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Mrs. Graning

English

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Survival

War is a time of death, pain, lies, and loss all with a young boy caught in the middle named Eli Wiesel. It's all due to a man named Adolf Hitler. Hitler's hatred of the Jewish people first came from his own failures in life, and he only saw them as a way to advance his political career. He used the general Antisemitism in Europe as a rallying point to use in his speeches. This among other things led to his complete control of Germany. After his take over he started to increase the army size of Germany, Germany's small army was due to the treaty of Versailles. This treaty ended WW1 where Germany was part of the axis powers.

Eli's suffering in the camps of Hitler's camps is a plot point that's restated many times throughout the story, one of these is when Eli first enters the camp and sees fire, death, pain. "humanity? Humanity is not concerned with us. Today anything is allowed. Anything is possible, even these crematories." (Pg. 31) this quote from Eli's dad shows Hitler's fear mongering, horrifying acts that he used to make the Jews believe everything he said. He made this clear to the Jews of Auschwitz that they weren't human anymore and never had been. Survival is just coming out alive, it's coming out mentally alive. Nevertheless Eli prevails in his life even when he was treated like he was already dead.

“Pain” one of Hitler's biggest methods of torture. He instilled into everybody working under him that the Jews were nothing but vermin that were meant to exterminate. Eli's felt pain everyday in those camps, “don't think. Don't stop. Run.” One of the most brutal moments in the book is the running. This is when Eli and his dad are forced to run from one camp to another. 42 miles is how far he and his dad had to run. If they stopped they were immediately shot, life, when something like that is held over you, you stop thinking and you just start doing. Just like how Eli did, no matter the pain.

Eli's life inside the camps of Hitler was one where the only thing that truly mattered to him was his own life. After his dad passed he lost all motivation to do anything. “I have nothing to say about my life during this period. It no longer mattered. After my father's death, nothing could touch me any more.”(98) This really gives an example of Eli's life after his father's death, nothing. “I spent my days in a total state of idleness. Had but one desire-to eat. I no longer thought of my father or of my mother.”(98) In fact he lost all feeling for everything; it was all just water under the bridge for him.

With Eli's Wiesel's retelling of the Holocaust is a constant reminder of horrible things that happened in Hitler's work camps. Eli's life is one of a phoenix, one of life death and rebirth. Whilst he didn't die but he lost it all emotion, family, faith. Just for it all to come back in his survival, just don't forget. War is a time of death, pain, lies, and loss all with a young boy caught in the middle named Eli Wiesel.

Works Cited

Wiesel, Elie, and Marion Wiesel. *Night*. Penguin Classics, 2004.