

*Abel Jacob Herzberg*

# Amor Fati

Seven Essays  
on Bergen-Belsen



wallstein

*Abel Jacob Herzberg*  
*Amor Fati*

BERGEN-BELSEN –  
BERICHTE UND ZEUGNISSE

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# Amor Fati

*Seven Essays on Bergen-Belsen*

Translated from the Dutch and annotated  
by Jack Santcross

With an epilogue by  
Thomas Rahe



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*Even when they are in their enemies' land,  
I shall not reject them ...*

Leviticus XXVI: 44





## Preface

It is in response to many requests that the following articles, written more or less by chance and independently of each other, and which appeared in *De Groene Amsterdammer*,\* are re-published here in a single volume.

We acceded to the requests in the belief that dissemination of knowledge about facts, conditions, and moods in the concentration camps is important for understanding society's problems. That many should have preceded me does not detract from this. All accounts by contemporaries who personally experienced the events are inevitably subjective, and the present work is no exception. However, based on different subjective accounts, it is possible to form an objective opinion. Such an opinion is important, not only for dealing with the German people, but also, and indeed in the first place, for the development of our own future. If knowledge of what took place should contribute to providing insight into what man is capable of and to what he might be driven when one is not vigilant, much will have been gained.\*\* This insight alone can prepare us for certain unavoidable decisions.

November 1946

\* A Dutch weekly newspaper established in 1877 written for an independently minded readership.

\*\* »Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty« (Translator's note, source uncertain).

### *Translator's Note*

Quotations in German have been left exactly as the author wrote them, including any mistakes that he may have made. In an attempt to make the essays more accessible to English readers the translator has added a number of explanatory footnotes for which he assumes full responsibility.

Jack Santcross