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80/100

(845 words)

## Part 1 – Turning point

~~There are many turning points in Appy's book.~~ Some of the turning points are very political in regards to the war and some of them are in the lives of the soldiers. One of these stories was in the life of a soldier who was involved in the war his name was Lam Van Lich. Lich went to war thinking that he would be a hero helping protect his country and save the lives of many Vietnamese people. He returned, after being away for twenty-nine years, with sadness and regret for the killings that he was involved in. He had some sadness with the killings that he witnessed and was apart of, but that sadness didn't compare to the deep grief that he felt when he learned that his family had been killed while he was away. His mother had been arrested and questioned on numerous occasions in regards to him, as well as his brothers' whereabouts. To make it even more tough on him, his mother didn't even recognize him upon his return. He too mistook his sister as his mother. His mother also told him that she had to keep him a secret from the younger family members. She had to do that to keep the rest of her family alive.

Lich went away to join the war thinking that he would come back a hero, regretting nothing from the war. But twenty-nine years had passed and Lich came home full of regret for taking so many lives during the war. He was returning as a Prodigal <sup>son</sup>. He had taken so many lives and destroyed so many families' lives as well. He finally returns home and regrets even more of the killings because nearly half of his family <sup>was</sup> gone. When he returns to find out about his family, he begins to realized that he too was apart of killing family members and knows that someone else is going through the same pain because of what he had done while away.

What was his turning point?

## Part 2 – Ending points

~~Appy has several other stories of ending points.~~ Some ending points can be seen in the war itself, or even an ending to someone's thoughts for supporting the war. In one of these stories – Chalmers Johnson, a strong supporter while the war was in progress – that was until he realized that the governmental party he fully supported was the one that had it's beliefs all wrong. It is through

AWK

*Support for the war?*  
Johnson's eyes and the reader's interpretation of his story that one could see that the ending for his thoughts on the war was when he realized that he had been supporting the wrong group all along. He says "My wife and I were supporters of Lyndon Johnson because of the war on poverty and the civil rights acts." He later states, "In retrospect, I should have supported the antiwar movement. I'd have to say I wasn't sensitive enough to the moral implications of the Vietnam War."

*Nuclear*  
He goes on to say that he wasn't sure if they, the protesters, really knew anything about the things they were protesting, but later on in life, he realized they did know what they were protesting and he really didn't. He says, "but they grasped something essential about the nature of America's imperial role in the world that I had failed to perceive." Then he says, "The protesters were right and American policy was wrong. I wish I had stood with them." His "ending" is after the war, when he has come to realize that what the protesters were standing for was much more patriotic than what the government was standing for. The protesters were standing up for the American people and the government was standing up for what they wanted America to be. *what was what?*

*how so?*  
It's interesting that he humbles himself, and says that the protesters had it all together and really it was him who didn't have all the logic behind what he believed. It's also interesting that he would have changed his support for the war after looking at the facts, and learning that the government had said, and then that the government lied to the people about time and time again.

*awk -*  
The turning point and the ending point in the lives of the people who went through the war can be seen in the lives that they live now. These results stem from very personal feelings that came from the war. In the life of Lich his turning point was when he came home to find out that most of his family had been killed. In Johnson's life he had realized that he should have been against the war the whole time (fighting against something he realized he didn't even want to stand behind.) He thought that he had it all together, supporting a cause he thought was the right one, and found out that he had blindly believed the government had it all right.

*cliche*  
*cliche*  
*you really need some proof reading for clarity.*  
*Analysis problems in part 2. His end came long after the war was over. But that is hindsight. I'm guess he still supported LBJ domestically, but not regarding foreign policy. And is his story about his own turning point? Is it an ending? If an ending, then don't we all share in his ending?*