

*“Scelte tragiche” e “valore della vita”: riflessioni a partire da
Il diritto di morire (1895) di Adolf Jost*

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Tragic choices occur when essential goods lack. War, death of young soldiers, economic recession, and famine lead to separate useful people from uselessness ones. A way of thinking about human life marked by social-Darwinism, humanity purity and health leads to recognize illness and disable people as internal enemies. During the first postwar period, all of these conditions occurred in Germany and they established who had to live and who had to die. Jost's right to die slowly became the question about who had the right to live in tragic times. The value of life depended on the account of its utility and the costs needed to support it. Binding and Hoche purpose aimed to value human life according to the safety of the State and of its population. Today, these points of view can surprise or scandalize, but they can also show us as the value of human life depends on cultural feature, economic conditions, and circumstances.

Keywords: *value, life, choice, safety, illness*

Quale decisione è priva di mali?
(Eschilo, *Agamennone*, 1, 211)

Ich liebe die hektischen, schlanken
Narzissen mit blutrothem Mund;
Ich liebe die Qualengedanken,
Die Herzen zerstoehen und wund;
Ich liebe die Fahlen und Bleichen,
Die Frauen mit müdem Gesicht,
Aus welchen in flammenden Zeichen,
Verzehrende Sinnenglut spricht;
Ich liebe die schillernden Schlangen,
So schmiegsam und biegsam und kühl:
Ich liebe die klagenden, bängen,
Die Lieder von Todesgefühl;
Ich liebe, was niemand erlesen,
Was keinem zu lieben gelang:
Mein eigenes, urinnerstes Wesen
Und alles, was seltsam und krank.
(Felix Dörmann, *Was ich liebe*)