

Wiesel, Elie

(b. 1928), Holocaust Survivor, world-famous writer, and Nobel Peace Prize recipient. Wiesel has worked tirelessly to educate the world about the Holocaust, to ensure that it never happen again.

Elie Wiesel was born in Sighet Marmatiei, Transylvania to a religious family. In 1944, he and his family were deported to Auschwitz. He was then transferred to Buchenwald, from which he was liberated in 1945. He later attended the Sorbonne in Paris and began a career as a journalist; he worked as a foreign correspondent for the Israeli daily newspaper, *Yediot Aharonot*.

In 1956 Wiesel published his most famous work, originally called *Un di Velt Hot Geshvigen* in Yiddish, the language in which it was written. The memoir was subsequently adapted and translated into 18 languages, and is known in English as "Night." It tells the story of a concentration camp inmate, based on Wiesel's own experiences, and has served as an important resource on the Holocaust.

Wiesel has since written his memoirs and 25 novels on Jewish subjects; most, however, focus on the Holocaust. He has made the Holocaust accessible to millions by describing his experiences and feelings in vivid, human detail. He mourns the losses of the Jewish People: the destruction of what existed before the war, and the innocence and life-affirming beliefs stolen from those who survived. He has also dealt with the moral difficulties of faith in God after the Holocaust.

Between 1980--1986 Wiesel served as chairman of the US Holocaust Memorial Council; he instituted National Days of Remembrance in the United States and inspired schools all over the country to offer Holocaust studies. In 1985 he received the Medal of Honor of the United States Congress for his work, and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986.

While reserving a special place for the victims of the Holocaust, Wiesel is also famous for fighting against human rights transgressions around the world.