

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:06,180

2
00:00:06,180 --> 00:00:07,350
Dr. Forst.

3
00:00:07,350 --> 00:00:10,380
Mr. Forst.

4
00:00:10,380 --> 00:00:11,736
Wait.

5
00:00:11,736 --> 00:00:13,535
OK, Mr. Forst. [? I see ?].

6
00:00:13,535 --> 00:00:16,410

7
00:00:16,410 --> 00:00:18,060
This is the man.

8
00:00:18,060 --> 00:00:18,810
This is the man.

9
00:00:18,810 --> 00:00:21,410

10
00:00:21,410 --> 00:00:24,740
This is the man we
will talk about.

11
00:00:24,740 --> 00:00:26,240
Yes.

12
00:00:26,240 --> 00:00:31,010
How would you like to
start to talk about him?

13
00:00:31,010 --> 00:00:33,980
This is one of the difficulties.

14
00:00:33,980 --> 00:00:38,900
How to start, when you
have so much to say.

15
00:00:38,900 --> 00:00:42,410
It is always difficult
how to start.

16
00:00:42,410 --> 00:00:46,130

17
00:00:46,130 --> 00:00:49,240
Do you want to know
how I came to know him?

18
00:00:49,240 --> 00:00:50,750
Yes, yes I would like.

19
00:00:50,750 --> 00:00:59,030
I knew him for the first time
when he came back from Israel,

20
00:00:59,030 --> 00:01:05,180
from a trip to Israel,
and he stopped in Vienna,

21
00:01:05,180 --> 00:01:09,770
and he was giving a speech.

22
00:01:09,770 --> 00:01:18,130
A telling about his
impressions and his thoughts.

23
00:01:18,130 --> 00:01:20,680
He was a powerful speaker.

24
00:01:20,680 --> 00:01:25,990
He was a powerful
and dramatic speaker.

25
00:01:25,990 --> 00:01:29,530

He could captivate an audience.

26

00:01:29,530 --> 00:01:33,490

And that was the first
time when I saw him.

27

00:01:33,490 --> 00:01:36,010

And I was fascinated by him.

28

00:01:36,010 --> 00:01:36,910

But, excuse me.

29

00:01:36,910 --> 00:01:38,680

When was this?

30

00:01:38,680 --> 00:01:46,320

That was about 1931.

31

00:01:46,320 --> 00:01:47,610

It was before the war.

32

00:01:47,610 --> 00:01:48,600

Before the war.

33

00:01:48,600 --> 00:01:49,770

You met him before the war?

34

00:01:49,770 --> 00:01:50,940

I met him before the war.

35

00:01:50,940 --> 00:01:52,210

Right.

36

00:01:52,210 --> 00:01:53,640

Yes.

37

00:01:53,640 --> 00:01:59,010

The second time I met
him, when he was in Vienna

38

00:01:59,010 --> 00:02:03,510

to publish a book.

39

00:02:03,510 --> 00:02:06,440

You see, he was in Oxford.

40

00:02:06,440 --> 00:02:11,730

He had a great interest
in old manuscripts,

41

00:02:11,730 --> 00:02:17,640

and he found there a note
manuscript which he published

42

00:02:17,640 --> 00:02:20,460

and printed in Vienna.

43

00:02:20,460 --> 00:02:28,590

And he was a man of a highly
developed aesthetic feeling.

44

00:02:28,590 --> 00:02:34,860

And he wanted me to design
for him the cover of the book,

45

00:02:34,860 --> 00:02:37,710

and the first page of the book.

46

00:02:37,710 --> 00:02:41,490

And I am a calligrapher, also.

47

00:02:41,490 --> 00:02:45,570

I am specialized in
Hebrew calligraphy.

48

00:02:45,570 --> 00:02:52,620

And he wanted me to
create a letter which

49

00:02:52,620 --> 00:02:59,280

corresponds to the time
when that author lived.

50

00:02:59,280 --> 00:03:05,360

So I designed that
artwork for him.

51

00:03:05,360 --> 00:03:09,060

He was in my house,
and we spoke at length.

52

00:03:09,060 --> 00:03:12,050

That was my first personal
encounter with him.

53

00:03:12,050 --> 00:03:13,600

But this was before the war?

54

00:03:13,600 --> 00:03:15,690

It was before the war, right.

55

00:03:15,690 --> 00:03:17,070

Right.

56

00:03:17,070 --> 00:03:22,420

And why did he make this
first trip to Israel in 1931?

57

00:03:22,420 --> 00:03:26,310

Well, every Jew
likes to see Israel.

58

00:03:26,310 --> 00:03:27,240

Yes.

59

00:03:27,240 --> 00:03:31,530

And he also had a desire
to see the Holy Land.

60

00:03:31,530 --> 00:03:34,210

61

00:03:34,210 --> 00:03:42,220

And that's a personal contact I
had with him only at that time.

62

00:03:42,220 --> 00:03:45,220

I think I told you,
when I designed for him

63

00:03:45,220 --> 00:03:49,510

the first page of the book.

64

00:03:49,510 --> 00:03:52,450

But he was a man of
which age at the time?

65

00:03:52,450 --> 00:03:54,550

How old was he?

66

00:03:54,550 --> 00:04:01,340

At the time, he would have
been about 30, 32, 33.

67

00:04:01,340 --> 00:04:02,230

He was a young man.

68

00:04:02,230 --> 00:04:05,020

He was a young man, yes.

69

00:04:05,020 --> 00:04:06,520

He was about my age.

70

00:04:06,520 --> 00:04:09,560

71

00:04:09,560 --> 00:04:10,760

Yes.

72

00:04:10,760 --> 00:04:13,130

Maybe he was only
30 at that time.

73

00:04:13,130 --> 00:04:15,470

I can't tell you exactly.

74

00:04:15,470 --> 00:04:16,470

I don't know.

75

00:04:16,470 --> 00:04:20,870

I don't remember how
old I was at that time.

76

00:04:20,870 --> 00:04:24,140

And did he start to talk at
the time about the danger

77

00:04:24,140 --> 00:04:27,830

of the rising Hitlerism?

78

00:04:27,830 --> 00:04:28,610

No.

79

00:04:28,610 --> 00:04:32,450

At that time he did not
talk to me about that.

80

00:04:32,450 --> 00:04:33,380

No.

81

00:04:33,380 --> 00:04:38,810

We were talking about art,
about the relationship

82

00:04:38,810 --> 00:04:41,060

of the Jewish people to art.

83

00:04:41,060 --> 00:04:44,090

84

00:04:44,090 --> 00:04:48,590

He had many, many interests.

85

00:04:48,590 --> 00:04:52,800

You wouldn't have believed that
if you would have seen him.

86

00:04:52,800 --> 00:04:57,080

A man who was deeply

steeped in Orthodox

87

00:04:57,080 --> 00:05:01,870

Judaism coming from a small
little town in Slovakia.

