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Faith and Hope

Faith can be interpreted broadly and may exist in many different forms or faith in different things. Having faith in something may be the force of eventful situations and decisions like having the goal of playing the violin or to not commit suicide and have *faith* of a better ending. In Elie Wiesels’s memoir *Night* faith has a strong role. In the book faith is seen as devotion or hope in something or someone, usually God. Faith is one of the last things Elie and people like him who were in Jewish concentration camps can hold on to, and when faith is gone or switched onto something else it can mean a sooner death of a person’s meaning or death of a person’s life. Faith is portrayed as a form of hope and functions as a sort of shelter by being the invisible source of comfort for those in the camps.

Before Elie was a captive he and his father did not have a close relationship, He writes, “[My father] rarely displayed his feelings, not even within his family” (4). His father would be busy with the town’s people and was an unsentimental man. Though once inside Auschwitz Elie was separated from his mother and his two sisters leaving him and his father with no choice but to unite and support each other. Elie was raised to be religious and before in the ghettos, “[He] was up at dawn. [He] wanted to have time to pray before leaving” (18). Elie had faith and devotion for God. After a while of being in Auschwitz and seeing many being victims of suicide, hangings, separation, beatings and starvation Elie like many others had broken down and lost the reassurance he had before that God was doing right and was looking out for the best for all. He “Never shall forget those flames that consumed [his] faith forever..never shall [he] forget those moments that murdered [his] God and [his] soul and turned [his] dreams to ashes” (34). With his faith in God diminishing day by day so did his hope to live.

Elie later put his faith in the bond he and his father created and lived to avoid situations where their lives would be at risk. After being in a march away from Auschwitz to another camp everyone was selected from the weak to the capable. Elie and his father were in one of many situations where they were being separated but Elie needed and believed in their bond so much that he went after him and, “Several SS men rushed to find [him]..there were gunshots and some dead” (96).