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Mrs. Graning

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Never Forget

The book *Night* is an autobiography written by Elie Wiesel. It showed the truth about the German concentration camps and how much pain the Jews endured and went through from the standpoint of survivor, Elie. He was able to survive the concentration camps because of his incredible strength. Elie's strength during the Holocaust came from three key things: his physical survival, his mental survival and the survival of his faith. Because of these things he was able to keep going and live to tell his story to the world.

Elie was physically able to survive the concentration camps even through extreme starvation, regular beatings and many other horrors we could not even imagine today. Many others died because of the conditions of these camps, or they were murdered in the crematories. Elie came close to death many times. For example, he was forced to run forty-two miles straight with an injured foot while being starved and weak on their journey to Buchenwald. Elie escaped death despite living in the brutal conditions at Auschwitz. He survived the death march from Buna to Gleiwitz despite many others dying. "But death scarcely needed any help from them. The cold was conscientiously doing its work. At every step someone fell and suffered no more" (Wiesel 83).

The concentration camps mentally broke its prisoners including Elie for a period of time. He was kicked out of his home, witnessed children being tossed into a pit of fire, and had to

watch his own father being beaten. He was stripped of his humanity. The main thing that kept Elie from giving up and dying was the thought of his father being stranded at the camps completely by himself. "I had no right to let myself die. What would he do without me? I was his only support" (Wiesel 78). Eventually, Elie's father died from dysentery. Elie's felt lifted of a burden because he was caring so much about being there for his father and trying to keep him alive.

Elie's faith played an immense part in his life. In the early chapters of the book, he relied on his faith in everything. Without it he felt empty and without purpose. During the Holocaust he questioned God many times. He wondered why this could happen to innocent people. After he was liberated, his faith returned but it was different and had been shaped by his experience. He had vowed to never forget what he went through and saw. "Never shall I forget those moments which murdered my God and my soul and turned my dreams to dust. Never shall I forget these things, even if I am condemned to live as long as God Himself. Never" (Wiesel 32).

Elie Wiesel's survival showed his incredible strength. His physical survival kept him alive to write about the horrors of the Holocaust. He came close to death many times but preserved. His mental survival was because of his father and his hope to protect him. He kept going when others would have given up. The survival of his faith did not carry him through his entire journey, but it was able to return in a reshaped way and helped to encourage him to write *Night*. These things shape Elie as a person and give us an idea of how terrible humanity can be. Like Elie, we should never forget what has happened so we will never repeat it.

Works Cited Page

Wiesel, Elie. *Night*. MacGibbon & Kee, 1960.