

2nd Place Senior Poetry
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History's Scar

We know of these terrible tales of the times before us.

We've been taught of these villains who terrorized millions

And left a permanent scar on the once beautiful terrain.

At a time when scents of savory latkes,

An ambiance of traditional candles,

And laughter of families filled the air

Was replaced by air raids,

Broken homes,

The screams of children being torn away from their parents' arms,

And the vicious murders of innocent people.

At a time, when strong women who just wanted to care for their families and receive justice

Were tormented and sent to concentration camps solely for standing up for what was right.

At a time, when daily life was a struggle for most and pleasing for help was routine.

At a time, when those privileged enough to maintain their relatively safe lifestyles ignored those

In need to save themselves.

At a time, when groups of innocent people of faith were killed off in mass genocide

Because of radical organizations and leaders

Intimidated by the basic existence of cultural difference in a country

In desperate need of a scapegoat.

Why would we ever forget such a thing?

Survivors branded with this not-so-ancient scar are important.

Scars teach us.

They will never go away.

They are a reminder of lessons learned.

A reminder of mistakes made,

Wars fought,

And lives lost.

We must look at their scars,

Our scars.

Share the stories of them,

Bring awareness and know that history repeats itself.

There will always be a time when these stories sound familiar.

A time when radical organizations and leaders target minorities,

A time when innocent families get torn apart.

A time when basic human rights seem to be disappearing after every passing day,

But we - the easily persuaded species - drawn to destruction and evil,

But also love and kindness,

Will evolve.

Listening to these heroes who possess scars

And knowing how to heal from them

Will lead to a happier,

More kind world.

Bibliography

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