

Night

Is human kind inherently kind or inherently cruel? The book *Night* was written by Eliezer Wiesel who experienced the Holocaust. In this novel, Elie, along with the Jews from Sighet, were taken by the German Nazis to concentration camps. Elie stayed with his father the whole time he was alive and they had to either work, or die in the crematory. They had poor living conditions and very little to eat, but somehow, Elie survived. Human kind is inherently cruel because when their lives were on the line, sons didn't care about hurting their fathers. However, human kind is inherently kind because the resistance came and freed the camp, and because of one Nazi soldier who gave the kids extra bread and food.

Human kind is inherently cruel because when their lives were on the line, sons didn't care about hurting their fathers. One example is when the Jews were in the train car and the people they rode by threw bread into the cars to watch the men fight over it. A father got some of the bread and his son noticed and killed him for it. According to Elie, "His son searched him, took the crust of bread, and began to devour it" (Wiesel 101). The son killed his own father who loved him so much just for a ration of bread. After the son got the bread from his father, the other men killed the son for the same piece of bread. It only took a feeling of hunger for these men to do the cruelest thing you can do to someone, kill them. During the Holocaust, there were many instances where it seems that human kind really is inherently cruel.

However, human kind is inherently kind because the resistance came and liberated the Jews at Buchenwald, and because one Nazi soldier who gave the kids extra bread. When Elie and the Jews traveled to a new camp, a Nazi soldier noticed that some kids were very hungry and he was kind enough to get them extra bread and food so they could get their energy up. According to Elie, "Immediately after our arrival, he had bread brought for them, some soup and

margarine" (Wiesel 48). This one soldier went against what everyone else was doing and showed kindness. This proves that not everyone had the same beliefs as Hitler and not everyone was truly cruel. This one act of kindness showed them that human race wasn't all bad in this horrible time in the men's lives.

The novel *Night* is very significant, especially in this day and time. It is important for people to know what the Jews experienced throughout the Holocaust and this book vividly portrays it. In society, human kind has its moments of extreme cruelty, but it also has some beautiful moments of kindness. Knowing this is important because you shouldn't base your judgements over one bad thing that has happened to you, or think nothing will ever go wrong just because something hasn't happened yet. A good goal to have is to never underestimate the power of kindness, and never be too naive thinking people can't be cruel.

544 words

Works Cited

Wiesel, Elie, et al. *Night*. Thorndike Press, a Part of Gale, a Cengage Company, 2020.