Eva Forgives the Angel of Death

When we were light -
laughter and innocence twinned -
childhoods brief as breath; a lapse; a phase.
We must force the memory!
When were we light?

Once upon the limitless
air of spring, weightless, we were
just slightly there, like a still-born thought. Eva!
Did we dream the unsparing smoke as
night came on?

Lamb-like
we were strapped to
their absurd altar. And why? Eva!
So Todesengel could doctor perfect children for
a fabled thousand years?

Eva! Think!
We were pinned and tabled;
cased, blanched-cold of our chastened
motherless blood
and now?

We are a holocaust
of questions, questions, questions!
And we do not know what to make of you, Eva!
You took his hand!
You lost your mind?

I was called to touch an abject heart that weeps with us, beyond the pale.

O,
Eva!
Let us be, Eva……
We must inscribe the monotony still,
of the ever-turning rabid mill
and blot out the memory of Amalek,
as the learned say!
Yet, some say,
Let us be
Eva.

Eva Kor and her twin sister Miriam, were among the surviving victims of the infamous Doctor Joseph Mengele, nick-named Todesengel (Angel of Death). Their parents were murdered in the Auschwitz concentration camp. In 2015 Eva appeared at a trial for another former Nazi perpetrator, a repentant soul. And, in an act of stunning singularity, before a courtroom – a chorus - of Jewish survivors of the Holocaust, forgave him.