

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:27,400

2

00:00:27,400 --> 00:00:29,080

My name is Bernard
Weinstein, and I'm

3

00:00:29,080 --> 00:00:31,720

the director of the Kean
College Oral Testimonies

4

00:00:31,720 --> 00:00:35,020

project for the Holocaust
Resource Center.

5

00:00:35,020 --> 00:00:37,360

We are affiliated with
the Video Archives

6

00:00:37,360 --> 00:00:41,320

for Holocaust Testimonies
at Yale University.

7

00:00:41,320 --> 00:00:44,530

Sharing the interview
with me is Dan Gover.

8

00:00:44,530 --> 00:00:48,880

And we are privileged to
welcome Mrs. Gladys Helfgott,

9

00:00:48,880 --> 00:00:51,040

a survivor presently
living in Union,

10

00:00:51,040 --> 00:00:54,610

New Jersey, who has generously
volunteered to give testimony

11

00:00:54,610 --> 00:00:56,840

about her experiences
before, during,

12
00:00:56,840 --> 00:00:58,480
and after the Holocaust.

13
00:00:58,480 --> 00:01:02,110
Mrs. Helfgott, we would like
to welcome you to Kean College.

14
00:01:02,110 --> 00:01:02,950
Thank you.

15
00:01:02,950 --> 00:01:05,410
I'd like to begin by
asking you to tell us

16
00:01:05,410 --> 00:01:10,030
a little bit about your
city, where you came from,

17
00:01:10,030 --> 00:01:11,220
and about your early life.

18
00:01:11,220 --> 00:01:13,780

19
00:01:13,780 --> 00:01:20,020
I was born in Poland in
Eastern Europe in Lodz--

20
00:01:20,020 --> 00:01:24,610
the first industrial
largest city,

21
00:01:24,610 --> 00:01:27,250
so-called a little Manchester--

22
00:01:27,250 --> 00:01:30,340
a textile industrial city.

23
00:01:30,340 --> 00:01:38,200
I had a very cheerful,
loving, and happy childhood.

24

00:01:38,200 --> 00:01:41,870

25

00:01:41,870 --> 00:01:46,430

My family was comprised
of four people--

26

00:01:46,430 --> 00:01:55,790

my immediate family-- a very
gentle, loving, caring father,

27

00:01:55,790 --> 00:02:02,900

Jacob, a very devoted
and loving mother,

28

00:02:02,900 --> 00:02:10,820

Eva, and a younger
sister, Sara, of whom

29

00:02:10,820 --> 00:02:14,480

I'm going to speak
a little later to.

30

00:02:14,480 --> 00:02:19,190

She was two years younger,
no doubt about it--

31

00:02:19,190 --> 00:02:25,220

more beautiful, more
sensible, more sensitive,

32

00:02:25,220 --> 00:02:27,650

my younger sister--

33

00:02:27,650 --> 00:02:32,930

myself, sensitive, but
somewhat stronger--

34

00:02:32,930 --> 00:02:35,810

35

00:02:35,810 --> 00:02:39,035
teenager at that time
when it all started.

36
00:02:39,035 --> 00:02:43,750

37
00:02:43,750 --> 00:02:46,030
Oh, I'd better go
back to my childhood.

38
00:02:46,030 --> 00:02:49,300
You asked me about my childhood.

39
00:02:49,300 --> 00:02:52,270
I went to school--

40
00:02:52,270 --> 00:02:55,040
my sister, the same school.

41
00:02:55,040 --> 00:03:00,040
We had very comfortable
life as children.

42
00:03:00,040 --> 00:03:03,100
Father was most successful--

43
00:03:03,100 --> 00:03:07,210
a top notch upholstery maker.

44
00:03:07,210 --> 00:03:10,900
At one time or another
throughout the years,

45
00:03:10,900 --> 00:03:17,110
he employed about eight to 10
people in his upholstery shop.

46
00:03:17,110 --> 00:03:20,320
Some of the people that
worked for my father

47

00:03:20,320 --> 00:03:25,090
were even his brothers
and brother-in-laws.

48
00:03:25,090 --> 00:03:29,320
He was a caring father
and a wonderful husband.

49
00:03:29,320 --> 00:03:36,380
And as I remember, this
was the most loving,

50
00:03:36,380 --> 00:03:42,640
caring moments that I do
remember, just being together,

51
00:03:42,640 --> 00:03:45,970
and loving, and caring.

52
00:03:45,970 --> 00:03:48,130
Were there particular
memories that you

53
00:03:48,130 --> 00:03:49,840
would like to share with us?

