

Man's search for meaning is book written by Victor Frankel in 1946, describing his experiences of different concentration camps, while finding the purpose of life in the face of misery.

I was stunned by the kinds of horror and dehumanising conditions that the prisoners of concentration camp had to face daily, I cannot help but draw the similarities between instances from the book and ragging in hostels which I faced in my residential school.

The detachment of the writer - who himself was the victim of camps – while writing the book is amazing. The account of incidents inside the camps were unbiased while explaining the turmoil that a person is facing. There were many insights that I got while reading the book. First was about the hope. Hope was something that is unique in human. Only a human can survive atrocities, beyond his physical capabilities only with hope and reason to live - "The one who have a why can survive almost any how". On the other hand loss of hope can be detrimental for an individual. The person must be given the reason to survive or he is doomed.

The second thing that I learnt was the appreciation for small things. We often tend to ignore or take granted the small pleasures in our lives. But in the harsh conditions of concentration camps where one is constantly reminded of his mortality, the appreciation for beautiful scenery or small act of kindness grow tremendously. This is very similar to the condition were a person is suffering from a terminal disease.

The book emphasises on the power of love which transcends the human body and which is the ultimate goal of human nature. I can see how the sense of love can help a person to survive in these harsh condition, which is very well captured in the text.

While reading the book the analogies from the real world keep coming to me, one of which was the type of person can come from any background. The rank of a person can tell almost nothing about the nature of the person. The two kinds of people in book the decent and indecent are found in every culture and human kindness is found in all groups.

The book also gives an insight about how should we make our decisions. We often find ourselves in dilemma about the choices, but we must choose the option based on the morality. Often it is hard to make the moral decisions and seems that it puts us in disadvantage, but these decisions lighten our heart and free us from guilt.

The very purpose of the book in my view is to show that the human has the ability to be free even in the most harsh condition. Nobody could take the freedom of choosing our attitude to a situation. The ability to be content and happy is always with us irrespective of our condition and more tough the situation the more exposed is the deeper personality of a human. The ability to not being shaken by the outer situations is something we could all aspire for, although there are not many people who could achieve it but even one example is enough to show us that it is possible.

One of the important lesson I learnt from the book is - Nobody is allowed to take pleasure in others suffering even he himself has suffered a lot.

This book was an opener of me many sense, the first was the about the history and kind of torture imposed by the people on the people just on the basis of race. Second was about the power of faith, which help a person to survive. Third was that the importance of society in human life which was evident from the instances people even skip their meal to be a part of social gathering in camp. Fourth was about the human nature which even in the face of such hardship doesn't lost humanity to become an animal and it what differs human from other animals.

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