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Journal Entries of Night
 Elie Wiesel

Quote	Significance to the Story	Interpretation
<p>“Moishe was not the same. The joy in his eyes was gone. He no longer sang. He no longer mentioned either God or Kabbalah. He spoke only of what he had seen. But people not only refused to believe his tales, they refused to listen. Some even insinuated that he only wanted their pity, that he was imagining things. Others flatly said that he had gone mad” (7).</p>	<p>With this at the beginning of the first chapter, it is the author’s attempt to foreshadow what will come to everyone. With this part of the story only taking place during World War One it allows for all that he says to come true when the second war comes. It also shows the ignorance of the Jews and that they would rather live in joy than in fear.</p>	<p>The Jews when hearing the news from the lower class jew they choose to ignore facts and play them off as the rambling stories of a poor man looking for their pity. The truth however is that if you would have taken the time to know him then you would have been able to see how that “The joy in his eyes was gone. He no longer sang. He no longer mentioned either God”</p>
<p>““The yellow star? So what? It's not lethal ...’ (Poor Father! Of what then did you die?)” (11).</p>	<p>With every act that happens they dismiss it, they say it could be worse or it is just a yellow star it does not mean anything. Besides that, it is supposed to be a shield but it is too bad it did not protect them. Not all jews however are ignorant some see how unethical this is but the quote here is to show how unaware the father is and how that leads to his death. It is not just that it killed him but he changed his thinking and most likely ends up fighting for the cause. The only thing that makes him want to stay alive.</p>	<p>The author by not going into this topic deeply creates a sense of frustration. This notable extent of discrimination and showing that the jews are not thinking too much creates frustration. That is not however how he leaves it, he leaves you feeling sad for the father because you can not be mad it is more of a sadness. It was because of the father’s ignorance that they died.</p>

<p>““There are eighty of you in the car," the German officer added. "If anyone goes missing, you will all be shot, like dogs””(24)</p>	<p>This threat from the German soldier is more than just a threat it is a fact that should shock. Boxcars are only about 9 ft. 4 in. wide and 50 ft. 6 in. in length, it is about the size of an average classroom filled with eighty people. The other shock that they include is how the Germans feel about the Jews. They think of them as no more than things that if they misbehave can take out and shoot. To the soldiers even the dogs have more of a purpose to them they help keep these things in the car.</p>	<p>If the dogs serve more of a purpose than the Jews, why are they taking the time to transport them to a labor camp. Some may say that the Germans see that they are humans and can do some work but I think that the Germans hate them so much that they wanted to see them suffer. Something that the Jews did hurt them so badly that they take pleasure in seeing them suffer in those train cars with such fear that they have no hope of escaping.</p>
<p>“Never shall I forget that night, the first night in camp, that turned my life into one long night seven times sealed. Never shall I forget that smoke. Never shall I forget the small faces of the children whose bodies I saw transformed into smoke under a silent sky. Never shall I forget those flames that consumed my faith forever. Never shall I forget the nocturnal silence that deprived me for all eternity of the desire to live. Never shall I forget those moments that murdered my God and my soul and turned my dreams to ashes. Never shall I forget those things, even were I condemned to live as long as God Himself. Never””(34).</p>	<p>Wiesel uses anaphora to emphasize his experience and how he will “never” forget that night. This pivotal night changed him. When he saw the sea of dead bodies it was like a part of him died but not the part of sin but of faith, hope, and humanity. It burned up with the souls of the Jews. The Germans had been able to murder the image of God in the Jew’s minds in one night. Just like Moïse had said and shown they no longer had faith in God after this experience they feel a silence from him that he no longer hears their cries.</p>	<p>I am not able to understand what they experienced on that night but I do not believe that God left them but I do not think that Eliezer would have that he would be saying that either but as a Christian, it just makes it more real it shows how horrible it must have been to lose all faith in God in one night. I can not imagine that everyone lost faith in him.</p>

<p>“No guard in sight, only the chimney's shadow ... Lulled by the sunshine and my dreams,”(40).</p>	<p>The chimney of the furnaces has such a pull on the jews. Wiesel describes the smoke as a force that covers both the sunshine and their dreams, far up there with the that is unreachable. Even when the guards are nowhere in sight the chimney and the smoke have such a pull on them that they have no will to try to leave. They know that any small wrong action could send them to the furnace. So for them, the chimney's shadow is enough to keep them in line. So to them, the chimney is scarier than the guards themselves</p>	<p>The emphasis on this sentence is the chimney diminishing the dreams of the jews but they obviously know what those dreams are or they would not feel diminished. The fact is the fear of the chimney is greater than the dreaming of freedom.</p>
<p>“the third rope was still moving: the child, too light, was still breathing... And so he remained for more than half an hour, lingering between life and death, writhing before our eyes. And we were forced to look at him at close range. He was still alive when I passed him. His tongue was still red, his eyes not yet extinguished. Behind me, I heard the same man asking: ‘For God’s sake, where is God?’ And from within me, I heard a voice answer: ‘Where He is? This is where -- hanging here from this gallows...’”(65).</p>	<p>The author uses vivid descriptions to exemplify a horrible experience. The image of the young or the innocent suffering to death. The guards however do not see youth they see a smaller tool that might have messed up and therefore “deserves” to die.</p>	<p>Reading this passage many people would agree that the people that died shortly were the lucky ones. They did not have to suffer for so long as they stared down death. This is a similar parallel to all the jews that have to live their lives in the concentration camps struggling and also staring down the face of death. Something that the prisoners have that the boy doesn’t is hope. Hope that they could possibly escape but once that is gone they are just like that boy innocently hanging with death near. Something that is ironic is that they say for the sake of god where is god.</p>

