

DINA DASBERG

Dina Dasberg was seven-and-a-half years old when she arrived at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp with her family from Holland. Men and women were separated, and Dina was imprisoned along with her mother and grandmother.

The long days in the camp were difficult. There was a lack of food and Dina, like the other prisoners, was forced to stand long hours for roll call, even in the cold and snow. During her time at the camp she fell ill with typhus, and some of her family died from weakness and disease.

At the age of three, it had been discovered that Dina could not hear. She had no friends in the camp, and spent most of her time with her mother. Dina understood only a little of what was occurring the camp because she could only lipread. On Sabbaths, her mother attempted to give the day a unique character by creating a special meal, albeit with few and meager resources. These special moments were preserved in Dina's memory as a spot of light within the daily difficulties. Occasionally, her father would manage to visit the section of the camp where Dina and her mother were held. It was not only the desire to see her father than lent these meetings their unique quality, but also the fact that he would study with her. Because she could not hear, her father used a receipt book, on which he wrote and drew biblical stories in order to teach her. Dina describes how she eagerly looked forward to these meetings.

When relating to artifacts parents created for their children, it's worth noting not only the artifact itself and its design but also the content and messages embodied by it, the medium chosen for transmitting the message, *and also the significance of being creative as a reflection of hope and faith.*



Dina Dasberg - Notebook.
Yad Vashem Artifacts Collection, Gift of Dina Kimchi & Shimon Tidhar, Petach-Tikva/Kvutzat Yavne, Israel.



"The Creation", as drawn by Eliezer Dasberg for his young daughter Dina in a notebook in the Bergen-Belsen camp.
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