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Mrs. Graning

English

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Night

Elie Wiesel's story of his life during the Holocaust seems almost unbelievable! The hopelessness and cruelty that he went through are told in his book, *Night*. Elie Wiesel, born in 1928, grew up in a small town called Sighet to Jewish parents along with his three sisters. At the beginning of the book Elie is twelve years old, a student of his religious tutor, and wants to dedicate himself to his faith. In the book *Night*, Elie shows interest in the cabbala, then doubtfulness, and lastly godlessness all throughout the book.

Elie shows a lot of interest towards faith during the beginning of the book. "During the day I studied the Talmud, and at night I ran to the synagogue to weep over the destruction of the Temple" (Wiesel 1). He wanted to study the cabbala so he found himself a tutor, Moshe the Beadle. The book reflects this when Elie is telling the readers what he learned. Moshe taught Elie the mysteries and the revelations of the cabbala. One day Moshe was sent away because the foreign Jews were transported from Sighet. A few months later he came back and told everyone that he was lined up for death and nobody believed him. Elie's faith was very strong until he and his family also were sent off to a concentration camp.

Once Elie got in the camp he was separated from his mom and sisters. He started to lose faith and doubted God. Elie and his father were starved and were tormented at the camp. A

young boy at the camp was hanged by the neck and he didn't die immediately like the other two adults did. Elie heard a voice around him say "Where is God now?" Then another person answered "Where Is He? Here He is-He is hanging here on this gallows" (Wiesel 57). Elie and the others were blaming God for what the Germans were doing to the little boy and everybody else. They were starting to ease away from God everyday.

Elie began to completely lose his faith in God. When the Jewish new year came up, everyone was fasting and praying to God, but Elie wasn't. In the book, Elie admitted that he was nervous to tell his father happy new year, since he didn't believe in it anymore. Elie's father was dying from dysentery and the Jews did not like that, so they would beat him due to the fact that they couldn't tolerate him anymore. Elie tried to save his father by going to see the doctor and giving his father his portion of food, but he ended up dying. Elie started to give up on living since he only lived because of his father. "I have nothing to say of my life during this period. It no longer mattered. After my father's death, nothing could touch me any more" (Wiesel 98). Elie no longer thought of his mom, father, and sisters. All he thought of now was of something to eat. Elie eventually got saved by the American tanks.

Elie Wiesel, with his interest in the cabbala during the beginning of the book, later his doubtfulness in God, and finally his godlessness all characterized him in this book. As a twelve year old Elie had wanted to dedicate himself to his faith. However, throughout the time of his imprisonment, his circumstances caused him to doubt all he had ever believed. He lost his faith as he faced starvation, cruelty, and sickness. Readers of *Night* may often have similar experiences in their life also that they can relate to. Even in the worst times there is always hope!

Works Cited Page

Wiesel, Elie. *Night*. EMC/Paradigm Publishing, 2003.