

TO BE GERMAN:

Some Thoughts about National Identity

Tell me –
What does it mean to be German?
Must I speak the language of Goethe
or enjoy Wagner and Bach?
Should I sing "Einigkeit und Recht und Freiheit" with fervor
or feel ecstatic each time
a German football team ranks 1st place?
Must I believe that spanferkel is mouth-watering
or that beer is the best invention to date?
Should I confront the word "holocaust" personally
or believe "European integration"
is a matter of fate?
Must I understand why November 9 is important
& be familiar with all sixteen states?
Should I feel Caspar David Friedrich stands
on par with Raphael
& describe how Dr. Caligari was great?
Could I be indifferent to these?
and yet still be «Deutschtum» entirely?
To be German
what is required of me?



Anya: Hmm. Adolph Hitler claimed to be the last true German.

Devani: (shaking her head) That man was warped – there was too much hatred in his heart.

Carlos: In more ways than I prefer to acknowledge, I'm afraid that all of us are warped.

- G Newfields

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