<p>“Yes, man is stronger, greater than God” (67).</p>	<p>He thinks that since he does not see or feel God that he is not there. Which makes sense I could not imagine being in that situation so much death. This is not a new idea for these people it also happens when the Hebrews were persecuted Pharaoh.</p>	<p>How can he say that the most powerful being in the world is not as strong and is less than man. The people that created this horrible situation are greater than the God that while is a God of wrath is also a God of love and would not want this to happen, but god also created free will, and yes, he created it. Can people create something like that, create an entire world with one world, he may not be able to change us but that is because he does not want to imprison us.</p>
<p>“It gave me orders and I executed them blindly. I hated that bell. Whenever I happened to dream of a better world, I imagined a universe without a bell”(73).</p>	<p>The guards are what actually give orders but the author uses the inanimate objects to convey their tasks. They create fear or the chimney, they give the order, the bell, with these two things keeping them in line they are able to do things blindly. This passage also proves that he does actually have hope and dreams of a better world. This is the first time that they have mentioned that a better place or that they could get through this experience but there is still a lot of this story left. The more you read the more that you might find the little</p>	<p>He says “Whenever I happened to dream” meaning that he does not do it often continuing on the idea that there is not of hope left but he is starting to find it. The more you read the more that you might find the littlest bit of hope it just keeps getting worse. It started with lots of hope but the more you read the less hope they seem to have.</p>

<p>“I have more faith in Hitler than in anyone else. He alone has kept his promises, all his promises, to the Jewish people”(81).</p>	<p>He knows that Hitler will keep his promises as long as he has anything to do with it. This again adds another reason to blindly follow there is now a force that will keep its promise. Almost like God, they do not see him but they know he is there and that he will keep his promise.</p>	<p>How could he give more of his faith to Hitler the man who wants to kill you than God? I guess that they are putting trusting him with their lives which is not going to end well.</p>
<p>“The darkness enveloped us. All I could hear was the violin, and it was as if Juliek's soul had become his bow. He was playing his life. His whole being was gliding over the strings. His unfulfilled hopes. His charred past, his extinguished future. He played that which he would never play again”(95)</p>	<p>This is such a sadly beautiful scene, in a car full of people this boy is able to capture his small amount of freedom to play his dying song to play a song that he could but is heart and soul into. He was, not able to play this song before because they wouldn't let him but as death creeps in they no longer have a grip on him and he is able to play what he wants. The author uses empty phrases to show the sense of sadness as he plays his last song by saying things like “unfulfilled hopes” and “extinguished future” he also uses words like “enveloped” and “never” to explain how this is the end of his life and that these are his final moments.</p>	<p>I love the poetry of this scene and how sad it also has that sense of hearing in this story creating the full experience making the more real.</p>

<p>“Beasts of prey unleashed, animal hate in their eyes. An extraordinary vitality possessed them, sharpening their teeth and nails”(101)</p>	<p>As people throw bread to the jews, they become beasts with no science of emotion even fighting off people’s own relatives and being selfish to survive. They are now becoming less like humans and more like the dogs that the germans had wanted them to be. They have to know lots more of themselves they no longer have kindness it is pure selfishness. That is the thing that is possessing them. The Germans have been calling them animals and demons and now as they are starving you can see this.</p>	<p>He uses such great imagery in these sentences to explain the rage and need for the food that the possession is what sharpens their teeth and their nails making them more savage.</p>
<p>“This discussion continued for some time. I knew that I was no longer arguing with him but with Death itself, with Death that he had already chosen.”(105).</p>	<p>This personification of death helps show that there is no longer a fight between the father and the idea of death his will has gone over to death so the only thing holding him back is his son.</p>	<p>As it says the father had already chosen death so it was a lost argument. I personally do not blame him like the boy hanging for the noose I would rather be the ma to his right already dead than be the boy suffering to hang on to life. The thing is however is he is so close to freedom within a couple of days he would be free. Then again once they are free does that mean people will help him and what if they do not get free because of him. While this is a hard choice to choose death it makes sense for the father to make this decision for him and for the sake of his son.</p>

“One more stab to the heart, one more reason to hate. One less reason to live”(109).

The people that are supposed to be fighting for them now disgrace them. They beat his father because he does not have the strength to help himself. So it makes sense that he would be filled with hate, feel betrayal, and no longer want to live the person that he admires the most is just beaten because he can not do anything. So even as they start to see hope the dream that they once had was not as good as the reality that is in front of them. It leaves them with less of a hope to live and a disgrace to even be alive even after surviving what they have been through.