Lady Lazarus

I have done it again.
One year in every ten
I manage it—— — extended pause

A sort of walking miracle, my skin
Bright as a Nazi lampshade, — allusion to WWII
My right foot
A paperweight,
My face a featureless, fine — alliteration / nothingness / metaphor / imagery of
Jew linen. — WWII imagery; profiteering of Nazis

Peel off the napkin — allusion to burial shroud
O my enemy. — rescuer as enemy
Do I terrify?—— extended pause.

The nose, the eye pits, the full set of teeth? — physical attributes that hold the suffering will vanish
The sour breath
Will vanish in a day.

Soon, soon the flesh — metaphor / assonance / leaves us in care
The grave cave ate will be — death is apart of her flesh; comfortable.
At home on me

And I a smiling woman. — emotive language.
I am only thirty.
And like the cat I have nine times to die. — hyperbole; confidence in attempt.

This is Number Three. — proper noun; give the suicide attempts importance.
What a trash — colloquial / trivial; emotive / negative connotations.
To annihilate each decade.

What a million filaments. — reductive / dehumanising
The peanut-crunching crowd — metaphor → performance for an audience → trivialising
Shoves in to see → voyeurism of the spectacle of her life / death.

Them unwrap me hand and foot—— — body parts; not a whole. — direct biblical ref. John Chpt 11.
The big strip tease. — metaphor; sexual imagery added to voyeurism
Gentlemen, ladies

These are my hands
My knees.
I may be skin and bone, — frailty of her physical and mental state.

Nevertheless, I am the same, identical woman.
The first time it happened I was ten.
It was an accident. — confessional / matter-of-fact.

The second time I meant
To last it out and not come back at all. — intent on being successful in attempt to die.
I rocked shut — simile. To shut out the world; withdrawal.
As a seashell.
They had to call and call — repetition adds to urgency
And pick the worms off me like sticky pearls.

Dying
Is an art, like everything else. — performance art
I do it exceptionally well. — pride / boasting

I do it so it feels like hell. — simile; pain / agony
I do it so it feels real. — metaphor / emotive.
I guess you could say I've a call. — vocation / religious allusion or military → cold war.

It's easy enough to do it in a cell. — trapped imagery.
It's easy enough to do it and stay put.
It's the theatrical — performance art

Comeback in broad day — visibility; not hidden in darkness
To the same place, the same face, the same brute
Amused shout: — irony of emotive language.

'A miracle!' — religious allusion to Lazarus rising from the dead.
That knocks me out. — belief that it is a miracle to be alive.
There is a charge — entry fee; admission to the spectacle.

For the eyeing of my scars, there is a charge — repetition; someone must pay;
For the hearing of my heart—— — alliteration; extended pause for reflection.
It really goes. — disbelief

And there is a charge, a very large charge — repetition; emphasis of her own value
For a word or a touch — christ-like imagery
Or a bit of blood — hyperbolic opinion of her own value

Or a piece of my hair or my clothes. — allusion to holocaust imagery; hair and clothes of victims of genocide.
So, so, Herr Doktor. — rescuer; doctor and enemy the same?
So, Herr Enemy.

I am your opus, — creation
I am your valuable, — objectification
The pure gold baby

That melts to a shriek. — away to nothing. Grief.
I turn and burn. — assonance; holocaust imagery
Do not think I underestimate your great concern. — sarcasm

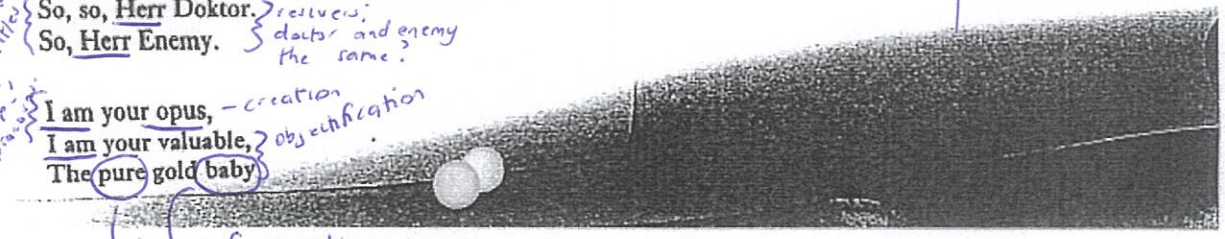
Ash, ash— — repetition of holocaust imagery; also religious allusion ashes to ash.
You poke and stir. — physical violence
Flesh, bone, there is nothing there—— — soul-less, dehumanising

A cake of soap, — reduction of life / literality to objects of value.
A wedding ring,
A gold filling. — holocaust imagery; melted down gold, all that remains after cremation

Herr God, Herr Lucifer — juxtaposition of good + evil; sameness??
Beware — warning
Beware. — repetition

Out of the ash — unnatural resurrection; out of nothingness
I rise with my red hair — colour imagery; strength, power
And I eat men like air. — simile; power of women in male dominated society
23–29 October 19[illegible]

↳ this image empowers women to overcome the oppression of a male dominated society
↳ it is defiance.

Main images / allusions
↳ Nazism, holocaust, Jew, deformity, suicide, death, inhumanity, religion

* Death is the only escape
* Conflict between the sexes
* An expression of Plath's feelings surrounding her failed suicide attempts