88

00:05:01,870 --> 00:05:07,760

I mean, the mere fact that he
went to Oxford, that shows you

89

00:05:07,760 --> 00:05:11,810

that the range of
his interests was

90

00:05:11,810 --> 00:05:17,220

far beyond the limits of
the small Slovakian town.

91

00:05:17,220 --> 00:05:19,520

Yes.

92

00:05:19,520 --> 00:05:22,310

The town was Nitra?

93

00:05:22,310 --> 00:05:23,580

It was Nitra, right.

94

00:05:23,580 --> 00:05:24,080

Right.

95

00:05:24,080 --> 00:05:28,830

96

00:05:28,830 --> 00:05:32,390

[FRENCH]

97

00:05:32,390 --> 00:05:37,190

Why were you so struck the first
time you met Rabbi Weissmandel?

98

00:05:37,190 --> 00:05:39,860

You remember the

speech he delivered?

99

00:05:39,860 --> 00:05:40,910

I remember.

100

00:05:40,910 --> 00:05:43,040

I don't remember

the entire speech.

101

00:05:43,040 --> 00:05:46,190

I remember only a

certain phrase which

102

00:05:46,190 --> 00:05:53,520

he used in his speech, which

was very poetic and dramatic.

103

00:05:53,520 --> 00:05:55,590

And it stuck in my mind.

104

00:05:55,590 --> 00:05:59,190

It might, perhaps, be

to you a minor thing.

105

00:05:59,190 --> 00:06:02,640

But to me, at the moment,

it was very impressive.

106

00:06:02,640 --> 00:06:08,400

He was describing

the Har ha-Zeitim.

107

00:06:08,400 --> 00:06:13,780

The Har ha-Zeitim is the Mount

of Olives, which is a cemetery.

108

00:06:13,780 --> 00:06:18,330

All the Jews are buried

on the Mount of Olives.

109

00:06:18,330 --> 00:06:26,380

And the dead are facing

all in one direction.

110
00:06:26,380 --> 00:06:30,270
This is the direction from
which the Messiah is supposed

111
00:06:30,270 --> 00:06:33,300
to arrive, supposed to come.

112
00:06:33,300 --> 00:06:37,110
And he described it
that the Jews all there

113
00:06:37,110 --> 00:06:42,240
are lying there,
waiting for him,

114
00:06:42,240 --> 00:06:46,950
are lying there in
rows, all directed

115
00:06:46,950 --> 00:06:52,200
to this side, where the
Messiah is supposed to arrive.

116
00:06:52,200 --> 00:06:54,750
And he pictured
that in such a way.

117
00:06:54,750 --> 00:07:02,340
I cannot really convey to you
the impression which I had.

118
00:07:02,340 --> 00:07:04,920
But that's what he
said, and that's

119
00:07:04,920 --> 00:07:07,870
what made such an
impression on me.

120
00:07:07,870 --> 00:07:12,810
And he was a man of
very deep feelings,

121
00:07:12,810 --> 00:07:18,030
and he had a very
strong poetic sense.

122
00:07:18,030 --> 00:07:24,630
So the way he described that was
also a dramatic and poetic way,

123
00:07:24,630 --> 00:07:27,070
which made on me an impression.

124
00:07:27,070 --> 00:07:28,470
And he spoke in Hebrew?

125
00:07:28,470 --> 00:07:29,848
He spoke in German.

126
00:07:29,848 --> 00:07:30,640
He spoke in German?

127
00:07:30,640 --> 00:07:32,230
Oh, yes, he spoke in German.

128
00:07:32,230 --> 00:07:32,730
Yes.

129
00:07:32,730 --> 00:07:36,370

130
00:07:36,370 --> 00:07:37,690
He spoke a good German?

131
00:07:37,690 --> 00:07:40,080
Oh, yes.

132
00:07:40,080 --> 00:07:46,540
He was very fluent in German,
speaking as well as writing.

133
00:07:46,540 --> 00:07:50,440

He was a highly intelligent man.

134

00:07:50,440 --> 00:07:55,210

He was a man with a
wide scope of knowledge.

135

00:07:55,210 --> 00:07:58,510

Everything interested him.

136

00:07:58,510 --> 00:08:03,770

He was here in this room, and
he was watching me while I work.

137

00:08:03,770 --> 00:08:07,000

He was here the whole day,
looking over my shoulders

138

00:08:07,000 --> 00:08:10,180

while I was working,
making designs.

139

00:08:10,180 --> 00:08:12,130

And he told me, why do
you make it this way?

140

00:08:12,130 --> 00:08:13,630

Why do you make it that way?

141

00:08:13,630 --> 00:08:16,090

He had a deep interest
in everything.

142

00:08:16,090 --> 00:08:17,410

Every aspect of life.

143

00:08:17,410 --> 00:08:20,010

144

00:08:20,010 --> 00:08:25,170

And, of course, as
an authentic Jew,

145

00:08:25,170 --> 00:08:30,450

he tried to combine
all the aspects of life

146

00:08:30,450 --> 00:08:34,799

with his Jewish soul.

147

00:08:34,799 --> 00:08:37,960

With Judaism What
does it mean to me?

148

00:08:37,960 --> 00:08:41,220

What does it mean
to me as a Jew?

149

00:08:41,220 --> 00:08:42,720

We were talking about politics.

150

00:08:42,720 --> 00:08:48,330

We were talking about
philosophical things.

151

00:08:48,330 --> 00:08:52,740

But everything in
the final analysis

152

00:08:52,740 --> 00:08:57,210

led back, what
does it mean to us?

153

00:08:57,210 --> 00:08:58,995

What does it mean to me?

154

00:08:58,995 --> 00:08:59,790

You see?

155

00:08:59,790 --> 00:09:02,460

156

00:09:02,460 --> 00:09:06,330

He was, as I told
you, he was in Oxford,

157

00:09:06,330 --> 00:09:10,080

and he had contact
with many people there.

158

00:09:10,080 --> 00:09:15,150

Many people who had
quite different opinions,

159

00:09:15,150 --> 00:09:20,850

and quite different
weltanschauung than his.

160

00:09:20,850 --> 00:09:24,420

But he could converse
with everybody.

161

00:09:24,420 --> 00:09:27,150

And because everybody
interested him.

162

00:09:27,150 --> 00:09:30,660

You know that at
the time when Hitler

163

00:09:30,660 --> 00:09:35,880

occupied the Rhineland,
and later, in 1938,

164

00:09:35,880 --> 00:09:38,820

he occupied Austria.

165

00:09:38,820 --> 00:09:43,800

And at that time, Rabbi
Weissmandel was in Oxford.

166

00:09:43,800 --> 00:09:50,320

And he foresaw that Hitler
will not stop there.

167

00:09:50,320 --> 00:09:52,140

He will go further.

168

00:09:52,140 --> 00:10:01,170

And he tried to find
ways and means for Jews

169

00:10:01,170 --> 00:10:02,765

to get out of Europe.

170

00:10:02,765 --> 00:10:03,640

Already at that time?

171

00:10:03,640 --> 00:10:05,430

Already at that time.

