

## **"Never Shall I Forget"**

by Elie Wiesel (excerpt from *Night*, often presented as poetic prose;  
Wiesel, Auschwitz and Buchenwald survivor)

Never shall I forget that night, the first night in camp,

which has turned my life into one long night, seven times cursed and seven times sealed.

Never shall I forget that smoke.

Never shall I forget the little faces of the children, whose bodies I saw turned into wreaths of smoke beneath a silent blue sky.

Never shall I forget those flames which consumed my faith forever.

Never shall I forget that nocturnal silence which deprived me, for all eternity, of the desire to live.

Never shall I forget those moments which murdered my God and my soul and turned my dreams to dust.

Never shall I forget these things, even if I am condemned to live as long as God Himself.

Never.

## "First They Came..."

by Pastor Martin Niemöller (German Lutheran pastor; early Nazi supporter who later opposed them, imprisoned in Dachau and Sachsenhausen, and expressed deep postwar regret for his initial silence)

First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out

Because I was not a socialist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out

Because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out

Because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me

and there was no one left to speak for me.

*Niemöller himself acknowledged his early support for aspects of the Nazi rise and his failure to oppose more forcefully, framing this as a confessional poem of regret and warning against indifference.*

“If all of the sky  
were paper, and all  
of the trees were  
pens, and all of the  
waters were ink,  
there would still not  
be enough material  
to describe the  
sufferings at the  
hands of the Nazis.”

- Reverend Leslie Hardman (adapted from “If all the trees on earth were pens and the ocean were ink, refilled by seven other oceans, the Words of Allah would not be exhausted.” - Surah Luqman (31): Verse 27)