

Semprun: The Long Voyage

Structure:

- A. Central Strain ("This night will never end," says the guy from Semur."/68) - 4th night
 - A1. Feeling of unreality
 - A1a. Has induced unreality as a child
 - A1b. Recalls Moselle interlude
 - A1c. Even unreality of voyage not as strong as shock of return from voyage (69)
 - B. Story of two incredible girls (69)
 - B1. Make men remember they are men; girls are simpering, chattering, deserve a slap
 - B2. The girls want to "experience the horror" (70)
 - B3. He'd never really seen the camp before
 - B3a. Sees it for the first time "from the outside"
 - B3b. Only an accordion tune linking past life and present
 - B3c. Recounts officer executions and ruse of shower - "simulacrum"
 - B2a. One of the girls remarks, "it really doesn't seem all that bad" (71)
- A. "This night will never end" (72)
 - A2. Spent first night of voyage reconstructing Swann's Way
 - A2a. Can't find anything in his childhood comparable to the phrase of the Vinteuil sonata, but suspects today he could find something comparable to Roquentin's painful reactions to "Some of These Days"
 - A2b. Discussion of his decadent taste (Juan likes Faulkner)
 - A3. Guy from Semur has had about as much as he can take
 - A3a. Trying to imagine what camp they are going to is going to be like (73)
 - B. Had lived in camp for 2 years and now he is with these incredible girls
 - B4. Incredible insofar as they are real, insofar as they are what girls are in "reality" (73)
 - B4a. Guy from Semur will never know what camp they are headed to is like
 - B2b. Girls in crematorium suddenly realize it's not a kitchen/ "poor" girls are speechless (74)
 - B2c/B3b. "Here you are, look there." It's essential for them to see.
 - B3c. Look at piles of bodies and he's thinking that these were his comrades
 - B3d. One has to have "experienced" their death to look at them with pure "fraternal expression" (75)
 - B3d1. What dead need is pure fraternal expression and "for us to live, to live as fully as we can"
 - B2d. Sympathizes with girls; it can't be much fun to arrive in a beautiful car and stumble upon a pile of corpses
 - B5. Girls disappear, but then the brunette waits for him
 - B5a. Asks him why he did that to them, then asks to see more (trying to become a witness?)
 - B5b. Tells girl that the dead don't need a flag, they need a pure fraternal look
- A. "This night, Jesus, this night will never end" (76)
 - B6. A week or two later meets girl again at Eisenach
- C. Story of Yves arriving from Eisenach with van ready to go to Paris