

“Hope Thrives”

Alazay King

Our Lady of the Elms

Word Count: 214

A nation will fall
when fear becomes power
Six million slaughtered not by disarray
but by design

This is not that atrocity.
History never repeats itself-
but asks something of us

because people prevail
beyond where walls deny
We build lives where doors are slammed
We bring languages, love, and faith
beyond camps
beyond cages
beyond imaginary lines they call borders

Memory is not despair.
The past has not come to an end-
It watches how we express, how we vote,
how simple it is for fear to learn a new uniform
while calling itself essential.

The trains were not first.
A door sealed closed,
A family forced to wait,
A rule circling in.
Nothing loud or dramatic.
We say, "this is different"
But by the time the engines start,
History will have broken its golden rule,
And repeat itself.

It begins with neighbors being told to turn a blind eye,
A name crossed out.
We are taught silence is safety
Along with masks and guns.

3 "Hope Thrives"

Yet, the hands that build the wall will fall,
As others reach across with courage.
And in those quiet acts,
Hope thrives.
Stronger than any border
Bolder than fear.

What history is asking of us is simple.
Who is here today,
And who will be a message tomorrow?

Works Cited

"Introduction to the Holocaust." *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*.

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/introduction-to-the-holocaust>,
2026.

"Teaching About the Holocaust and Genocide." UNESCO,

<https://www.unesco.org/en/teaching-holocaust-genocide/need-know>

White, Barb. "Holocaust and Genocide: The Importance of Hope and Resistance."

9 January 2026, Our Lady of the Elms, Akron, OH.