



LEVI'S AUSCHWITZ AND DANTE'S HELL:

Witnessing and Literature

PROFESSOR SHARON PORTNOFF
Pomona College

Primo Levi's *If This is a Man* relies heavily on Dante's *Inferno* to witness to his eleven-month imprisonment in the death camp Auschwitz. Beyond the more obvious trope of the journey to Hell, these two texts share the larger question: what is the human? This lecture will explore what motivated Levi to witness to his real-life 20th-century hellish experience in the allegorical terms first coined by the great medieval Christian poet.

Tues. March 4th, 2008, 6pm
Elie Wiesel Center for Judaic Studies, room 201
147 Bay State Road

Presented by the Luce Program in Scripture and Literary Arts at Boston University.
For more information, please visit our Web site at www.bu.edu/luce or contact Program Coordinator Cristine Hutchison-Jones at crissy@bu.edu.