,  
The same as you.  
They too need love, friends, care.  
If you smile, they smile back.  
If you poison them, they die.

You need each other,  
For the good of the world.  
Go, sit,  
Find out together  
How you may unite the world.

Remember them,  
And remember us.