

## BRUTAL TREATMENT OF HUMAN BODY DURING THE NAZI-ERA WITH REFERENCE TO GUNTER GRASS'S *THE TIN DRUM*



Patchala Rajesh

Research Scholar , Dept.of English , Acharya Nagarjuna University.



### ABSTRACT

Having after published in 1959 , THE TIN DRUM is today acknowledged as the major work of Post war German literature its present day canonical status tends to obscure the decidedly mixed reactions it initially received. Upon the publication of the novel reviewed eagerly welcomed a fresh voice that signalled the beginning of a new phase of literary development almost fifteen years after the end of disastrous war.



**KEYWORDS :** *Brutal Treatment of Human body , Gunter Grass , National Socialism's obsession .*

### INTRODUCTION :

The Tin Drum is talking about many issues like the theme of guilt, and the Jewish Holocaust and the present concerned topic Euthanasia, and the treatment of human body during Nazi-Era.

Gunter Grass the author is talking about the National Socialism's obsession with the body the Nazi worship of the desirable body and the persecution of the undesirable body. The years from 1933 to 1945 were a time in which the bodies of millions of people were sacrificed for the high ideals of a few.

The Nazis who were convinced that a healthy spirit can only be found in a those who have a wealthy well shaped body , and physical beauty as an indicator of life's value and thus worthiness of life as opposed to the ugly body life of unworthy of life.

The association between degenerate art and the degenerate body in the Third Reich becomes the evident if one listens to the words of Hitler's speech at the opening ceremony of the "House of German art" and the "Great German art exhibition" in which he mentions "misshapen cripples" who inspires nothing but disgust , men who are closer to animals than humans , children who, if they stayed alive they would be cursed by God.

Coming to the novel the Protagonist Oskar and the Character Greff the supporter of Nazi-Ideology, and the neighbour of Matzerath's family they are troubled by this Nazi body politics eventually leads to the suicide of Greff.

The perception of this disabled body was best understood in the words of Maria , the first love of Oskar by which she strips him of his humanity .

In the chapter special communiqués Maria's verbal abuse of Oskar is making us to understand

very clearly the party's ideology towards Dwarfs , or degenerate bodies through these lines in the novel

“dirty pig , a nasty dwarf, a crazy midget , that should be thrown in the nuthouse” (TD 273).

Another is the chapter “Madonna 49” which alludes to Hitler's association of disabled people with the degeneracy of Modern art . When Oskar poses a model for the Dusseldorf art students one of the two professor Prof Kuchen , refers to Oskar as “cripple” and the other calls him a “freak of nature”.

Professor Kuchen's words in the chapter will make us to understand very clearly that their attitude towards degenerate bodies.

“Don't draw this cripple- slaughter him , crucify him nail him to the paper with charcoal”. (TD, 442).

In his speech Hitler pointed out that the National Socialism had made it tis task to free the Reich from all those influences that might be destructive to its people , and even if this cleansing did not happen in one day , everybody who participated in this destruction, ought to know that the hour of his or her elimination would come sooner or later.

These words are remembering us the character Greff, the Nazi supporter like Oskar, Greff is in danger of Being persecuted by the Nazis, whose understanding of asocial individuals , prostitutes, homosexuals, pimps and other types , that is people who committer moral crimes, and were consequently classified as socially not adaptable. Even Oskar, whom Maria calls Pimp, fits into this category, primarily because he is quite possibly the offspring of an incestuous love affair between his mother and her cousin Jan Bronski the a Pole. Having Sexual affairs with Jews and Poles, except Germans is regarded as a crime.

Greff the Nazi- supporter who have great physical strength , who possessed all the qualities of a Nazi- Body criteria , who is training German youths to become the citizens with good physical appearance for their country, Ironically Greff is a homosexual, which is against the Ideology of the country, but till now he hides his homosexuality in the name of that great physical body.

When the Nazi – People come to know about the homosexuality of the character Greff, gets a letter from police .

“ a summons to appear in court on a moral charge” (TD, 317).

Then the character Greff committed suicide after his homosexuality is known to all the world, committing suicide became a common thing in the reign of Nazi- Era.

Men who had sex with other men who became known to the authorities were also subject to increasing Nazi terror during the war. Obsessed with male homosexuality, the Gestapo claimed in 1941 that there were four million homosexuals in Nazi Germany. The police often obtained confessions from 'homosexuals' by coercion and torture. The only way to combat homo sexuality, the Gestapo thought, was to castrate homosexuals. Other institutions , including Wehrmacht doctors, wanted to 'cure' homosexuals by giving them the opportunity to prove themselves in battle. There were also medical experiments on homosexuals, using hormone treatment.

While legal conviction rates for homosexual men fell after the beginning of war, other agencies, such as the Gestapo, intensified their extra-legal persecution of men who had sex with other men. Homosexual men were normally treated very badly in prisons and concentration camps, reflecting contemporary anti-homosexual stereotypes. Four cases illustrate the radicalization of the Nazi persecution of male homo-sexuals , lets see one example here The case is that of Franz B, an inmate of the Sachsen-hausen concentration camp. Accused of having had sex with other men while in the camp and put on trial in Berlin in May 1940, B testified that an SS officer had suspended him from a wooden post, a normal punishment in the concentration camps and a particularly cruel way to torture, inmates.

Franz B had probably been rearrested on release from prison on the Gestapo's order. In despair, he hanged himself with his jacket. He survived because the jacket tore.

The Dwarfs , homosexuals every one was trouble and killed by Nazis . And they were So Hypocrite in their nature that Alfred Matzerath , the Nazi party member supported the Euthanasia , but when it comes to his son the Dwarf Oskar he is not happy with the decision and lied that there is nobody like dwarf in his home it shows that hypocrite nature of Nazi- people and one more example Nazi people used Oskar and other dwarf in War time, but soon after the war they want to kill him as per their party Ideology, that is the Hypocrite nature of Nazis. But lets not forget that, what happened in the past, and let it not be happen in future times for the sake of Humankind.

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