

Holocaust Twin Experiments

The Holocaust twin experiments were some of the largest examples of genetic experiments conducted by Dr. Josef Mengele, well-known as the 'angel of death.' The Auschwitz concentration camp has come to symbolize the tragedy of the Holocaust itself. And, much like the ambitions of Adolf Hitler, the pseudo-scientific twin experiments simply justified the sadism and ideological obsession of Joseph Mengele.

The Auschwitz concentration camp was the place where an estimated 8 million Jews were killed by Nazis. In addition, when Dr. Mengele, an extreme anti-Semite, came, the camp was turned into a research center. Nazi human experimentation was a part of the racial state ideology and the 'Aryan super race' project. Robert Jay Lifton writes that "because identical twins possess the same genetic constitution, they have traditionally been used in research on hereditary influences." Mengele was looking for the twins as genetic specimens and owners of the sought-after pathogenic genes. For him, it was a material in which he hoped to find racial factors of hereditary pathology.

Dr. Mengele was searching for twins with unhealthy collectibility and considered the findings as a treasure. In one place he collected "175 sets of twins" (Lifton). In his operations, he cut and sewed bodies and organs. All of his operations had been done without anesthesia. Eva, a survival of the twin experiments, recalls that Mengele wanted even to create "Siamese twins by connecting blood vessels and organs" (Mozes-Kor 5). Debates range on how it could carry any scientific value. Of course, Mengele's sadism is a matter of ethics. Philosophers like Jean-François Lyotard and Emmanuel Levinas agreed that the Holocaust has changed our thinking on ethics.

According to Josef Mengele's practical logic, Jews were going to die either way, so he thought it a good idea to select the human bodies for further deadly experiments. Professor Paul Weindling noted that the man had "academic enthusiasm for Nazism." At the same time this enthusiasm was fueled by human pain and suffering.

In conclusion, the matter of Dr. Mengele is a match of scientific interest coinciding with dominant ideology. The twin genetics research considered the human body as a material human resource first and foremost. The case of Mengele shows a sadistic lack of empathy, and a scientific bubble under which the murders were hiding. The same victims said it was unclear what was better: to be killed, or to be selected by Dr. Mengele for further experiments. However, there is a clear answer to the question of whether he was more sadist or scientist.

Works Cited

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