172

00:10:05,430 --> 00:10:08,970

173

00:10:08,970 --> 00:10:11,010

Well, Austria was
occupied already,

174

00:10:11,010 --> 00:10:16,210

but Hungary and Slovakia
were quite free.

175

00:10:16,210 --> 00:10:20,070

So he contacted the
Archbishop of Canterbury.

176

00:10:20,070 --> 00:10:22,350

You know, you heard about that.

177

00:10:22,350 --> 00:10:25,470

His name was Doctor Temple.

178

00:10:25,470 --> 00:10:31,380

He told me how he was
trying to see him.

179

00:10:31,380 --> 00:10:36,420

He went to Lambeth Palace,
which is the official residence

180

00:10:36,420 --> 00:10:37,860
of the archbishop.

181
00:10:37,860 --> 00:10:42,000
And he just wanted to
walk in, but the people

182
00:10:42,000 --> 00:10:43,380
didn't let him go in.

183
00:10:43,380 --> 00:10:45,520
You must understand,
Rabbi Weissmandel

184
00:10:45,520 --> 00:10:47,640
wasn't dressed very neatly.

185
00:10:47,640 --> 00:10:50,340
He was rather shabbily dressed.

186
00:10:50,340 --> 00:10:54,240
He did not pay any
attention to his exterior.

187
00:10:54,240 --> 00:10:58,280
And they didn't know what
he wants and who he is,

188
00:10:58,280 --> 00:11:00,060
so they didn't let him in.

189
00:11:00,060 --> 00:11:03,750
And he begged them,
but it didn't help.

190
00:11:03,750 --> 00:11:07,350
So he was standing
at the door for hours

191
00:11:07,350 --> 00:11:12,090
in the rain waiting
until the moment

192

00:11:12,090 --> 00:11:14,800

when the archbishop
will get out.

193

00:11:14,800 --> 00:11:20,880

And at one time he got out, and
he approached him by the door,

194

00:11:20,880 --> 00:11:24,180

on the street, and told
him, I have something very

195

00:11:24,180 --> 00:11:27,160

important to talk with you.

196

00:11:27,160 --> 00:11:31,110

So he arranged an appointment
with him for the next day,

197

00:11:31,110 --> 00:11:32,800

or two days after that.

198

00:11:32,800 --> 00:11:34,150

I don't know.

199

00:11:34,150 --> 00:11:37,410

So Rabbi Weissmandel
visited him.

200

00:11:37,410 --> 00:11:39,900

Not once, many times.

201

00:11:39,900 --> 00:11:44,100

And he told him about
the danger for the Jews.

202

00:11:44,100 --> 00:11:46,680

And he had a practical plan.

203

00:11:46,680 --> 00:11:52,080

He had a plan that the Jews
should emigrate to Canada.

204

00:11:52,080 --> 00:11:58,230

And he tried to impress
on the archbishop

205

00:11:58,230 --> 00:12:00,870

that he should use
his connections

206

00:12:00,870 --> 00:12:08,550

with the Canadian government to
permit Jews to come to Canada.

207

00:12:08,550 --> 00:12:15,480

And he did make contact, the
Archbishop of Canterbury.

208

00:12:15,480 --> 00:12:20,130

By the way, Rabbi Weissmandel,
he had a very good way

209

00:12:20,130 --> 00:12:26,070

to describe situations, to
make situation very plastic.

210

00:12:26,070 --> 00:12:30,900

He told me how the archbishop,
he was not very friendly

211

00:12:30,900 --> 00:12:34,530

inclined toward Jews.

212

00:12:34,530 --> 00:12:39,090

And still, somehow, he
was impressed by what

213

00:12:39,090 --> 00:12:41,280

Rabbi Weissmandel told him.

214

00:12:41,280 --> 00:12:49,275

And slowly, slowly,
he became human.

215

00:12:49,275 --> 00:12:52,200

216

00:12:52,200 --> 00:12:55,740

And he was agreeable.

217

00:12:55,740 --> 00:12:58,590

And he arranged
another appointment

218

00:12:58,590 --> 00:13:00,510

with Rabbi Weissmandel.

219

00:13:00,510 --> 00:13:06,870

In the meantime, he contacted
several Canadian government

220

00:13:06,870 --> 00:13:08,190

officials.

221

00:13:08,190 --> 00:13:12,690

The end result was that the
Canadian government permitted

222

00:13:12,690 --> 00:13:17,340

a limited number of Jewish
families to come to Canada,

223

00:13:17,340 --> 00:13:24,580

provided that those families
are agricultural people.

224

00:13:24,580 --> 00:13:29,520

But the fact was,
the Jews in Slovakia,

225

00:13:29,520 --> 00:13:32,590

they were not agricultural
people at all.

226

00:13:32,590 --> 00:13:37,920

There were small merchants

and small storekeepers.

227

00:13:37,920 --> 00:13:42,690

So he telegraphed to Slovakia
that they should immediately

228

00:13:42,690 --> 00:13:45,020

take a course in agriculture.

229

00:13:45,020 --> 00:13:45,520

Weissmandel?

230

00:13:45,520 --> 00:13:48,240

Weissmandel telegraphed
there that they

231

00:13:48,240 --> 00:13:51,900

should prepare themselves,
because the Canadian government

232

00:13:51,900 --> 00:13:57,900

promised to send an
emissary to Europe.

233

00:13:57,900 --> 00:14:03,200

I don't remember to what
place where that official was

234

00:14:03,200 --> 00:14:08,060

to see the prospective
immigrants,

235

00:14:08,060 --> 00:14:13,130

and to interrogate them whether
or not they have knowledge

236

00:14:13,130 --> 00:14:15,000

about agriculture.

237

00:14:15,000 --> 00:14:20,060

So he telegraphed there
to immediately arrange

238

00:14:20,060 --> 00:14:26,090

that they should have some
superficial knowledge,

239

00:14:26,090 --> 00:14:29,300

and that took months.

240

00:14:29,300 --> 00:14:35,060

That took many months until
it reached that point.

241

00:14:35,060 --> 00:14:40,700

And then, when this
official came, he came.

242

00:14:40,700 --> 00:14:43,640

Really, today, whether
he came to Bratislava,

243

00:14:43,640 --> 00:14:46,160

or whether he came to
Budapest, I don't remember.

244

00:14:46,160 --> 00:14:47,510

Basically, the Hungarian border.

245

00:14:47,510 --> 00:14:48,860

It was on the Hungarian border.

246

00:14:48,860 --> 00:14:50,610

I don't remember that.

247

00:14:50,610 --> 00:14:53,660

But when he came
there, and the time

248

00:14:53,660 --> 00:14:57,320

came that these people
should come to him,

249

00:14:57,320 --> 00:15:02,720

apply for the visa, Hitler

invaded Czechoslovakia.

250

00:15:02,720 --> 00:15:04,820

So this man went back,
and nothing came of it.

