

[A train trip]

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Looking out of the window hoping to enjoy the european landscapes, it was useless the fear was taking over the mind, the body was extremely weak after 15 days of sleepless long cold nights and tiring grey days; not having enough food to build up some energy. However I managed to come this far. "I'm not a failure, I don't give up so easily" was the eco in my brain which stopped every bad thought. The train was so fast. It was impossible to look at the close outside. Instead I focused on the back ground. Autumn was one month old, the nature was celebrating that dressed up with yellow, orange red and brown. The mountains were majestic. I was impressed so I kept looking outside. I also didn't want to have any eye contact with any of the passengers hoping they won't notice the

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"I'm done" that my face says or the dirty clothes which I had on. Although I tried so hard to avoid any temptation to look inside but there was moments I just had to look quickly. I was on the right side and on the left was an old couple. The man was asleep but the woman seemed awake. I stared for for a second and looked away as she looked directly into my eyes and smiled. I felt some kind of comfort. After all a smile has the magical effect on humans in general but on an almost hopeless human it has an almighty effect. With this comfortable feeling I closed my eyes to shut myself away from this world for a while. I think I slept but then a gentel voice said "guten tag", I did not know the meaning so I gave him my ticket as soon as possible. He took it, checked it, stamped it, gave it back and smiled, unconsciously I said thank you and forced a smile

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I thought myself that I made a deadly mistake. Anyways it was too late. As we came close to the German borders the speakers went on saying information. People started to whisper. It felt like something important was about to happen. I felt concerned, not knowing what it was. Ten minutes later the train slowed down and eventually stopped. I saw police men approaching. Then I knew it was bad. So worried and nervous my left

leg started to shake I looked at my phone more than twenty times. The woman noticed me, so that she waked her man up, started discussing and arguing and looking at me. It was English but the noice was too loud to understand what they are talking about. Then a female loud voice raised begging to stay abroad but it was Arabic totally new language for the german police. Soon the family was

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taken away. Some how I knew I was next. I heard the foot steps coming to me clearly, I looked down, my heart was beating so fast, my eyes were wide open and my left leg stopped. I thought about my father, mother, sister and brother. Million of ideas and thoughts came across my mind. Finally I saw his shoes. I looked up to him he said something I kept looking It was silent but my dirty clothes my almost destroyed bag my tired face were perfect prove that I'm Syrian. A soft sound that I will never forget broke the silence. "excuse me sir" said she. The woman who smiled at me said: we are family having trip in Europe. We were hiking in the Albs and now heading back to Frankfurt because our plane back home is tomorrow. He replied friendly welcome to Germany and asked: are you Americans?. she answered: we are Canadians

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He said: we always welcome nice people and added that Frankfurt is a beautiful city, he gave each a map, smiled saying nice trip and left. I never felt more released I cried immediately and said thank you. She came to me hugged me. The man said good luck young man. I was saved I'm going to make it. I kept looking at them I had hundreds of words but I said non. I think my eyes did. At 11:00 pm we arrived to Frankfurt. They left soon and said: you young man have a bright futur. I answered: because of you guys I will. No comment was said only a smile and a bet on my right shoulder I took my bag and went out with a smile and instant feeling of happiness.

[anon., 2017; handwritten in original; unedited, i.e. no corrections of any sort made]