

## Yanek's Award for Bravery

Have you ever been sad and have thought nothing better was going to happen, when you are in those situations you need to look for the light at the end of the tunnel. Desmond Tutu spoke to the world when he stated, "Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness." This quote lets you know through all the problems that are happening, you can persevere and work through it and be able to look forward to the reward. This quote is represented in Prisoner B-3087 through Yanek persevering through all the jobs the kapos are putting him through just so he can see his family after the war is over.

Yanek has a lot of perseverance to get through all the challenges he has every day, and also being able to see the light when there is darkness all around him. When Yanek was under the floorboards, he was telling himself he wanted to and would stay alive. He told himself, "My heart was thumping, but it made me feel alive, and feeling alive made me want to stay alive." ( Gratz, 2013, p. 93 ) This quote represents how brave Yanek is, and how Yanek is able to find solutions to the problems he faces and tells himself the good in the situation and that he will survive.

With all the problems Yanek has faced he has persevered every single time and gotten through it, but sometimes wishing upon death or for something to end his misery. When Yanek was in his barrack he was hearing bullets from the american army hitting the roof, he was praying he would stay alive because the war was ending and he had come so far already. He said to himself, "So many times I have wished for a bomb to fall on me, to

end my suffering, but now I prayed that no bomb would hit me. Not now, not when I was so close to the end!" ( Gratz, 2013, p. 242 ) This quote shows how Yanek has some points where he wanted it to end but now that he is almost to the finish he has more momentum to keep going and stay alive.

Given these points, we can see in Prisoner B-3087 Yanek has to persevere and he has to get through the bad times to get to the good times. When Yanek was at the gas chamber looking up at the shower head or asking the kapo for bread, what if that did not happen what would happen if he had not of asked the kapo for bread, would he have survived, would he have been able to look at the light through all of the darkness, and especially what would change about his story?