

Summary

The dissertation entitled *Theologies of the Holocaust: Women's Experiences of the Concentration Camp in Spoken Books* (Halina Birenbaum – *To nie deszcz, to ludzie*, Alina Dąbrowska – *Wiem, jak wygląda piekło*, Zofia Posmysz – *Królestwo za mgłą*) is interdisciplinary in nature, combining literary and theological perspectives.

The work consists of four chapters. The first chapter is divided into two parts: theoretical and analytical. I discuss the specificity of intersubjective texts and the spoken book as a unique form of Holocaust testimony. I refer to various typologies and classifications concerning narrative interviews and describe the methodological foundations of case study research. In the analytical section, I examine seven wartime spoken books—conversations with Władysław Bartoszewski, Alicja Gawlikowska-Świerczyńska, Michał Głowiński, Maria Kowalska, Henryk Mandelbaum, Wanda Traczyk-Stawska, and Szewach Weiss. Each book is analyzed in terms of individual experience, the manner and timing of storytelling, and textual structure. This analysis serves as an introduction to the examination of three personal testimonies from former concentration camp inmates. Chapters two, three, and four are each structured in two parts: literary analysis and theological interpretation. Chapter two focuses on the autobiographical narrative of Halina Birenbaum, chapter three on the memories of Alina Dąbrowska, and chapter four on the testimony of Zofia Posmysz.

This dissertation explores individual female experiences of the concentration camp and the subjective lens through which these experiences are perceived. Among the themes discussed are: head shaving, tattooing, lack of hygiene, disease, physiological needs, corporeality, sexuality, forced labor, interpersonal relationships, violence, and strategies of survival.

From a theological perspective, I examine the individual experience of faith and doubt within the camp, based not only on the content of spoken books but also on poetry and camp correspondence. I analyze the spiritual condition of each witness during imprisonment and compare it with post-Holocaust theological and philosophical reflections.

In the dissertation I employ following categories: autobiographical memory, case study, spoken book, camp testimony. The primary research method employed in this dissertation is the case study approach, which aligns with the poetics of culture and the

poetics of experience, drawing also on principles of anthropological inquiry. In the theological analyses, feminist criticism and experiential, biographical, and literary theologies prove especially valuable—approaches that regard testimony not only as literary text, but also as a source of knowledge about the human condition and the nature of faith.

Keywords: spoken book, testimony, witness, female experience of concentration camps, case study, theologies of the Holocaust.