democracy will continue, that Solitary Man become even more isolated, that this isolation result in the rise of a tyrant or fall of all else that is just and good. Perhaps it is possible that somehow, somewhere, in this country "a party will separate the good that is in it theoretically from the evils that beset it practically" (Mencken, 153). However, I feel it is best not to bet the farm on possibilities. It is the nature of an object to either stay at rest or to continue a course of action for which it has some momentum. Solitary Man will neither revolt against his solitary state, nor reverse its course.

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The Role of Gypsies in the Holocaust

JULIE LUCE

> Oh, they beat me, Mother, and they threw me in the ditch with the dead. They were all bleeding and I was covered with their blood. Not my blood, Mother, but the blood of the dead Gypsies. They threw them on top of me, Mother, the dead Gypsies. The Germans killed them, Mother, and threw them in the ditch. But I didn't die, Mother, I didn't die. I lived to be alone in the world, alone amongst the Gypsies (Lee, 1971, 62).

Commonly represented as romanticized figures in movies, literary pieces, and in the minds of people across the world, the centuries of cruelty that Gypsies have faced is too often overlooked. Throughout history, this group of people has experienced slavery and persecution, but perhaps the greatest cruelty that they have faced was during the Nazi Holocaust. However, relatively little is known about the role of Gypsies as victims of the Holocaust, though they were largely included in it as targets for persecution. The reason that so little emphasis is placed on the genocide of the Gypsies during the Holocaust, despite the fact that they experienced treatment similar to that of the Jews, is primarily because of the fact that Gypsies have continually been portrayed as the underdog to almost every country they have lived in, the Gypsy reliance on oral tradition, and the focus of anti-Semitism as related to the Holocaust. Using the publications of historians, testimonies from Gypsy Holocaust survivors, and a memoir by Ronald Lee detailing the continued persecution he faces as a Gypsy in North America, convincing cases will be contributed to this topic in hopes that the world will begin to recognize the often overlooked plight of the Gypsies.

It is believed that Gypsies have an origin in India, but have made their way through other countries such as Pakistan, Azerbaijan, and Turkey, before reaching Europe (Isles, 2002). With large families and the tradition of freedom within their culture, these independent Gypsies had little interest in becoming integrated into these countries. Scholars have noted Gypsies as being nomadic travelers, with very little interest in anything *gadje*, or non-Gypsy, considering it against their beliefs to fraternize in any way with these outsiders, including such aspects as marriage and education (Altman, 2003, 59). Consequently, the nearly worldwide

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