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| **Excerpt from *Night*** | **Photo from Iraq** |
| What is **emphasized**:   * Left Arm: we are cognizant of what the tattoo represents. This identifying number is the ultimate in dehumanization, as people’s names were no longer of value, and they were now identified solely by a number, branded, much like cattle. * 3 Prisoners did the tattooing: These prisoners, Kapos, were forced to tattoo their peers. * Tattoo (medical instruments): permanent scar and visual reminder of the atrocities that the Jews experienced. * Why is “veteran” in quotes? Part of the denotation of this word is ‘long service’. I think it is in quotes because people did not live long in these camps. This could suggest one year or six months—it’s hard to say. Wiesel is using verbal irony here to drive the point home. | What is **emphasized**:   * Forehead: While this marking is clear, we don’t know what exactly it represents. We can infer he, too, is a prisoner. I’m wondering if he is going to be number twenty something or two hundred and something? How many other prisoners are there? * US soldier did the marking: Was this soldier, like the prisoners, forced to do this? * Sharpie: this is not permanent, unlike Elie Wiesel’s tattoo. However, this experience could still scar him for his life. It is some means of identification. * Blindfold/glasses: the prisoner has a blindfold and the soldier has glasses on. The soldier does not have to look the prisoner in his eyes as he degrades him. |
| What is **absent**:   * What was Elie Wiesel’s facial expression as he was being tattooed? * How were the prisoners feeling when they had to do this work all day long? * How long did it take to do the tattoo? * Did it hurt badly? It seems like the physical pain would be nothing compared to the emotional trauma. Perhaps that is why Wiesel didn’t even mention the pain of a tattoo. It was insignificant compared to the agony of “after that I had no other name.” | What is **absent**:   * We don’t know what this man did to be in this position. * We don’t know how the soldier is feeling? Does he want to be doing this act of dehumanization? Is he talking to the man, saying, “I’m really sorry,” or is he pressing fervently with his pen and saying horrible things to him? * We don’t know what the man being numbered is feeling, although his visage and downturned mouth suggests that he is demoralized. * Like the prisoners in Auschwitz, was this Iraqi subjected to mental and physical torture? Did he live to tell someone his story? |

**Excerpt from Night:**

“In the afternoon we were made to line up. Three prisoners brought a table and some medical instruments. With the left sleeve rolled up, each person passed in front of the table. The three ‘veterans,’ with needles in their hands, engraved a number on our left arms. I became A-7713. After that I had no other name” (39).

