

VIKTOR EMIL FRANKL 1905-1997

Austrian neurologist, psychiatrist, Holocaust survivor. Founder of
logotherapy.

MEANING UNDER ASH

He spent years asking how a person survives when
nearly everything is taken.



His answer became one of the 20th century's most
enduring books about meaning.



Before the world knew him as a survivor, Vienna knew him as a doctor of despair.

He studied suicide, treated suicidal patients, and built free youth counseling centers.

His work began with a brutal question: what keeps a person alive?



In Nazi Vienna, Frankl received a visa that could have taken him away.

He let it expire and stayed with his parents.

The choice did not make him safe. It made him present.



In 1942, Frankl and his family were deported to Theresienstadt.

His father died there.

Even in the camp, Frankl worked with despairing prisoners arriving at the edge of collapse.



In 1944, the surviving Franks were sent to Auschwitz.

His mother was killed there. His wife later died in Bergen-Belsen.

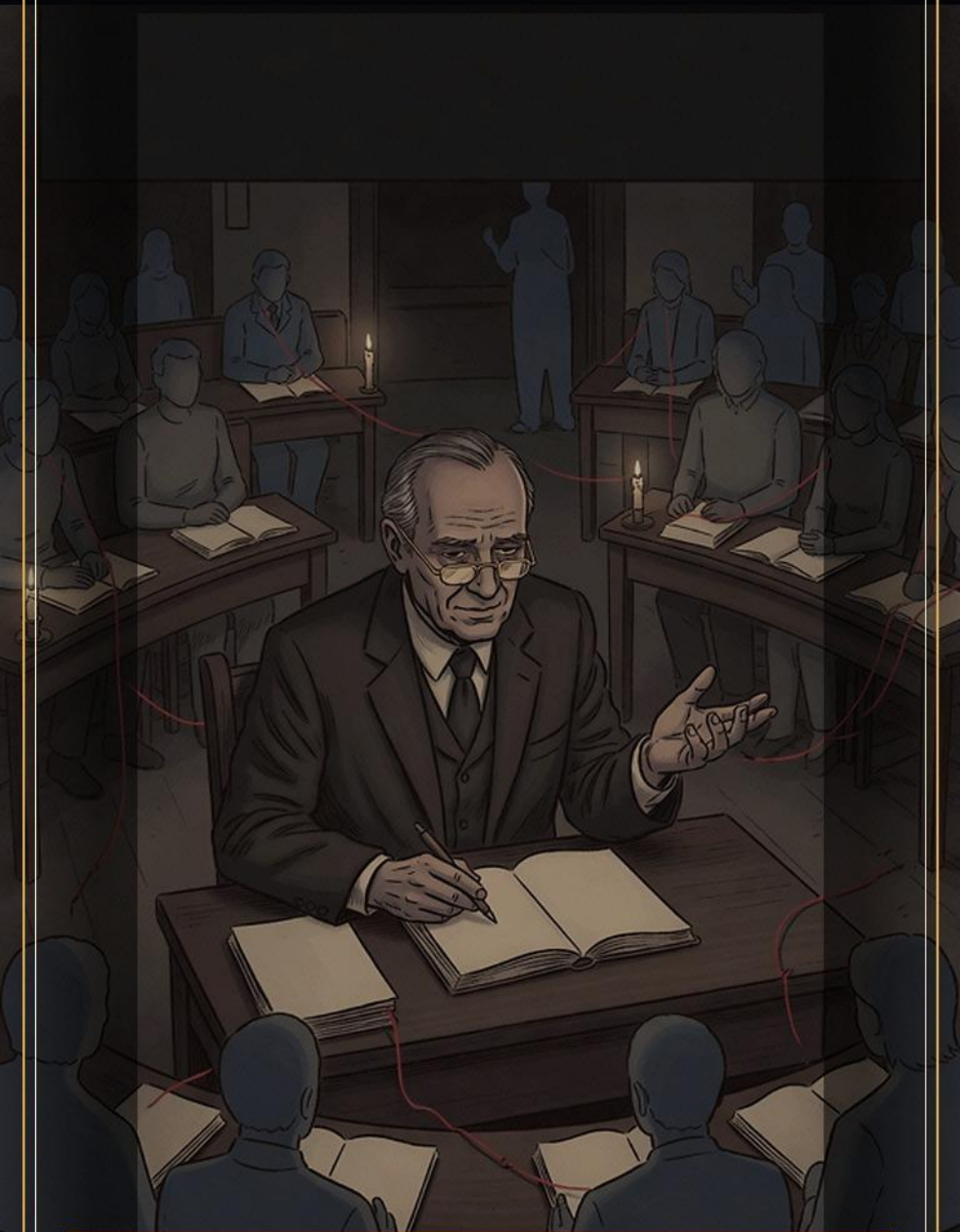
His manuscript was taken. His old life was ash.



Liberated in 1945, Frankl returned to Vienna and found almost everyone gone.

Then he wrote.

In 1946 he dictated the book that became *Man's Search for Meaning*.



Frankl called his therapy logotherapy: healing through meaning.

He argued that the deepest human drive was not comfort, but purpose.

The book reached millions, crossed languages, and entered lives at their breaking points.



Viktor Frankl died in Vienna on September 2, 1997, age 92. By then, *Man's Search for Meaning* had reached millions of readers in many languages.

He remained the doctor who came back from the camps with one hard question for the living.

Sources: Viktor Frankl Institute; Britannica; Library of Congress.

The camps took his family and a manuscript. The work he rebuilt is what remains.