

Chynese Harris

March 21 2014

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“In the beginning there was faith---which is childish; trust which---which is vain; and illusion---which is dangerous.” This is what Eliezer Wiesel went through in his memoir, *Night*. In *Night*, Wiesel paints a dark and angry side of human nature. In the beginning, everything in Wiesel’s life was fine. He was a normal young boy who had a nice life. Everyone had faith in God, but they felt as though he didn’t care for them because he didn’t save them from the torture they had to endure. When the Germans arrived, everyone trusted them because they appeared to be nice, but the Germans eventually betrayed them. When people were taken away, they had an illusion of what the camps would be like, based on what they were told. Once they arrived in the camps, they realized that what they were told was wrong. *Night* shows how man can be deceiving, malicious, and conniving.

The first instance in *Night* that paints a dark and angry picture of human nature is when Eliezer arrived at the camp. They were all headed to the crematorium and truck came along and unloaded a pile of children into the pit of flames. Eliezer had never been exposed to such a thing, so it was quite a shock to him. I chose this event because it’s only the beginning of all the horrible things Eliezer witnessed. I believe this opened his eyes to what was actually happening in the camps. A baby is very innocent and could possibly do no wrong, so for them to burn babies, it shows just how cruel man can be.

The next incident that stuck out to me was when Schlomo, Eliezer’s father, asked to use the toilets and was basically beaten for a simple question. The Gypsy slapped Schlomo so hard that he fell. Eliezer became upset. Schlomo told him that the slap didn’t hurt. I think the slap

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probably hurt him, but her didn't want his son to be angry and try to rebel against the officers because that would most likely result in Eliezer being killed. This shows how strong of a relationship Eliezer had with his father. This also shows the dark angry side of human nature because the man became enraged over something so simple.

The final event is when Eliezer father became ill. Eliezer took his father to a doctor and the doctor basically had the worst possible attitude and said that he wouldn't be able to help Schlomo because he was a surgeon and it wasn't his business. I don't understand how someone who could do something as complex as surgery wouldn't be able to help someone who was simply just sick. The doctor was hostile for no apparent reason. Doctors are supposed to help people the best way they can, and he didn't even make an attempt. This shows the dark and angry side of human nature because as a nation of people we should always help each other and the doctor didn't do that. He didn't even show any sympathy towards Schlomo. His overall character as a person is flawed.

In retrospect, Night teaches its readers that there are many types of people and there are some cruel things that some people do to others.