



Strength to Forgive

DAVID

A MAN AFTER GOD'S HEART

1 Samuel 24

A portrait of an elderly woman with short, curly, light-colored hair. She is smiling and looking directly at the camera. She is wearing a bright blue blazer over a blue and green patterned scarf. The background is dark and out of focus, with a window with two panes visible in the upper left. The name 'Eva Mozes Kor' is written in white text across the bottom of the image.

Eva Mozes Kor





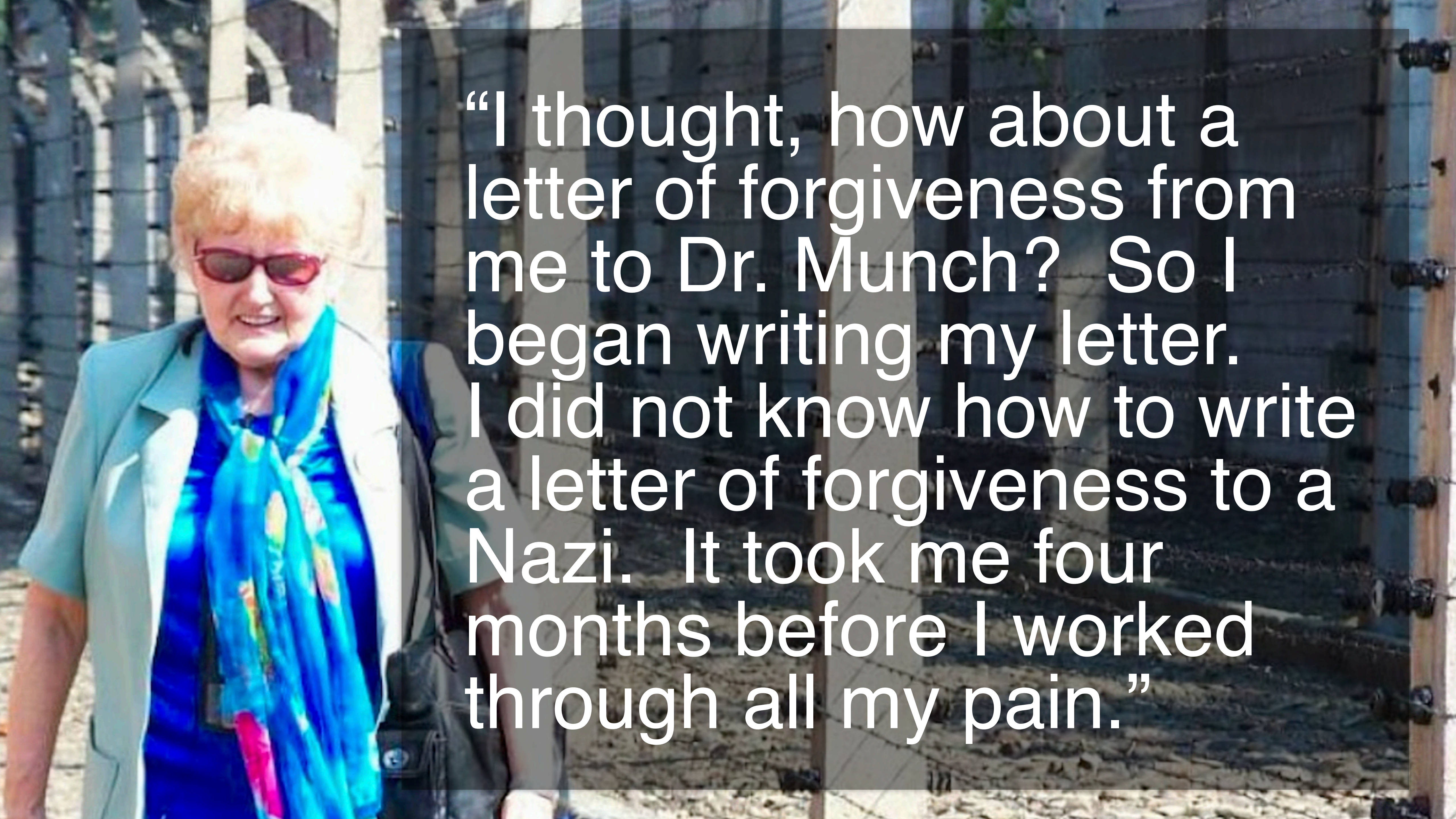








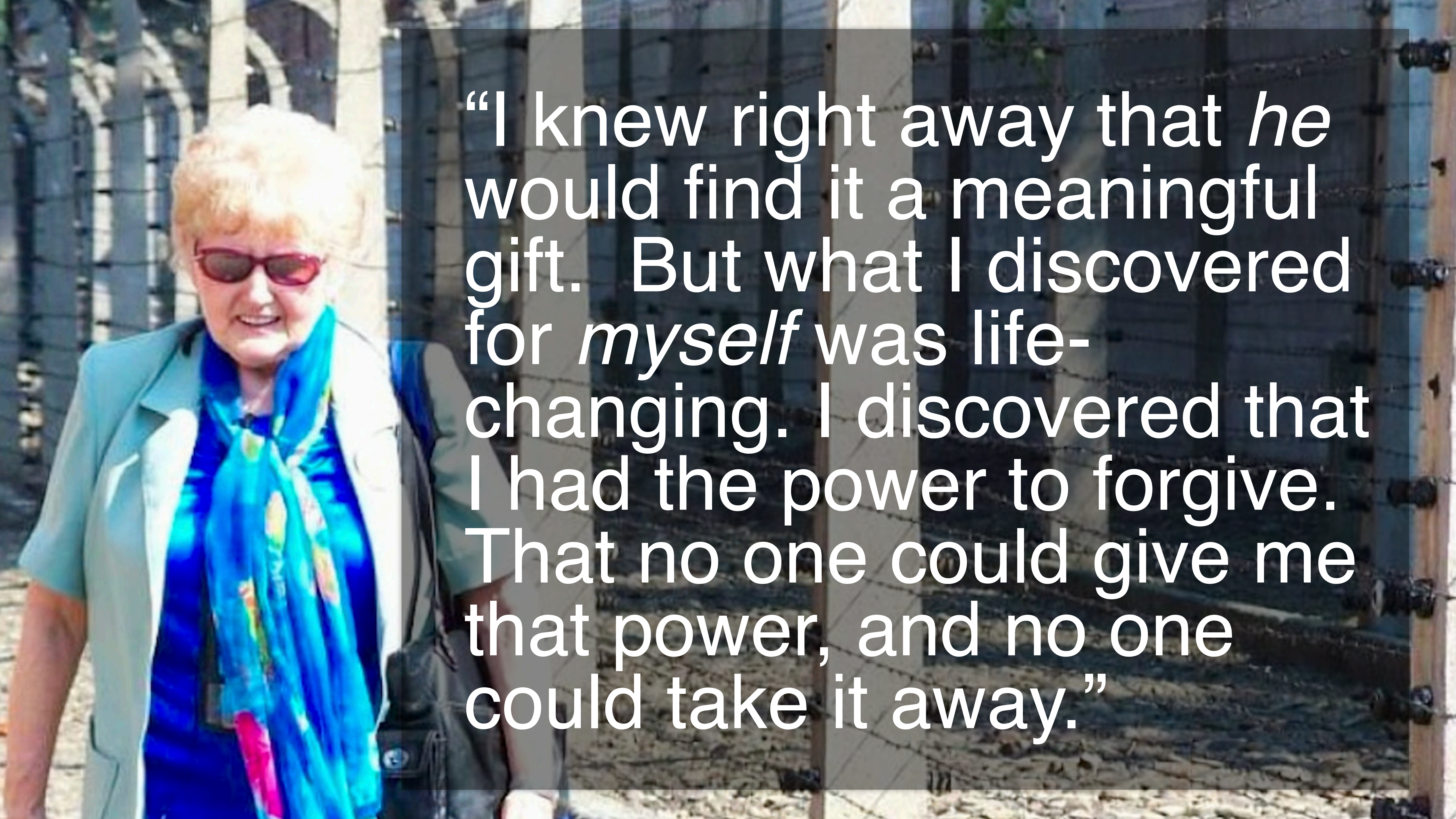




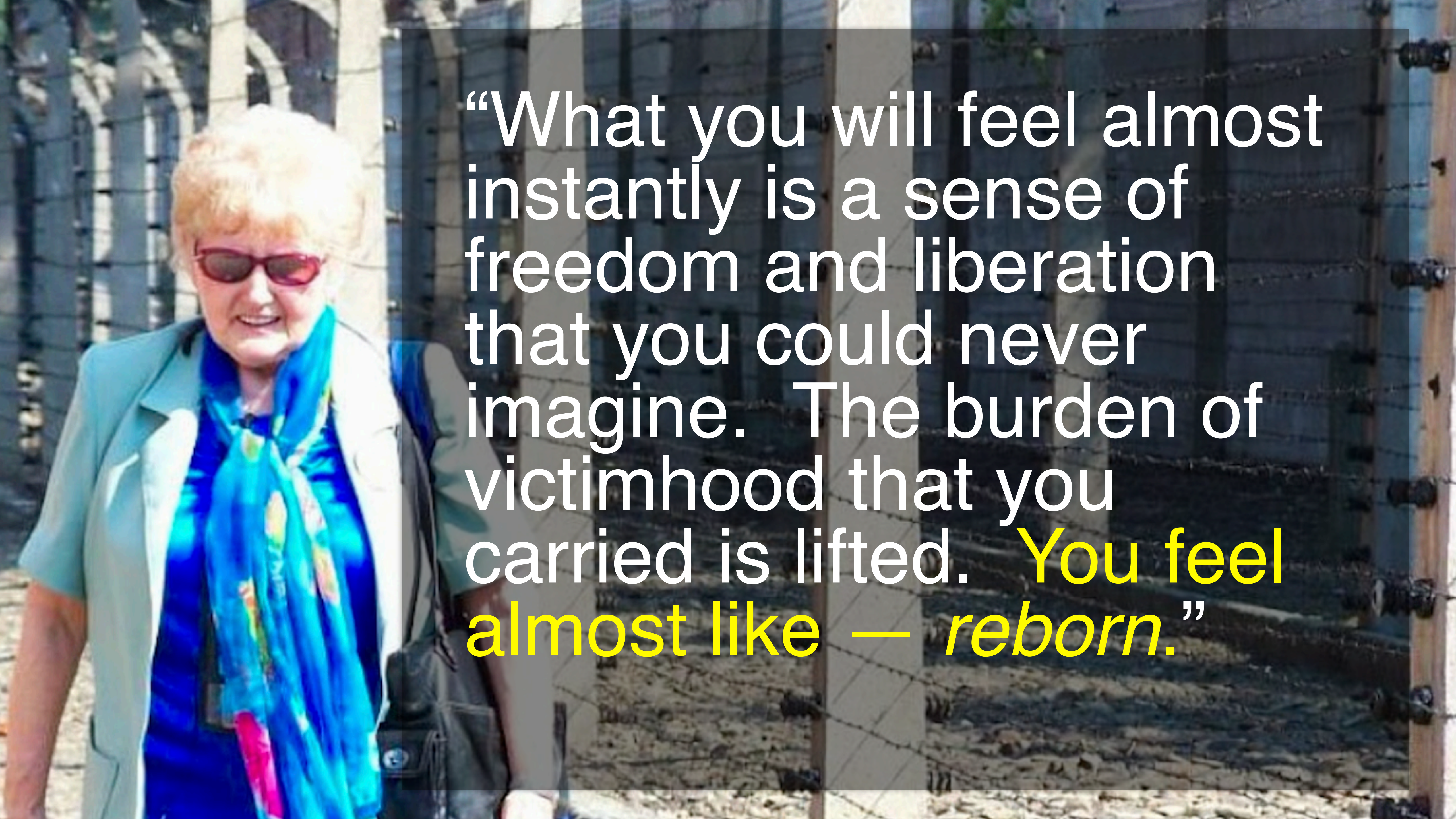
“I thought, how about a letter of forgiveness from me to Dr. Munch? So I began writing my letter. I did not know how to write a letter of forgiveness to a Nazi. It took me four months before I worked through all my pain.”



“I read it, I signed it, and I immediately felt that all that pain that I had carried around for years was lifted from my shoulders. I was no longer a victim of Auschwitz, nor was I a prisoner of my wretched past.”



“I knew right away that *he* would find it a meaningful gift. But what I discovered for *myself* was life-changing. I discovered that I had the power to forgive. That no one could give me that power, and no one could take it away.”



“What you will feel almost instantly is a sense of freedom and liberation that you could never imagine. The burden of victimhood that you carried is lifted. **You feel almost like — *reborn.*”**

**Can you really let go of
that grudge?**

**Is it possible to forgive a
real, deep hurt?**

**Does forgiveness mean you
just let them off the hook?**

**Does forgiveness mean you
have to trust them again?**

**Does forgiveness mean you
no longer pursue justice?**



Gustav Dore









Placa, l'ira di re Saul



Gustav Dore

“After Saul returned from fighting the Philistines, he was told that David had gone into the wilderness of **En-Gedi**.”

