

85/100

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(736 words) - min length

Part 1

my only concern
was this mention
at the start of
the paper, &
I was left to
assume everything
else. (or I assume
you are a
militant)

Nguyen Qui Duc story has a great personal resonance. There are three significant turning points in his story. The initial turning point is his first encounter with the enemy. The shock of seeing the enemy when you have felt relatively safe and separated from the war and have it literally come banging on your front doorstep can be very terrifying. It changes everything in the perspective of a child. The boogeyman is real, it's after you, and you can't run to mom and dad to save you because it's after them too. (Also, the mixed feelings of fear and admiration in regards to a supposed enemy and the realization that they are human, they believe in their cause, and they feel they are actually helping you.) ns The awareness that the boogeyman is just like you can shake the foundation of an adult let alone a child of ten. The comprehension that his father was being taken away and the helplessness of the situation of not being able to do anything about it but hope that he would make it back to them one day would be hard to accept.

The second turning point is his recognition of the destruction of the bridge over the Perfume River. This signified the nation to him, and its destruction broke a piece of his heart. He felt betrayed by his fellow countrymen, even though they were from the North and their ultimate goal was to reunite Vietnam as one country, how could they destroy a symbol of their nation that had such historical and cultural significance. It would be the same if the United States had a civil war and one side desecrated the Statue of Liberty. Some would feel that it was a major offense that a national icon was destroyed that represented a piece of our history and culture. It signifies a turning point because it changes how one views the standards of fellow countrymen and their values of what is important to them. Certain symbols in history have deep meaning to many and the destruction can either cause a defeatist nature or a willingness to avenge said symbol.

The final turning point is his realization that he didn't actually fit in with either the Vietnamese or American culture because neither fully accepted him. The sense of not fully belonging to your native country or your adopted country

can leave a person with a sense of disconnect. This is difficult to be around people who are the same but not. The closeness and warmth are missing and can cause great sadness in some. For example, a military child is moved all over the world and has a hard time relating with individuals who have lived in the same place their whole life. When the parent of the child retires and they move back to the place where the rest of their family is, they feel segregated. Everyone knows everyone else; the military child feels like they're a stranger looking in. It's a sense of belonging but not.

you?

Part 2

In Frank Snepp's story his ending point is when he was heading to board the helicopter. The final nail in the coffin was when he witnessed that the North Vietnamese army was only about a half hour away. They were so confident they hadn't even turned off their lights. The defeat and guilt of leaving so many people behind must have been hard to bear. The knowledge that you can't do anything more to help and the sense of betrayal to the people who had helped in a common endeavor being left behind to fend for themselves. There's a sense of finality to the whole situation...of lost hope and despair. (The knowledge that you personally were more concerned with the job than the knowledge of human lives was at stake would weigh down a person conscious even more) The fact that he didn't even save his own child and the mother is a sad event, but does display that personal motivation was not an issue. He wasn't trying to be selfish to help only the people he had a personal acquaintance with, but the whole by trying to convince a "recalcitrant ambassador" to get the evacuation plan moving. This may not be a comfort or make the guilt go away but he did try.

unclear

Part 2
too brief to make your
point ... an "ending" or
Snepps
"guilt"
(or lack
thereof)