251

00:15:04,820 --> 00:15:07,610

252

00:15:07,610 --> 00:15:09,590

This means that
already before the war,

253

00:15:09,590 --> 00:15:11,240

he was completely aware of--

254

00:15:11,240 --> 00:15:11,840

Oh, yes.

255

00:15:11,840 --> 00:15:12,410

Oh, yes.

256

00:15:12,410 --> 00:15:13,460

Yes.

257

00:15:13,460 --> 00:15:14,780

He was completely aware of it.

258

00:15:14,780 --> 00:15:18,810

259

00:15:18,810 --> 00:15:19,640

All right.

260

00:15:19,640 --> 00:15:22,880

And now, the second time you
met him was after the war?

261

00:15:22,880 --> 00:15:24,650

Then I--

262

00:15:24,650 --> 00:15:26,340

Did you hear from
him during the war?

263

00:15:26,340 --> 00:15:26,840

No.

264

00:15:26,840 --> 00:15:30,290

I heard from him
during the war, because

265

00:15:30,290 --> 00:15:32,960

his frantic and
desperate letters,

266

00:15:32,960 --> 00:15:39,710

which he wrote, which he
sent on clandestine ways

267

00:15:39,710 --> 00:15:45,350

to various countries and to
various government officials.

268

00:15:45,350 --> 00:15:49,550

Finally, those letters
landed in New York also.

269

00:15:49,550 --> 00:15:54,650

And those letters, part
of them was read publicly

270

00:15:54,650 --> 00:15:56,300

in the synagogue.

271

00:15:56,300 --> 00:15:57,750

Oh, yes.

272

00:15:57,750 --> 00:16:00,260

So we all heard about that.

273

00:16:00,260 --> 00:16:04,580

How he begged for money,
and we collected money.

274
00:16:04,580 --> 00:16:06,980
We collected vast sums of money.

275
00:16:06,980 --> 00:16:14,720

276
00:16:14,720 --> 00:16:22,460
There was a very funny
incident with regard

277
00:16:22,460 --> 00:16:25,130
to Rabbi Weissmandel
while he was in Oxford.

278
00:16:25,130 --> 00:16:26,810
You know, he was
a very poor man.

279
00:16:26,810 --> 00:16:28,920
He had no money at all.

280
00:16:28,920 --> 00:16:31,040
Where did he get the
money to go to Oxford?

281
00:16:31,040 --> 00:16:34,580
So he saved it up
little by little.

282
00:16:34,580 --> 00:16:37,160
And when he was
there, he was living

283
00:16:37,160 --> 00:16:44,810
in a small room which he rented,
in an old dilapidated house

284
00:16:44,810 --> 00:16:46,760
near the library.

285
00:16:46,760 --> 00:16:54,570

And he had a little cooker with
petroleum, a petroleum cooker,

286

00:16:54,570 --> 00:16:58,940

where he made himself
tea and he ate bread.

287

00:16:58,940 --> 00:17:03,869

That was his his meal, you know?

288

00:17:03,869 --> 00:17:04,589

Tea and bread.

289

00:17:04,589 --> 00:17:05,089

What?

290

00:17:05,089 --> 00:17:05,990

Tea and bread.

291

00:17:05,990 --> 00:17:07,579

Tea and bread, yes.

292

00:17:07,579 --> 00:17:10,880

So he had an aunt in Slovakia.

293

00:17:10,880 --> 00:17:14,839

An old woman, and she
knew he has no money.

294

00:17:14,839 --> 00:17:19,369

So she had a five pound note--

295

00:17:19,369 --> 00:17:24,230

which he had-- and she sent
him the five pound note.

296

00:17:24,230 --> 00:17:26,990

Now, he was very happy to
get that five pound note,

297

00:17:26,990 --> 00:17:30,530

because it will help

him for quite a while.

298

00:17:30,530 --> 00:17:35,220

Five pounds was quite an amount of money at that time.

299

00:17:35,220 --> 00:17:39,170

So he needed to change the five pounds.

300

00:17:39,170 --> 00:17:42,380

So nearby was a big bank.

301

00:17:42,380 --> 00:17:46,850

So he went into the bank to change the five pound note.

302

00:17:46,850 --> 00:17:49,610

But you know how Rabbi Weissmandel went around.

303

00:17:49,610 --> 00:17:53,120

He had a black beard, and his hat

304

00:17:53,120 --> 00:17:57,500

was deep with the brim in his face, and his collar,

305

00:17:57,500 --> 00:18:00,200

his collar was always up like this.

306

00:18:00,200 --> 00:18:04,280

And he had books under each arm, and he was always

307

00:18:04,280 --> 00:18:05,990

absorbed in thoughts.

308

00:18:05,990 --> 00:18:07,580

And that's the way he went around

309

00:18:07,580 --> 00:18:10,730
in the street, always absorbed
in thoughts with his books

310

00:18:10,730 --> 00:18:11,810
under the arm.

311

00:18:11,810 --> 00:18:14,150
And he went into the bank.

312

00:18:14,150 --> 00:18:20,330
When he came to the bank, the
doorman opened the doors wide

313

00:18:20,330 --> 00:18:22,730
and he bowed before
him and let him

314

00:18:22,730 --> 00:18:25,640
into the inner sanctum
of the bank director.

315

00:18:25,640 --> 00:18:28,550
The bank director
came towards him

316

00:18:28,550 --> 00:18:31,400
and let him into
his office, and they

317

00:18:31,400 --> 00:18:36,020
let him sit down, and wait a
moment, I'll be right with you.

318

00:18:36,020 --> 00:18:40,700
And after a few moments, he
came back with a silver tray

319

00:18:40,700 --> 00:18:42,140
with bank notes.

320

00:18:42,140 --> 00:18:46,340
With piles of
English bank notes.

321
00:18:46,340 --> 00:18:48,350
And he was flabbergasted.

322
00:18:48,350 --> 00:18:50,910
He didn't know, what is that?

323
00:18:50,910 --> 00:18:53,120
So he took out his
five pound notes

324
00:18:53,120 --> 00:18:57,470
and said but I only wanted
to change my five pounds.

325
00:18:57,470 --> 00:19:01,280
So the director of the bank,
and all the people there,

326
00:19:01,280 --> 00:19:03,590
started to laugh.

327
00:19:03,590 --> 00:19:06,290
And they were laughing on end.

328
00:19:06,290 --> 00:19:07,790
What happened?

329
00:19:07,790 --> 00:19:11,930
An English maharaja
was studying in Oxford

330
00:19:11,930 --> 00:19:14,550
at the same time
when he was there.

331
00:19:14,550 --> 00:19:18,690
And he used to get his
allowance at a certain time.

332

00:19:18,690 --> 00:19:20,420

And at that time,
he was supposed

333

00:19:20,420 --> 00:19:23,090

to come to the bank
to get his allowance.

334

00:19:23,090 --> 00:19:26,510

And that English maharajah
also had a black beard,

335

00:19:26,510 --> 00:19:30,590

and he also went around like
this, with books into his arm,

336

00:19:30,590 --> 00:19:34,790

and they mistook
him for this man.

