

Be Thankful

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By: Riya Hegde

School: Hudson Middle School

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Be Thankful

I came home in tears
Their words hurt like spears
They told me to shoo
Just because I was a Jew

I tried to forget how they would sneer
But I still wished I could just disappear
My family said to walk away
Don't pay attention to what they say

I tried not to bawl
I tried to ignore it all
But the words didn't go away
They just got worse by the day

I talked with my family and asked what to do
They said that it was all untrue
They said to remember things for which I could be thankful
To remember so I could just be blissful

I remembered my parents, my siblings, my freedom, my pets
And my house, clothes, and other assets

Be Thankful

I wasn't as sad

But I was still a bit mad

The hurtful words wouldn't stop

And as I began to eavesdrop

On my parents, I heard awful things

About Germans being controlled like they were puppets on strings

They were told to hurt Jews

Leaving them with at least one bruise

But I tried to remember things for which I could be thankful

To remember so I could just be blissful

I remembered my parents, my siblings, my freedom, my pets

And my house, clothes, and other assets

But then the Nazis started to appear

And that's when the Jews had reason to fear

We were being sent to camps to work or be killed

None of my wishes had been fulfilled

The words didn't go away

They had just become worse in a twisted way

Be Thankful

We were being tortured and worked to death

The horrors made me hold my breath

And wish desperately that it wasn't us next

But alas, it was as if we had been hexed

They pounded on the door

And gathered us with many more

To shove us into the cattle cars

It was almost worse than being put behind bars

We were separated, the weak ones were taken away

In the camp, the world seemed to turn grey

For both my younger siblings were in that group

The rest of us were taken away to work and live on watery soup

I tried to remember the things for which I was thankful

So I could at least try to be blissful

I remembered my parents but the rest was gone

And that's all I thought about as I stared into the dawn

We were worked and worked, sweating in the sun

Just wishing that we could be done

Be Thankful

Then some of us were taken somewhere else later that day

And that's how my dad was taken away

There was almost nothing for which I could be thankful

I couldn't even remember the days when I could be blissful

There was just my mom, and nothing else

I just hoped I wouldn't be left by myself

I remembered when all I had to worry about were the words

And when I could go outside and see the birds

I should have said something then

Maybe if I had, I wouldn't have been locked up like a pig in a pen

That night I sobbed and sniffled

Until all my tears were gone and my eyes felt shriveled

I went to bed, trying to sleep

I had to be strong and no longer weep

Again the sun rose, it took to the sky

It kept on rising and setting even when Jews began to die

It was almost as if it were taunting us

Acting as if we were just children making a fuss

Be Thankful

Our plight was so hopeless
They had stolen everything from us and left us soulless
I had to remember my mother so I could be thankful
But I could only think of my life which was taken from me by the sack full

A year passed by, miserable and awful
The things that happened to couldn't possibly be lawful
At least I had my mother through it all
But the Nazis still made me feel so small
Just when I thought the worst had passed

My mother was taken away, and when I asked
Where she had gone, I was told she was in the shower
I was worried, but I couldn't say anything in front of the Nazis who had all the power

Then I found out that my mother had been exterminated
I was absolutely devastated
The "showers" were actually a gas chamber
That had executed many with its poisonous vapor

I was all alone, there was no point in living
I just wished the world had been more forgiving

Be Thankful

I knew I had many sins, but why was I being punished in this way?

Life was the predator and I was the prey

The sun rose and set

Not caring that I went to bed every night with my cheeks wet

There was nothing left, no reason to be thankful

How could anyone expect me to be blissful?

Then one fateful night, I found out I had a disease

One that made me gag and cough and wheeze

And before dawn

I started to fade away and soon I was gone

Right there in camp, I was taken away from the harshness

I was taken into the comforting darkness

Bibliography

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United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, n.d. Web. 15 Nov. 2018.