

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:28,300

2  
00:00:28,300 --> 00:00:30,755  
What was it like for you,  
Mr. Rubell, to have freedom?

3  
00:00:30,755 --> 00:00:34,430

4  
00:00:34,430 --> 00:00:35,800  
Now that the war--

5  
00:00:35,800 --> 00:00:37,220  
Right after the war or dur--

6  
00:00:37,220 --> 00:00:40,510  
Yeah, the period  
right after the war.

7  
00:00:40,510 --> 00:00:44,560  
Right after the war  
for me, it was very--

8  
00:00:44,560 --> 00:00:46,060  
I didn't know how  
to handle freedom.

9  
00:00:46,060 --> 00:00:49,060

10  
00:00:49,060 --> 00:00:51,190  
We were-- I was still afraid.

11  
00:00:51,190 --> 00:00:54,030

12  
00:00:54,030 --> 00:00:58,740  
I was afraid of any  
kind of uniform.

13

00:00:58,740 --> 00:01:04,430  
Uniform represented something  
that was not very good,

14

00:01:04,430 --> 00:01:13,600  
but then when I saw the family  
again, my sisters, my brother,

15

00:01:13,600 --> 00:01:16,960  
there began to be a  
certain more warmth

16

00:01:16,960 --> 00:01:24,832  
and a sense of belonging.

17

00:01:24,832 --> 00:01:30,430

18

00:01:30,430 --> 00:01:35,600  
But in the beginning,  
freedom was great.

19

00:01:35,600 --> 00:01:39,500  
It was just like being  
liberated from beatings,

20

00:01:39,500 --> 00:01:45,830  
but you were not  
liberated from yourself

21

00:01:45,830 --> 00:01:47,960  
because of what some of  
the things that you went

22

00:01:47,960 --> 00:01:51,410  
through and some of the  
things that you were not

23

00:01:51,410 --> 00:01:55,160  
prepared to handle  
the way the future

24

00:01:55,160 --> 00:01:57,980  
looked for, because  
you saw, especially

25  
00:01:57,980 --> 00:01:59,390  
coming to this country.

26  
00:01:59,390 --> 00:02:01,550  
Did you find  
yourself in your mind

27  
00:02:01,550 --> 00:02:07,890  
back there again in  
the camps, in the--

28  
00:02:07,890 --> 00:02:11,180  
No, I never want  
to go back there.

29  
00:02:11,180 --> 00:02:12,230  
I don't mean physically--

30  
00:02:12,230 --> 00:02:12,730  
I know.

31  
00:02:12,730 --> 00:02:15,360  
I know.

32  
00:02:15,360 --> 00:02:18,240  
No, I didn't find  
myself to go back there.

33  
00:02:18,240 --> 00:02:20,880  
I did not find  
myself back again.

34  
00:02:20,880 --> 00:02:22,980  
Did you dream about it?

35  
00:02:22,980 --> 00:02:24,420  
I have nightmares all the time.

36

00:02:24,420 --> 00:02:29,810  
I had nightmares before, and  
to this day I have nightmares,

37  
00:02:29,810 --> 00:02:36,570  
but when you say, how  
did I handle freedom?

38  
00:02:36,570 --> 00:02:43,650

39  
00:02:43,650 --> 00:02:47,490  
It wasn't easy to adjust  
to freedom, especially

40  
00:02:47,490 --> 00:02:50,370  
in the beginning  
when I came here.

41  
00:02:50,370 --> 00:02:53,670  
I saw family units together.

42  
00:02:53,670 --> 00:03:02,820  
I saw children my age or young  
people my age who had parents

43  
00:03:02,820 --> 00:03:04,940  
normal lives.

44  
00:03:04,940 --> 00:03:09,110  
That was almost difficult to  
cope was watch this process.

45  
00:03:09,110 --> 00:03:12,450  
You saw education  
that was so great

46  
00:03:12,450 --> 00:03:14,475  
and people were  
finishing high school

47  
00:03:14,475 --> 00:03:17,940  
and I was illiterate,

in a sense.

48

00:03:17,940 --> 00:03:19,170

It wasn't easy.

49

00:03:19,170 --> 00:03:21,510

How did you feel  
about talking about it

50

00:03:21,510 --> 00:03:23,647

or didn't you in the beginning?

51

00:03:23,647 --> 00:03:24,480

Or was it difficult?

52

00:03:24,480 --> 00:03:27,700

In the beginning, we  
didn't talk much about it.

53

00:03:27,700 --> 00:03:32,100

I think that we kept it--

54

00:03:32,100 --> 00:03:32,955

I kept it to myself.