337

00:19:34,790 --> 00:19:38,660

So this whole thing ended
in laughter, you know.

338

00:19:38,660 --> 00:19:42,170

I mentioned that when Rabbi
Weissmandel told that,

339

00:19:42,170 --> 00:19:47,240

he had a very good way
to tell a funny story.

340

00:19:47,240 --> 00:19:50,570

He had a great sense of humor.

341

00:19:50,570 --> 00:19:51,440

Oh, yes.

342

00:19:51,440 --> 00:19:56,750

He could make a whole audience
shaking with laughter.

343

00:19:56,750 --> 00:20:00,410
It's a pity, because this money
could have served to him later.

344
00:20:00,410 --> 00:20:01,230
Yes, it could.

345
00:20:01,230 --> 00:20:02,355
It would have been so much.

346
00:20:02,355 --> 00:20:03,260
It could.

347
00:20:03,260 --> 00:20:03,980
Yes.

348
00:20:03,980 --> 00:20:04,480
Yes.

349
00:20:04,480 --> 00:20:06,740
But yourself, you
came to New York when?

350
00:20:06,740 --> 00:20:11,990
I came to the United
States in February 1939.

351
00:20:11,990 --> 00:20:15,410
A few months before
the war broke out.

352
00:20:15,410 --> 00:20:17,720
The war broke out on
September the 1st,

353
00:20:17,720 --> 00:20:20,730
and I came in February.

354
00:20:20,730 --> 00:20:24,230
So almost a number
of months before.

355

00:20:24,230 --> 00:20:27,680
And you, you settled
immediately in Williamsburg?

356
00:20:27,680 --> 00:20:32,120
No, I had relatives here,
and they rented a room for me

357
00:20:32,120 --> 00:20:33,680
in the Bronx.

358
00:20:33,680 --> 00:20:34,430
They paid for me.

359
00:20:34,430 --> 00:20:35,210
I had no money.

360
00:20:35,210 --> 00:20:38,900
I came here with \$60 that I had.

361
00:20:38,900 --> 00:20:42,440
I had two children with me.

362
00:20:42,440 --> 00:20:44,810
My third child wasn't
born at that time.

363
00:20:44,810 --> 00:20:48,470
Anyway, I was living there
for a week in the Bronx,

364
00:20:48,470 --> 00:20:50,330
but I had no
contact with people.

365
00:20:50,330 --> 00:20:55,700
I didn't find my kind of people.

366
00:20:55,700 --> 00:20:57,500
I was a stranger there.

367
00:20:57,500 --> 00:21:00,110

And so I moved here
to Williamsburg,

368
00:21:00,110 --> 00:21:04,130
because several Viennese
people were already here.

369
00:21:04,130 --> 00:21:06,110
So I wanted to be
in this neighborhood

370
00:21:06,110 --> 00:21:08,120
because I had friends here.

371
00:21:08,120 --> 00:21:11,080
So and since that
time, I'm still here.

372
00:21:11,080 --> 00:21:11,950
Yes.

373
00:21:11,950 --> 00:21:14,530
Well, you said that you
heard of Rabbi Weissmandel

374
00:21:14,530 --> 00:21:17,290
during the war?

375
00:21:17,290 --> 00:21:19,390
Yes.

376
00:21:19,390 --> 00:21:23,110
When I was here, I went to the
synagogue every day, you know?

377
00:21:23,110 --> 00:21:29,440
And on the Shabbat, they
interrupted the service,

378
00:21:29,440 --> 00:21:34,630
and they read the letters of
Rabbi Weissmandel, which came.

379

00:21:34,630 --> 00:21:44,910

And we organized action to
collect money, you know?

380

00:21:44,910 --> 00:21:45,410

Yes.

381

00:21:45,410 --> 00:21:48,230

So what was the impression
of these letters

382

00:21:48,230 --> 00:21:55,430

at the time among the Orthodox
Jews here in Williamsburg?

383

00:21:55,430 --> 00:22:00,510

It's difficult to say,
because not the entire content

384

00:22:00,510 --> 00:22:02,450

of the letter was read to us.

385

00:22:02,450 --> 00:22:05,990

There were certain
parts in the letter

386

00:22:05,990 --> 00:22:10,050

which the man who read it did
not want to read in public.

387

00:22:10,050 --> 00:22:10,550

Why?

388

00:22:10,550 --> 00:22:11,590

I don't know why.

389

00:22:11,590 --> 00:22:14,120

I don't know why.

390

00:22:14,120 --> 00:22:15,480

I have no idea.

391

00:22:15,480 --> 00:22:16,970

I have no idea.

392

00:22:16,970 --> 00:22:18,590

Only certain passages.

393

00:22:18,590 --> 00:22:22,550

You see, this letter was
sent clandestine, you know?

394

00:22:22,550 --> 00:22:28,490

And maybe there were accusations
contained in these letters.

395

00:22:28,490 --> 00:22:31,670

And the people, the
man who read it,

396

00:22:31,670 --> 00:22:35,550

he was afraid to read
the entire letter.

397

00:22:35,550 --> 00:22:39,800

You see, that's what I assume.

398

00:22:39,800 --> 00:22:42,310

Yes, but through the letters
you understood exactly--

399

00:22:42,310 --> 00:22:44,330

Of course, of course,
we understood it.

400

00:22:44,330 --> 00:22:46,010

Of course we understood it.

401

00:22:46,010 --> 00:22:50,210

You see, this is a
very peculiar thing.

402

00:22:50,210 --> 00:22:55,760

You understand a thing

intellectually, sometimes,

403

00:22:55,760 --> 00:23:02,190

but you don't understand it
completely with your heart,

404

00:23:02,190 --> 00:23:02,780

shall I say?

405

00:23:02,780 --> 00:23:03,650

With your heart.

406

00:23:03,650 --> 00:23:06,500

Because understanding
does not mean

407

00:23:06,500 --> 00:23:08,720

an intellectual
understanding alone.

408

00:23:08,720 --> 00:23:10,670

It is more than that.

409

00:23:10,670 --> 00:23:15,610

You see, we could not
really, inside of us,

410

00:23:15,610 --> 00:23:18,960

really grasp the fact.

411

00:23:18,960 --> 00:23:22,670

We heard the words,
and we believed it,

412

00:23:22,670 --> 00:23:25,900

but with intellect.

413

00:23:25,900 --> 00:23:35,140

Because we were born in Europe,
and we were born in an order,

414

00:23:35,140 --> 00:23:36,100

in an order.

415
00:23:36,100 --> 00:23:39,070
Though I was living one
year under Hitler, and I

416
00:23:39,070 --> 00:23:41,680
saw the order breaking down.

417
00:23:41,680 --> 00:23:44,290
But still, from
breaking down the order

418
00:23:44,290 --> 00:23:50,950
and discriminating against
Jews socially, to killing them,

419
00:23:50,950 --> 00:23:57,450
there is a vast gap
between that, you see.

