



ASH WEDNESDAY

The Polish equivalent for the English word Lent is Wielki Post, which translated means the Great Fast. Fast – this is a man's struggle for his greatness with his passions which try to pull him down. The Great Fast begins on Ash Wednesday. On this day Roman Catholics go to church where a priest traces a cross of ashes on the foreheads as a sign of penance in preparation for the Death and Glorious Resurrection of the Lord. Joy gives way to seriousness and reflection for the forty days of the Great Fast.

For a Polish writer, Ash Wednesday leads to the following reflections: Ash Wednesday was free from lessons and we were taken to church where a priest stood before our heads with ashes, sad remnants of recently green palm branches, which he now poured on our heads.

For Poles, the whole earth is filled with ashes: Dachau, Buchenwald, Gross Rosen, Oświęcim (Auschwitz), Majdanek. At Majdanek in Poland, 1350 cubic meters were uncovered, or of human ashes. Ash Wednesday also seems to us of the important creative task of utilizing human an real values to proper goals. To achieve this, it is necessary to be a self-disciplined person, to overcome something in one's life for a higher goal.