55

00:03:32,955 --> 00:03:35,880

56

00:03:35,880 --> 00:03:43,250

After that, when I got  
married and I had children,

57

00:03:43,250 --> 00:03:47,600

I spoke about it when my  
children asked questions.

58

00:03:47,600 --> 00:03:52,660

59

00:03:52,660 --> 00:03:56,830

But I don't think I went into  
all the details for a very

60  
00:03:56,830 --> 00:03:57,710  
long time.

61  
00:03:57,710 --> 00:04:00,300

62  
00:04:00,300 --> 00:04:02,980  
I was just hoping that this  
whole thing did not happen,

63  
00:04:02,980 --> 00:04:07,800  
and I did not want to expose  
my children to all these things

64  
00:04:07,800 --> 00:04:08,970  
that I went through.

65  
00:04:08,970 --> 00:04:12,990  
How did your children happen  
to ask about these things?

66  
00:04:12,990 --> 00:04:20,930  
They were aware that I  
went through the Holocaust.

67  
00:04:20,930 --> 00:04:26,340

68  
00:04:26,340 --> 00:04:36,510  
I think that they saw a  
certain sadness in me when

69  
00:04:36,510 --> 00:04:37,830  
they were becoming teenagers.

70  
00:04:37,830 --> 00:04:40,493  
As I imagined they asked where  
grandpa and grandma were.

71  
00:04:40,493 --> 00:04:41,160  
Beg your pardon?

72

00:04:41,160 --> 00:04:43,470

I suppose they asked were  
grandpa and grandma were.

73

00:04:43,470 --> 00:04:47,580

They asked for-- they  
wanted to know, especially

74

00:04:47,580 --> 00:04:53,400

during the high holidays, and we  
used to walk to The [? Shoe ?]

75

00:04:53,400 --> 00:05:00,180

where I lived in West  
Orange, and this was a ritual

76

00:05:00,180 --> 00:05:03,220

that I would walk  
with both my children,

77

00:05:03,220 --> 00:05:06,750

and I would have to repeat,  
again, the same stories.

78

00:05:06,750 --> 00:05:08,250

Everything.

79

00:05:08,250 --> 00:05:10,620

What my mother was like,  
what my father was like.

80

00:05:10,620 --> 00:05:17,920

They wanted to know and where  
I live and what we talked about

81

00:05:17,920 --> 00:05:18,510

and how--

82

00:05:18,510 --> 00:05:21,360

83

00:05:21,360 --> 00:05:24,300  
they wanted to know  
what grandma was

84  
00:05:24,300 --> 00:05:26,880  
like, what grandpa was like.

85  
00:05:26,880 --> 00:05:30,270  
They wanted to know what the  
cousins were like and uncles,

86  
00:05:30,270 --> 00:05:38,210  
and this was our time  
during the holidays

87  
00:05:38,210 --> 00:05:46,260  
that we would  
reconnect and couple

88  
00:05:46,260 --> 00:05:51,790  
the past with the present, and  
there were special moments,

89  
00:05:51,790 --> 00:05:54,540  
and we still do that  
once in a while.

90  
00:05:54,540 --> 00:05:57,950

91  
00:05:57,950 --> 00:06:01,760  
So they've never  
resisted knowing or--

92  
00:06:01,760 --> 00:06:02,260  
No.

93  
00:06:02,260 --> 00:06:04,770  
In contrast.

94  
00:06:04,770 --> 00:06:08,160  
I think they're aware of it.



95

00:06:08,160 --> 00:06:20,370

I think that they're  
both, Michael and Lisa,

96

00:06:20,370 --> 00:06:24,200

will always carry on the memory.

97

00:06:24,200 --> 00:06:33,790

98

00:06:33,790 --> 00:06:43,340

That their grandparents  
did not die in vain.

99

00:06:43,340 --> 00:06:50,740

They will always  
remember, and now

100

00:06:50,740 --> 00:06:53,620

that I have two  
grandchildren, I'm

101

00:06:53,620 --> 00:07:01,450

sure that that will also  
be the hope of carrying on,

102

00:07:01,450 --> 00:07:11,250

and that's why this feeling of--

103

00:07:11,250 --> 00:07:13,600

like I mentioned  
before, the tug of war

104

00:07:13,600 --> 00:07:15,670

between optimism and pessimism.

105

00:07:15,670 --> 00:07:20,410

106

00:07:20,410 --> 00:07:24,190

About the Holocaust and  
can this happen again.

107  
00:07:24,190 --> 00:07:28,920

108  
00:07:28,920 --> 00:07:35,020  
There are times that  
I feel hopeless,

109  
00:07:35,020 --> 00:07:38,680  
but there are times that  
I feel very hopeful.

110  
00:07:38,680 --> 00:07:40,960  
I have to feel hopeful.

