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Mrs. Graning

The Night of Survival

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The most difficult time in Elie's life was surviving the holocaust. Elie saw and endured horrible things that impacted him both physically and emotionally. He lost all of his friends and some of his family. He struggled keeping the remainder of his family alive. He battles a constant battle to keep his body from collapsing each day from the physical work and torment he endures. The Jews not only experience severe emotional struggle, but also physical struggle as well. Germans were all Elie could see, their eyes surrounded him. The Germans were cruel to the Jews, treating them like animals. Elie's experience was made up by loss of hope, the Germans, and Elie's experience in the camp.

Elie battles with emotional ups and downs in his mind. Elie hopes his father survives, but he quickly loses hope. He also loses his faith in God. This is evident when Elie says "where is God, where is he," after seeing a child being hanged (Wiesel, 57). Elie soon loses all hope even saying "never shall I forget those nights" (Wiesel, 57). Elie's body and his mind lose all of his humanity. All he hoped for was being provided a meal everyday. He and the other Jews witnessed horrific events, such as seeing a child strangled to death. He went emotionally numb and questioned whether living for hope was what he wanted to do.

Ellie thought the Germans would help them, but he saw reality when he arrived at Auschwitz. He felt a deep hatred for the Germans for what they had done to him. Ellie didn't know Hitler could do this to people until he realized Hitler was in control. When he saw guards laughing at a suffering Jew, he could see the darkness and evil in their eyes. As the Jew passed through towns in Germany, the Germans threw bread on the train. People on the train would kill each other over the bread. Ellie watched in horror as a father and son fought over the bread. As time went on, Ellie started to hate the Germans more and more. "Their cold eyes, Ellie thought, had no meaning anymore and they were there to laugh at them" (Wiesel). The Germans tortured the Jew's beat them and fooled with their mind

The most horrific thing wasn't the sites he saw, but the place itself. Ellie stayed at over 4 concentration camps, which included Birkenau, Auschwitz, Buna, Gleiwitz, and Buchenwald. All of them were horrible, but Buna treated them a little better than the others. They stayed in old rusty, dirty shacks and they were allowed very few showers. "A hundred of us got into the wagon, a dozen of us got out and we arrived at Buchenwald" (Wiesel 91). The Jews traveled from one camp to another where they suffered from the cold and hunger. Each one of the camps had a big furnace that haunted all Jew. Gleowitz was the last camp the Jews went to. They did not stay there for long because the war was ending.

For this reason the Jews suffered through many years. The holocaust ruined many who had even survived. Ellie was lucky enough to have been saved by American soldiers. He and other Jews will be traumatized for life and will never be the same. This theme shows what happens to humanity when you strip everything away from them. This horrible tragedy probably ruined every Jew's life. It took a long time for Ellie to recover from this, thinking about all those

moments every day. For Ellie, the holocaust consisted of his loss of hope, the impact the Germans made, and his experience in the concentration camps.

Works cited

Elie. Wiesel, Night, PG. Elie Wiesel,1956