(1 Samuel 24:1, NLT)

“So Saul chose 3,000 elite troops
from all Israel and went to search
for David...”

(1 Samuel 24:2, NLT)







A scenic view of the En Gedi waterfall. A small, narrow waterfall cascades down a rocky ledge into a clear, turquoise pool. The surrounding area is lush with greenery, including tall grasses and shrubs. A stone wall, constructed from large, rectangular blocks, runs along the right side of the pool. The text "En Gedi" is overlaid in white on the left side of the image.

En Gedi







“Saul went into a cave to relieve himself...

(1 Samuel 24:3, NLT)

“Saul went into a cave to relieve himself. But as it happened, David and his men were hiding farther back in that very cave!”

(1 Samuel 24:3, NLT)

“Now’s your opportunity!” David’s men whispered to him. “Today the Lord is telling you, ‘I will certainly put your enemy into your power, to do with as you wish.’” So David crept forward and...

(1 Samuel 24:4, NLT)

**How do I treat those
who have harmed me?**

“Love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven.”

(Matthew 5:44-45a, NLT)

1. Show **mercy**

- **Merciful actions**
-

- Merciful **actions**
-

David crept forward and stabbed
Saul in the back!

(1 Samuel 24:4b, NLT)

- Merciful **actions**
-

“David crept forward and cut off a piece of the hem of Saul’s robe...”

(1 Samuel 24:4b, NLT)

- Merciful **actions**

“David crept forward and cut off a piece of the hem of Saul’s robe... David restrained his men and did not let them kill Saul.”

(1 Samuel 24:4b, 7a, NLT)





Gustav Dore

- Merciful **words**

“After Saul had left the cave and gone on his way, David came out and shouted after him, **“My lord the king!”** And when Saul looked around, David bowed low before him.”

(1 Samuel 24:7b-8, NLT)

- Merciful words

He said to his men,
“The Lord forbid that I should do
this to my lord the king.
I shouldn’t attack the Lord’s
anoointed one...”

(1 Samuel 24:6, NLT)

Don't get so excited about
your right **cause**

Don't get so excited about
your right **cause**

that you excuse
your wrong **conduct**

2. Speak **truth**

Then he shouted to Saul, “Why do you listen to the people who say I am trying to harm you? This very day you can see with your own eyes **it isn't true.**”

(1 Samuel 24:9, 10a, NLT)

“Look, my father, at what I have in my hand. It is a piece of the hem of your robe! I cut it off, but I didn’t kill you.”

(1 Samuel 24:11, NLT)

“This **proves** that I am not trying to harm you and that I have not sinned against you, even though **you have been hunting for me** to kill me.”

(1 Samuel 24:11b, NLT)

Speak with honesty

Speak with honest

Speak with humility

Speak with honest

Speak with humility

Speak with hope

3. Stay *safe*

“Then Saul went **home**, but David and his men went back to their **stronghold.**”

(1 Samuel 24:22b, NLT)

A panoramic view from the Masada fortress looking out over the En Gedi valley and the Dead Sea under a blue sky. The foreground shows the rugged, tan-colored rock walls of the fortress. The middle ground is a vast, arid valley with dry, brownish-yellow earth and some sparse vegetation. In the distance, the dark, calm waters of the Dead Sea are visible against a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds.

Masada

Dead Sea

En Gedi

Forgiveness is **not**:
Minimizing the offense,
instantly **restoring** trust,
or **resuming** the relationship
without any changes.”

— Rick Warren

4. See **the bigger picture**





- There is a bigger **judge**
-

- There is a bigger **judge**
-

“May **the Lord judge** between us.
Perhaps the Lord will punish you
for what you are trying to do to me,
but I will never harm you.”

(1 Samuel 24:12, NLT)

- There is a bigger **plan**
-

- There is a bigger **plan**
-

“He is my advocate, and **he will rescue me** from your power!”

(1 Samuel 24:15b, NLT)

- There is a bigger **beauty**
-

- There is a bigger **beauty**
-

“But as for me, I will sing about your power. Each morning I will sing with joy about your unfailing love.”

(Psalm 59:16, NLT)

Yom Kippur

the Day of Atonement

Yom Kippur

Forgiveness







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