420
00:23:57,450 --> 00:24:00,590
This is a very, very
important point.

421
00:24:00,590 --> 00:24:01,190
Yes.

422
00:24:01,190 --> 00:24:01,830
Yes.

423
00:24:01,830 --> 00:24:02,330
Yes.

424
00:24:02,330 --> 00:24:09,150

425
00:24:09,150 --> 00:24:12,330
Now, when did you meet
Weissmandel for the--

426
00:24:12,330 --> 00:24:15,000

Oh, I met Weissmandel
after the war.

427
00:24:15,000 --> 00:24:16,590
After the war.

428
00:24:16,590 --> 00:24:18,240
He came after the war.

429
00:24:18,240 --> 00:24:20,670
He was a completely broken man.

430
00:24:20,670 --> 00:24:21,850
Completely broken man.

431
00:24:21,850 --> 00:24:26,610
He was he was staying in
Williamsburg with a friend,

432
00:24:26,610 --> 00:24:32,260
and he gave him a small
room where he was staying.

433
00:24:32,260 --> 00:24:37,950
He was lying in bed all day, and
he was hammering with his fists

434
00:24:37,950 --> 00:24:39,480
on the floor.

435
00:24:39,480 --> 00:24:41,880
He was crying, screaming.

436
00:24:41,880 --> 00:24:43,500
I visited him every day.

437
00:24:43,500 --> 00:24:47,610

438
00:24:47,610 --> 00:24:52,530
I must say that at that time,
I myself had very hard times,

439
00:24:52,530 --> 00:24:54,570
because I was a newcomer.

440
00:24:54,570 --> 00:24:56,700
I didn't speak English.

441
00:24:56,700 --> 00:25:02,910
And I was looking for work,
and I went with my portfolio

442
00:25:02,910 --> 00:25:06,840
from one book
publisher to the other.

443
00:25:06,840 --> 00:25:09,210
I could not
communicate with them,

444
00:25:09,210 --> 00:25:14,070
and they had no patience for me,
so I was in a very bad shape.

445
00:25:14,070 --> 00:25:17,700
And instead of going
around looking for work,

446
00:25:17,700 --> 00:25:19,890
I went in the morning
to Rabbi Weissmandel

447
00:25:19,890 --> 00:25:23,010
and was sitting with
him the whole day.

448
00:25:23,010 --> 00:25:31,950
And he told me so many
things, so many things.

449
00:25:31,950 --> 00:25:34,620
What he went through,
and what happened.

450

00:25:34,620 --> 00:25:38,850

And it came to me like
a big wave, you know.

451

00:25:38,850 --> 00:25:40,140

It was overwhelming.

452

00:25:40,140 --> 00:25:45,150

I just could not,
couldn't grasp it.

453

00:25:45,150 --> 00:25:47,400

He told me so many
little incidents

454

00:25:47,400 --> 00:25:50,100

which which occurred to him.

455

00:25:50,100 --> 00:25:54,900

Like a man is fantasizing,
a man is in fever.

456

00:25:54,900 --> 00:25:58,500

He talks not
coherently, he talks

457

00:25:58,500 --> 00:26:05,440

of what comes out, what
goes through his mind.

458

00:26:05,440 --> 00:26:10,590

And in a compulsion, he
breaks out, you know,

459

00:26:10,590 --> 00:26:14,190

and he says things which have
no connection with each other.

460

00:26:14,190 --> 00:26:19,215

He told me, for instance, when
he jumped out of the train--

461

00:26:19,215 --> 00:26:21,480
you know the story, he
jumped out of the train?

462
00:26:21,480 --> 00:26:23,190
The train that was
bringing to Auschwitz?

463
00:26:23,190 --> 00:26:24,270
To Auschwitz, yes.

464
00:26:24,270 --> 00:26:24,937
With his family.

465
00:26:24,937 --> 00:26:25,470
He-- what?

466
00:26:25,470 --> 00:26:26,280
With the family.

467
00:26:26,280 --> 00:26:27,540
With the family, yes.

468
00:26:27,540 --> 00:26:29,460
He begged his family.

469
00:26:29,460 --> 00:26:35,070
You see, he loosened a bar,
an iron bar in the train.

470
00:26:35,070 --> 00:26:40,080
He loosened it, and he was
able, with all his might,

471
00:26:40,080 --> 00:26:46,470
to move the door and
open a little slit.

472
00:26:46,470 --> 00:26:51,180
Room enough to squeeze oneself
through it and to jump out.

473

00:26:51,180 --> 00:26:55,680
And when the train went on a
curve, a little slow, slower,

474
00:26:55,680 --> 00:26:59,700
there was an
opportunity to jump.

475
00:26:59,700 --> 00:27:05,610
So he begged his family
to come with him,

476
00:27:05,610 --> 00:27:08,440
but they didn't want to.

477
00:27:08,440 --> 00:27:11,740
So, can you imagine?

478
00:27:11,740 --> 00:27:13,440
Who was the family?

479
00:27:13,440 --> 00:27:17,370
His wife and his mother
and five children.

480
00:27:17,370 --> 00:27:18,030
Five children.

481
00:27:18,030 --> 00:27:19,680
Yeah.

482
00:27:19,680 --> 00:27:20,550
Five children.

483
00:27:20,550 --> 00:27:23,520

484
00:27:23,520 --> 00:27:27,150
New York Forst [FRENCH].

485
00:27:27,150 --> 00:27:32,730
In the train, there was

beside him, his family.

486

00:27:32,730 --> 00:27:35,092

This was in October '44?

487

00:27:35,092 --> 00:27:35,800

October '44, yes.

488

00:27:35,800 --> 00:27:38,610

This was during the second
wave of the deportations

489

00:27:38,610 --> 00:27:40,740

from Slovakia to Auschwitz.

490

00:27:40,740 --> 00:27:42,480

To Auschwitz, yes.

491

00:27:42,480 --> 00:27:44,570

He was in the train
with his family.

492

00:27:44,570 --> 00:27:47,640

His wife and his mother,
and five children.

493

00:27:47,640 --> 00:27:48,400

Five children.

494

00:27:48,400 --> 00:27:51,090

Yeah.

495

00:27:51,090 --> 00:27:53,350

Five or six?

496

00:27:53,350 --> 00:27:54,190

I think five.

497

00:27:54,190 --> 00:27:57,910

498

00:27:57,910 --> 00:28:07,120

He was desperately
trying to do something.

499

00:28:07,120 --> 00:28:09,190

And he knew exactly
what was going on.

500

00:28:09,190 --> 00:28:10,120

Of course, he knew.

501

00:28:10,120 --> 00:28:11,950

Of course, he knew.

502

00:28:11,950 --> 00:28:12,940

Of course, he knew.

503

00:28:12,940 --> 00:28:17,770

You know that he was the man
who took an affidavit with two

504

00:28:17,770 --> 00:28:22,990

escapees who came
from Auschwitz and had

505

00:28:22,990 --> 00:28:27,400

a plan of the whole lager--

506

00:28:27,400 --> 00:28:28,300

The crematorium?

