



Elie Wiesel

Lectured at Siena on January 14, 1994

“The Perils of Bigotry and the Consequences of Hate”

The seventh annual lecture was given by Elie Wiesel on January 19, 1994. Nobel Peace Prize winner and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel has dedicated his life to race relations and social justice causes in many countries. Wiesel and his family were deported by the Nazis from Transylvania (Romania) to Auschwitz when he was 15. His mother and sister died there, and his two older sisters survived. Wiesel and his father were later transported to Buchenwald.

Although he went on to become a journalist in Paris, Wiesel at first remained silent about the Holocaust. Later, persuaded by another writer, he wrote *La Nuit* (Night) about his experience in the death camps. It was published in 1958 and has since been translated into 18 languages.

In 1963 Wiesel became a U.S. citizen. He has put his convictions and energy into supporting the causes of many oppressed groups, including Soviet Jews, Nicaragua’s Miskito Indians, the Kurds, Cambodia refugees, and South African apartheid victims.

His efforts have earned him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the United States Congressional Gold Medal and the Medal of Liberty Award, Grand Officer in the French Legion of Honor, and, in 1986, the Nobel Peace Prize.

Since 1976 he has been the Andrew Mellon Professor in the Humanities at Boston University, where he teaches philosophy and religion. He has written many books since *Night*, including the recent *Sages and Dreamers* and *The Forgotten*. After he received the Nobel Peace Prize, Wiesel established The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity to create a forum to discuss urgent ethical issues.

Wiesel lived in New York City with his wife, Marion, and son Elisha.