



*"From between two lines formed by SS men they were herded into the nearby grove. And now their fate was finally sealed; for here, within the shadow of the crematorium and its three gas chambers, there was no escape.*

*"They were standing some hundred meters from the pits, their view blocked by a 3-meters high camouflage screen: a few SS guards, their rifles at the ready, were posted in front of the screen to prevent anyone from going too close and through the gaps stealing a glance at the inferno behind it. . . .*

*"But the imagination of the people could not possibly envisage that the smoke clouding the sun, the huge fire raging behind the screen and the sickly smell polluting the air came from the burning of thousands of murdered human beings who, only a few hours earlier, had suffered the fate now awaiting them. . . . Every now and then, Hauptscharführer Moll put in an appearance, asking people to be patient and promising that soon they would be given something to drink. . . .*

*Several of the people were so desperately thirsty that they crouched on the ground licking the dew-wet grass. When the long-promised drink failed to materialize the people began to grow restless, distressed above all by the piteous cries and entreaties of their children who were begging their mothers for just a few drops of water. . . . This pre-programmed suffering was deliberately aimed at paralyzing the ability to notice things and the will to resist in order to allow the giant machinery of murder to run smoothly and at full speed."*

*From an account of the arrival of  
Hungarian Jews in this June of 1944.*

(From: "The Auschwitz Album"  
Lili Meir, 1981)