507

00:28:28,300 --> 00:28:30,880

The crematorium and
everything, of course.

508

00:28:30,880 --> 00:28:33,800

He transmitted that
information to the world.

509

00:28:33,800 --> 00:28:37,150

And this was in April 1944?

510

00:28:37,150 --> 00:28:37,700
Yeah.

511
00:28:37,700 --> 00:28:38,200
Yes.

512
00:28:38,200 --> 00:28:38,800
Yeah.

513
00:28:38,800 --> 00:28:41,320
And he was deported
himself in October?

514
00:28:41,320 --> 00:28:41,870
Right.

515
00:28:41,870 --> 00:28:42,995
It's been six months later.

516
00:28:42,995 --> 00:28:43,660
Yeah.

517
00:28:43,660 --> 00:28:44,380
Right.

518
00:28:44,380 --> 00:28:50,020
So he tried to persuade
his family to jump.

519
00:28:50,020 --> 00:28:51,960
You see, he loosened
a bar, an iron

520
00:28:51,960 --> 00:28:58,210
bar in the train compartment.

521
00:28:58,210 --> 00:29:02,710
And he moved the iron
door a little bit

522
00:29:02,710 --> 00:29:07,090
so that a slit was open

which enabled one to jump.

523

00:29:07,090 --> 00:29:10,660

And he begged them
to jump with him,

524

00:29:10,660 --> 00:29:14,920

and they were
apparently resigned,

525

00:29:14,920 --> 00:29:18,730

and they didn't want to do.

526

00:29:18,730 --> 00:29:21,850

And after a while, he jumped.

527

00:29:21,850 --> 00:29:23,020

He jumped alone?

528

00:29:23,020 --> 00:29:25,000

He jumped alone.

529

00:29:25,000 --> 00:29:30,580

And of course, it is
up to us to imagine

530

00:29:30,580 --> 00:29:34,510

what went on in the
mind of this man

531

00:29:34,510 --> 00:29:40,630

when he decided to leave his
family in the train, which

532

00:29:40,630 --> 00:29:46,750

was bringing them to their
death, and saving himself.

533

00:29:46,750 --> 00:29:49,840

You must understand,
if you can--

534

00:29:49,840 --> 00:29:54,335

I cannot-- what went on
to make that decision.

535

00:29:54,335 --> 00:29:57,140

536

00:29:57,140 --> 00:29:58,090

So he jumped.

537

00:29:58,090 --> 00:29:59,450

You cannot?

538

00:29:59,450 --> 00:30:00,740

I cannot, no.

539

00:30:00,740 --> 00:30:01,370

I cannot.

540

00:30:01,370 --> 00:30:04,430

Did you talk with
him about this?

541

00:30:04,430 --> 00:30:10,320

The man, the man was,
from that moment on,

542

00:30:10,320 --> 00:30:12,530

he could not forgive himself.

543

00:30:12,530 --> 00:30:16,790

Despite the fact that
later on he was active,

544

00:30:16,790 --> 00:30:19,040

he even married again.

545

00:30:19,040 --> 00:30:22,310

But he never forgave
himself for what he did.

546

00:30:22,310 --> 00:30:29,540

Because the thought was
haunting him all his life.

547
00:30:29,540 --> 00:30:31,070
Well.

548
00:30:31,070 --> 00:30:33,540
He told me, he told me
when he after he jumped,

549
00:30:33,540 --> 00:30:38,900
he went he went through woods.

550
00:30:38,900 --> 00:30:46,160
And he didn't know his way,
and it was a terrible danger,

551
00:30:46,160 --> 00:30:52,670
because there were Nazi patrols
and gendarmes all around.

552
00:30:52,670 --> 00:31:00,410
And he told me that he finally
came to a little parish.

553
00:31:00,410 --> 00:31:04,010
A parish is a house
where a priest lives,

554
00:31:04,010 --> 00:31:05,690
in a little village.

555
00:31:05,690 --> 00:31:07,190
And he knocked at the door.

556
00:31:07,190 --> 00:31:09,470
It was early in the morning.

557
00:31:09,470 --> 00:31:15,290
And a woman opened the door,
and he was completely exhausted.

558

00:31:15,290 --> 00:31:17,150
Completely exhausted,
and he begged her

559
00:31:17,150 --> 00:31:20,570
to give him a piece of bread.

560
00:31:20,570 --> 00:31:26,715
And apparently the woman
realized that he was a Jew.

561
00:31:26,715 --> 00:31:29,930

562
00:31:29,930 --> 00:31:34,670
The way she threw the bread
at him, and he gobbled it.

563
00:31:34,670 --> 00:31:41,150
He immediately ate it,
because he was starved.

564
00:31:41,150 --> 00:31:46,280
And finally, he
came to Bratislava,

565
00:31:46,280 --> 00:31:50,630
and he went into a bunker there.

566
00:31:50,630 --> 00:31:52,940
A cave?

567
00:31:52,940 --> 00:31:59,060
A bunker is not exactly a cave.

568
00:31:59,060 --> 00:32:03,830
It is some sort of a
hiding place in a cellar,

569
00:32:03,830 --> 00:32:08,780
or a camouflaged
place, you know.

570

00:32:08,780 --> 00:32:14,150

And there were many people
crowded in the bunkers.

571

00:32:14,150 --> 00:32:18,650

Anyway, when I met him after
the war, as I told you before,

572

00:32:18,650 --> 00:32:20,870

he was living here
in Williamsburg

573

00:32:20,870 --> 00:32:25,730

after he arrived here in the
little room in a friend's

574

00:32:25,730 --> 00:32:27,170

apartment.

575

00:32:27,170 --> 00:32:31,510

He was lying in bed, crying,
and crying, and screaming.

576

00:32:31,510 --> 00:32:36,350

And screaming at me as
if I were responsible.

577

00:32:36,350 --> 00:32:38,450

At the moment, you
see, he saw in me

578

00:32:38,450 --> 00:32:45,180

a man who saved himself
with his family.

579

00:32:45,180 --> 00:32:51,780

Living here, orderly,
going after my business.

580

00:32:51,780 --> 00:32:56,880

A member of society,
normal society.

581

00:32:56,880 --> 00:33:02,880

Whereas he-- so he saw
in me the representative

582

00:33:02,880 --> 00:33:06,660

of the Bourgeois.

583

00:33:06,660 --> 00:33:12,510

Of the middle class man who
didn't care what happened

584

00:33:12,510 --> 00:33:15,720

across the ocean, you know.

585

00:33:15,720 --> 00:33:18,960

People who knew everything
and went about their business.

586

00:33:18,960 --> 00:33:20,370

So that he saw in me.

587

00:33:20,370 --> 00:33:21,540

He screamed at me.

588

00:33:21,540 --> 00:33:24,030

He shook his fists at me.

589

00:33:24,030 --> 00:33:26,100

Can you describe the screaming?