111  
00:07:40,960 --> 00:07:45,520  
I see a lot of faith and  
hope there with you, Morris,

112  
00:07:45,520 --> 00:07:46,020  
because--

113  
00:07:46,020 --> 00:07:47,030  
Of course.

114  
00:07:47,030 --> 00:07:47,950  
Yeah.

115  
00:07:47,950 --> 00:07:49,020  
I have grandchildren.

116  
00:07:49,020 --> 00:07:49,690  
That's it.

117  
00:07:49,690 --> 00:07:50,620  
And your children.

118  
00:07:50,620 --> 00:07:53,360  
To bring children into this  
world or something like that.

119

00:07:53,360 --> 00:07:55,910

120

00:07:55,910 --> 00:08:00,035

No, there is hope.

121

00:08:00,035 --> 00:08:05,370

That hope, hoping  
alone by sitting

122

00:08:05,370 --> 00:08:08,760

idle and not to hide  
yourself and putting

123

00:08:08,760 --> 00:08:10,990

your head like an ostrich.

124

00:08:10,990 --> 00:08:13,410

That is not going to be--

125

00:08:13,410 --> 00:08:15,930

that is not the answer.

126

00:08:15,930 --> 00:08:21,190

There is,  
unfortunately, there is

127

00:08:21,190 --> 00:08:25,480

a lot of knocking on our doors,  
and we have to resist that.

128

00:08:25,480 --> 00:08:36,010

We have to be helpful  
to programs like this,

129

00:08:36,010 --> 00:08:42,010

and we have to fight back  
some of the lies that

130

00:08:42,010 --> 00:08:52,190

are being spread around now, and  
I know that when time goes on,

131

00:08:52,190 --> 00:08:56,060

we survivors aren't  
going to be here.

132

00:08:56,060 --> 00:08:58,805

Already we're dying, and--

133

00:08:58,805 --> 00:09:02,260

Can you specify what lies  
you're talking about?

134

00:09:02,260 --> 00:09:06,740

The lies that the  
Holocaust never happened--

135

00:09:06,740 --> 00:09:11,520

not to this mammoth  
proportion and that this is--

136

00:09:11,520 --> 00:09:14,700

137

00:09:14,700 --> 00:09:19,110

anti-Semitism existed before  
and history has proven that

138

00:09:19,110 --> 00:09:27,030

for thousands and thousands  
of years, and evidently,

139

00:09:27,030 --> 00:09:33,060

I really felt that, after  
this war, after the--

140

00:09:33,060 --> 00:09:37,870

that this Holocaust, we always  
had small little pogroms

141

00:09:37,870 --> 00:09:43,440

and killings and uprooting  
of the Jewish people

142

00:09:43,440 --> 00:09:45,030  
and through history.

143  
00:09:45,030 --> 00:09:48,090  
This is history.

144  
00:09:48,090 --> 00:09:55,900  
But I really believed that after  
this Holocaust that never will

145  
00:09:55,900 --> 00:09:59,520  
I ever read anything that  
this doesn't happen again

146  
00:09:59,520 --> 00:10:01,870  
and never did I think  
that there is going

147  
00:10:01,870 --> 00:10:05,680  
to be anti-Semitism again.

148  
00:10:05,680 --> 00:10:08,730

149  
00:10:08,730 --> 00:10:14,450  
I really am disappointed, as  
a human being, not as a Jew,

150  
00:10:14,450 --> 00:10:16,400  
but as a human being.

151  
00:10:16,400 --> 00:10:21,470

152  
00:10:21,470 --> 00:10:27,040  
I hope that we can counter  
all this by education.

153  
00:10:27,040 --> 00:10:30,110

154  
00:10:30,110 --> 00:10:41,930

By whatever means that is  
necessary to fight back

155  
00:10:41,930 --> 00:10:50,240  
the lies, and if you have to,  
if there are lies in literature,

156  
00:10:50,240 --> 00:10:52,010  
we have to fight  
back with literature.

157  
00:10:52,010 --> 00:10:55,880  
If there are fights if they are  
lies in any form or fashion,

158  
00:10:55,880 --> 00:11:00,820  
I really am not ashamed to  
fight back in every possible way

159  
00:11:00,820 --> 00:11:09,350  
in order to keep this  
memory of the 6 million.

160  
00:11:09,350 --> 00:11:14,090  
We owe it to them, and  
we owe it to ourselves,

161  
00:11:14,090 --> 00:11:17,124  
and we owe it to our children  
and our grandchildren.

162  
00:11:17,124 --> 00:11:21,390

163  
00:11:21,390 --> 00:11:25,010  
Thank you very much for coming.

164  
00:11:25,010 --> 00:11:34,000