

### *Love is for the Brave: A Bond of Blood*

A dark chapter in human history and a time of unimaginable suffering and horror, the Holocaust saw the Nazi regime seek to eliminate entire groups of people and in the process, tear families apart. But amidst these bleak times, love, as always, was a ray of light, a shining beacon of hope, a lifeline that kept people going. Love was and remains a vigorous force that transcended the boundaries of the deathly camps and ghettos where Jewish family units were broken up and siblings were split.

Despite the efforts to tear families apart, many siblings still managed to remain together. This sibling bond proved to be a catalyst that helped many survive the Holocaust together or find each other again in the aftermath. But beyond survival, sibling love was also about sacrifice.

It was selfless and an act of pure devotion. For Bluma Goldberg, her sister rowed her across the river to freedom.

While in Türkheim, Germany, Bluma fell terribly ill with typhoid, a common illness for those living in the dreary conditions of the labor camps of the Holocaust. Of the more than 20 million forced laborers between 1941 and 1944, countless, including children, suffered from severe malnutrition and illnesses such as typhus and dysentery. By 1941, more than 100,000 were already infected by typhus and at least 25,000 died directly from it. As illustrated, these camps were characterized by immense overcrowding, disease, starvation, and a lack of basic sanitation.

But with the single portion of bread that was rationed out to sustain the workers each day, Bluma's sister forged a way to exchange it for a piece of fruit, all for her sister. "She gave away the piece of bread to get an apple for me so I could survive," Bluma recounted. The bread and the apple symbolize sustenance and survival, but they also serve as reminders that only love can truly sustain us in the face of destruction. These acts of love and sacrifice delineate the unbreakable bond between siblings, despite the unimaginable horrors they faced.

The everlasting connection between siblings is a thread that runs through the fabric of humanity, a connection that transcends time and space. It is a bond that is forged in childhood, in the memories of laughter and tears, of shared secrets and shared dreams. And in the darkest of times, it is this bond that keeps us together, that gives us the strength to endure and hope.

For those like Bluma who could be reunited with their siblings after the war, the love between them was a symbol of hope, a reminder that love can conquer even the darkest of atrocities. The tears of joy and the embrace of a reunited family remain a powerful testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the enduring power of family, both of which we should never take for granted.

## Works Cited

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