590

00:33:26,100 --> 00:33:27,690

What did he say, exactly?

591

00:33:27,690 --> 00:33:28,920

What did he say?

592

00:33:28,920 --> 00:33:32,060

He said to me, what
were you doing?

593

00:33:32,060 --> 00:33:35,670

What were you doing
while we were there?

594
00:33:35,670 --> 00:33:40,760
You know what you were doing?

595
00:33:40,760 --> 00:33:43,560
He didn't finish the sentence.

596
00:33:43,560 --> 00:33:47,422
What he meant was
making children.

597
00:33:47,422 --> 00:33:48,670
He meant it?

598
00:33:48,670 --> 00:33:50,032
That what he meant.

599
00:33:50,032 --> 00:33:50,740
He didn't say it.

600
00:33:50,740 --> 00:33:55,230
He didn't finish the sentence,
but I understood what he meant.

601
00:33:55,230 --> 00:34:01,860
You see, I went
to him every day.

602
00:34:01,860 --> 00:34:07,410
Every day, the whole day, I
was sitting there by his bed.

603
00:34:07,410 --> 00:34:09,840
The man was completely
out of his mind.

604
00:34:09,840 --> 00:34:12,480
Completely out of his mind.

605
00:34:12,480 --> 00:34:16,980

Very, very slowly,
he came to himself.

606
00:34:16,980 --> 00:34:18,690
Very slowly.

607
00:34:18,690 --> 00:34:23,850
For a long time, I mean,
he was out of his mind?

608
00:34:23,850 --> 00:34:26,850
Well, when I say
out of his mind,

609
00:34:26,850 --> 00:34:29,040
I didn't mean he was insane.

610
00:34:29,040 --> 00:34:29,790
Yes, I understand.

611
00:34:29,790 --> 00:34:33,300
I meant he was
emotionally upset.

612
00:34:33,300 --> 00:34:35,310
Deeply upset, emotionally.

613
00:34:35,310 --> 00:34:37,409
He accused the whole world.

614
00:34:37,409 --> 00:34:38,460
He accused us.

615
00:34:38,460 --> 00:34:39,360
He accused me.

616
00:34:39,360 --> 00:34:42,150
He accused everybody.

617
00:34:42,150 --> 00:34:42,750
Yes.

618

00:34:42,750 --> 00:34:48,239

But I mean, he spent all
these years during the war,

619

00:34:48,239 --> 00:34:50,310

trying to save the Jews.

620

00:34:50,310 --> 00:34:52,560

He was trying to save the Jews.

621

00:34:52,560 --> 00:34:56,250

You know that he halted
the transportation

622

00:34:56,250 --> 00:35:00,750

for many, many months with
the promise to deliver money?

623

00:35:00,750 --> 00:35:01,620

Yes.

624

00:35:01,620 --> 00:35:11,220

You see, he was a
product of those old Jews

625

00:35:11,220 --> 00:35:18,720

who bribed their way
through life, who

626

00:35:18,720 --> 00:35:25,380

existed by bribing the Gentile.

627

00:35:25,380 --> 00:35:29,940

So he knew that there
is no resistance,

628

00:35:29,940 --> 00:35:32,250

no physical resistance possible.

629

00:35:32,250 --> 00:35:34,660

There is no heroism possible.

630

00:35:34,660 --> 00:35:36,510

You see?

631

00:35:36,510 --> 00:35:40,860

It is not like

people say today, we

632

00:35:40,860 --> 00:35:44,950

should have been

fighting with them.

633

00:35:44,950 --> 00:35:47,280

We should have

defended ourselves.

634

00:35:47,280 --> 00:35:48,630

This is nonsense.

635

00:35:48,630 --> 00:35:49,750

This is nonsense.

636

00:35:49,750 --> 00:35:58,650

There was a complete lethargy,
a complete loss of initiative

637

00:35:58,650 --> 00:36:02,430

which grabbed

everybody, you know.

638

00:36:02,430 --> 00:36:07,620

You know it says in the Bible,

I must mention that to you.

639

00:36:07,620 --> 00:36:11,400

Whether you agree with it or
not, it says in the Bible,

640

00:36:11,400 --> 00:36:18,750

in the fifth book of the Bible,
when Moses said to the Jews,

641

00:36:18,750 --> 00:36:24,120

if you are not going the way you
should be, God will punish you.

642

00:36:24,120 --> 00:36:28,950

And among these words, there
is one sentence, which says,

643

00:36:28,950 --> 00:36:36,070

one man will drive 1,000.

644

00:36:36,070 --> 00:36:39,150

Which means there
will be just one man,

645

00:36:39,150 --> 00:36:42,270

and 1,000 people will
be afraid of him.

646

00:36:42,270 --> 00:36:44,430

You know, in the
concentration camp

647

00:36:44,430 --> 00:36:49,380

in Sered', there were
thousands of people there.

648

00:36:49,380 --> 00:36:52,710

Young men, old men, strong men.

649

00:36:52,710 --> 00:36:58,560

And there was a
contingent of 10 SS men.

650

00:36:58,560 --> 00:37:02,310

So why-- they could
have overpowered them.

651

00:37:02,310 --> 00:37:04,650

They could have thrown
themselves on these men.

652

00:37:04,650 --> 00:37:06,120

They didn't do it.

653
00:37:06,120 --> 00:37:07,380
Why?

654
00:37:07,380 --> 00:37:09,720
The extermination camps, too.

655
00:37:09,720 --> 00:37:12,840
Yes, but that was not
an extermination camp.

656
00:37:12,840 --> 00:37:16,050
That was just what you
call a Sammellager.

657
00:37:16,050 --> 00:37:17,025
Sad, you know.

658
00:37:17,025 --> 00:37:20,640
They could have
overpowered these 10 SS men

659
00:37:20,640 --> 00:37:24,820
and run away wherever
their feet will lead them.

660
00:37:24,820 --> 00:37:28,110
But at the moment,
there should have

661
00:37:28,110 --> 00:37:31,870
been the desire to do something,
but the people were paralyzed.

662
00:37:31,870 --> 00:37:35,170
A complete paralysis, you know.

663
00:37:35,170 --> 00:37:35,670
So.

664
00:37:35,670 --> 00:37:38,570

665

00:37:38,570 --> 00:37:41,570

You said that Weissmandel
was this type of Jew--

666

00:37:41,570 --> 00:37:48,720

He was the type of Jew, he
said that the power of money

667

00:37:48,720 --> 00:37:50,220

is enormous.

668

00:37:50,220 --> 00:37:51,270

Enormous.

669

00:37:51,270 --> 00:37:54,120

And you could find
ways and means

670

00:37:54,120 --> 00:38:00,090

with money, when you have lots
of money, to redeem your life.

671

00:38:00,090 --> 00:38:02,160

And he was right.

672

00:38:02,160 --> 00:38:03,480

He was right.

673

00:38:03,480 --> 00:38:07,640

He offered money to visit.

674

00:38:07,640 --> 00:38:17,000