

**PRIMO LEVI, *IN MEMORIAM*  
UN UOMO TRAVOLTO DALLA STORIA**

Per spaventar la gente a non pensare  
e ubbidir al tizio di Predappio,  
lesti i fascisti fur a dispensare  
la purga in piazza intimando il cappio.

E gli squadristi con i manganelli  
intanto perlustravan le città  
percuotendo alla cieca questi o quelli  
e dando saggio della lor viltà.

Il primo eroe a morir fu Matteotti,  
acerrimo nemico dei fascisti.  
Per processarli, gli altri eran troppi,  
cosí al confino finiron gli attivisti.

Tra questi, Carlo Levi e Pavese;  
ma certi si misero a scappare,  
e un di loro, Primo Levi, intanto,

trovò l'inferno in un altro paese.  
A stento ad Auschwitz riuscí a campare  
facendo sacrifici fino a quando

finí la guerra e poté tornare  
a far da testimon di ciò che ha visto  
ed illustrare cio che l'uom può fare

di bene e di mal, tutto frammisto.  
E lottò sempre per la rimembranza,  
e contro l'apatia che avea previsto.

Or manca al mondo la sua fratellanza  
che in Primo Levi fu costante, e quella  
offerta sempre in ogni circostanza:

la si può dire la sua *chiave a Stella*,  
che aprì le menti chiuse ed il buon senso  
per non ripeter *l'atroce procella*.

Certe cose, però, gli fecer senso:  
la smemoratezza del Bel Paese,  
perfin l'oblio che mai ebbe senso.

Non dimenticò mai il suo Lorenzo,  
l'amico ad Auschwitz che da piemontese  
fu amico a Primo con aiuto immenso  
spartendo la razione. Ed è palese  
che gli salvò la vita e nulla chiese.  
Levi visse una vita senza boria:  
fu un uomo travolto dalla storia.

**PREMO LEVI, IN MEMORIAM**  
**A MAN OVERWHELMED BY HISTORY**

To scare all people to not even think  
and to obey the Predappio fellow,  
the fascists soon dispensed a purging drink  
in open square intimating gallows.

And Mussolini's thugs, bludgeons in hand,  
meanwhile were patrolling every city  
blindly beating all who were at hand  
and showing their vileness without pity.

Matteotti was the first hero to die,  
he was, of all, the fiercest anti-fascist.  
The others were too many to be tried,  
thus most of them were confined as activists.

C. Levi and Pavese were among these,  
but some of them were able to escape,  
and one, Primo Levi, from this midst,

was deported and found another hell.  
At Auschwitz his life was almost gone  
without sacrifices and till when

the war was over and he did return  
to witness for the world what he had seen  
and illustrate that which can do a man

of good and evil and in between.  
And fought to remember all that stood,  
and against the apathy he'd foreseen.

Now the whole world lacks his brotherhood  
which in Levi was constant, and to be  
always offered in every likelihood:

one may well call it his *Star-shaped Key*,  
which tried to open closed minds and good sense  
so no one would repeat *that infamy*.

Some things, however, caused him much distress:  
of his own Country the neglectfulness,  
and the oblivion which never made sense.

He never did forget Lorenzo, a friend  
at Auschwitz who was also Piedmontese  
and gave to Primo in need a helpful hand

sharing his daily ration. It's well known  
that he saved Levi's life on his own.

Levi lived a life bereft of vanity:  
He was a man overwhelmed by History.