

Toothache is known for its difficulties... Especially without sedatives and pain relievers.

In normal everyday life, the patient can use an alcohol cotton or take some aspirin, till he goes to the dentist, but in prison and particularly in Tadmor, where death is hanging above us, we have to take care of ourselves.

The pain of a swollen tooth was unbearable, so unbelievable that I was unable to move my jaw. How unlucky I was, I felt pain even when I opened my mouth to breath.

In prison there was someone experienced in extracting teeth, so I went to. After he took a look at my mouth he said:

- Come back tomorrow, the swelling should decrease.

- But I'm in pain, I said

- Come back tomorrow.

I prepared myself, with an old cotton T-shirt which I washed and tore in small pieces, a nylon string which I extracted from old socks.

I was ready to endure whatever comes just to be free from this miserable pain.

I lay on my back and leaned against the expert's knee.

- Open your mouth put the blindfold on your eyes, he said

I felt a piece of iron (it was a part of a scissors which has been rasped on the wall\ to become like a scalpel which separates the tooth from the gum) in my mouth.

I wiped the blood with the cotton T-shirt's pieces, no anesthesia or anything else, and my doctor continued his attempt of separating the gum. He wiped the blood once again to be able to see what he's doing, puts his hand on my mouth and shook the tooth right and left, it loosened a little bit.

In pain, I was unable to scream, from fear that the colonel would come.

I was squeezing on the blanket, while one of my friends sat on my knee and another one fixed my head.

I was in a miserable condition.

The expert tightened the string round the tooth, pulled it back and forth so violently, I felt I was going to die.

He wiped my blood again.

- Put your faith in GOD, he said

I nodded my head while I was trying to control myself.

- Open you mouth.

He put his foot on my shoulder, pulled the string again, I screamed in pain.

Everything is under control, after two or three attempts a white light flashed in my brain I could see the light even while my eyes were shut.

- We're done, he said.

I opened my eyes and he was waving the nylon string with my tooth attached to it. After that, he washed the blood from my mouth, and fixed a piece of cloth in the empty cavity.

- Bite on it and don't open your mouth for an hour.

He handed me the worn tooth to see it.

This was my first experience with the state of the art medicine, from Tadmor prison...