

Unbroken - Quote Analysis

Part III & Part IV

Directions: Answer each question below with a minimum of 5-7 complete sentences.

If you need more room, use a separate piece of paper.

Excerpt #1:

“For Louie and Phil, the conversations kept their minds sharp, pulled them out of their suffering, and set the future before them as something to live for. But Mac usually sat in silence. Though the others encouraged him, he couldn't see a future. The world was too far gone.”

1. Mac survived, just like the others, and we know, with less physical injuries than Louie and Phil. Why is the state of his health much more of an issue than with the others? How is this personified or represented in the above quote?

Excerpt #2:

“...Above him, floating in a bright cloud, he saw the silhouettes of twenty-one human figures. They were singing the sweetest song he'd ever heard. Louie stared up, awestruck. What he was seeing was impossible, yet he felt absolutely lucid. This was, he felt certain, no hallucination. He sat under the singers, memorizing the melody, until they disappeared. Phil had heard and seen nothing. Whatever this was, it belonged to Louie alone.”

2. What do *you* think--hallucination or real? Explain the reasoning behind your answer.

3. This was a miracle to Louie, and it is referred to as something which, “belonged to him alone.” What is *your opinion* on miracles? Do you feel this is realistic? Why or why not?

Excerpt #3:

“...But on Kwajalein, the guards deprived them of something deeper: dignity. This self-respect lies at the heart of humanness. To be deprived of it is to be dehumanized, leaving victims in a state of profound wretchedness and loneliness, unable to hang on to hope. Dignity is as essential to human life as water, food, and oxygen. The stubborn retention of it, even in the face of extreme physical hardship, can keep a man alive long past the point of when he should have died. The loss of it can carry a man off as surely as thirst, hunger, exposure and asphyxiation, often with greater cruelty. In places like Kwajalein, degradation could be as lethal as a bullet.”

4. Do you agree or disagree that dignity is essential to human life? Explain your reasoning.

5. How can the loss of dignity ever possibly be as, “lethal as a bullet?” Explain your answer and supplement with an example from the book, thus far.