54
00:03:49,840 --> 00:03:50,980
Childhood memories?

55
00:03:50,980 --> 00:03:52,190
As a child, yes.

56
00:03:52,190 --> 00:03:57,760
Only that there was love and
feeling between the family--

57
00:03:57,760 --> 00:04:02,470
and the circumstances when
we lived in Poland, as such,

58
00:04:02,470 --> 00:04:06,610
that we had almost
everything in our household,

59

00:04:06,610 --> 00:04:11,680

but we did not have
particularly nice apartment.

60

00:04:11,680 --> 00:04:17,769

The apartment was everything
confined in one area--

61

00:04:17,769 --> 00:04:24,340

the shop and the
family lifestyle.

62

00:04:24,340 --> 00:04:27,670

That was the only thing that
really bothered all of us.

63

00:04:27,670 --> 00:04:30,730

But my father, somewhat
like superstitious,

64

00:04:30,730 --> 00:04:33,670

he forgets, he has good
luck with his business,

65

00:04:33,670 --> 00:04:36,700

he does not dare
to move his family.

66

00:04:36,700 --> 00:04:38,290

And that's how we stayed.

67

00:04:38,290 --> 00:04:40,450

In Lodz, I think
even to this day--

68

00:04:40,450 --> 00:04:42,970

maybe not to this
day 50 years later--

69

00:04:42,970 --> 00:04:46,600

but there was no
plumbing system in Lodz--

70

00:04:46,600 --> 00:04:54,010
a big city, big population, and
yet there were no conveniences.

71

00:04:54,010 --> 00:04:57,850
But we in our home had
nothing but the best,

72

00:04:57,850 --> 00:04:59,980
except living quarters.

73

00:04:59,980 --> 00:05:03,970
What did being Jewish
mean to you then?

74

00:05:03,970 --> 00:05:05,320
Were you observing?

75

00:05:05,320 --> 00:05:12,250
I didn't really come from a
very religious family, just

76

00:05:12,250 --> 00:05:15,280
traditional Jewish family.

77

00:05:15,280 --> 00:05:20,200
Father observed and
mother observed Shabbat.

78

00:05:20,200 --> 00:05:23,230
He was at the time
on Friday night,

79

00:05:23,230 --> 00:05:28,450
for example, his people had to
close early enough on Friday

80

00:05:28,450 --> 00:05:33,700
night in order to facilitate
and get home before the Shabbat.

81

00:05:33,700 --> 00:05:37,840

And yet at night after
the Sabbath meal, Friday

82

00:05:37,840 --> 00:05:45,100

night meal, he and my mother and
his wife rather went to a movie

83

00:05:45,100 --> 00:05:46,390

or to a theater.

84

00:05:46,390 --> 00:05:49,540

But traditionally,
they kept tradition.

85

00:05:49,540 --> 00:05:54,640

In the beginning, they wanted
me to go to a private school

86

00:05:54,640 --> 00:05:56,740

and learn Judaism.

87

00:05:56,740 --> 00:06:00,040

But such was the
school, somehow,

88

00:06:00,040 --> 00:06:05,290

that they were washing
fingernails, and not the type

89

00:06:05,290 --> 00:06:07,300

that we observed at home.

90

00:06:07,300 --> 00:06:10,540

So the following few
weeks, they decided

91

00:06:10,540 --> 00:06:14,350

that it's not for them
that their daughter should

92

00:06:14,350 --> 00:06:18,580

be dictating to

parents what to do,

93

00:06:18,580 --> 00:06:22,480
because they were not
religious enough for that kind

94

00:06:22,480 --> 00:06:25,360
of Hasidic religious.

95

00:06:25,360 --> 00:06:30,625
They were just Jewish in the
Jewish tradition, at it's best.

96

00:06:30,625 --> 00:06:34,660

97

00:06:34,660 --> 00:06:37,960
Did you experience any
sense of difference

98

00:06:37,960 --> 00:06:41,670
in Lodz being Jewish, from
the rest of the population?

99

00:06:41,670 --> 00:06:45,640
Since I have had a very
quite sheltered life,

100

00:06:45,640 --> 00:06:47,440
my friends were my friends.

101

00:06:47,440 --> 00:06:52,180
And I did not differentiate
anything about religion,

102

00:06:52,180 --> 00:07:01,510
except that towards the end of
the beginning, that's when we

103

00:07:01,510 --> 00:07:04,360
started to sense antisemitism--

104

00:07:04,360 --> 00:07:08,770
influenced more or less
by the German population,

105
00:07:08,770 --> 00:07:12,880
the so-called Volksdeutsche
and other areas.

106
00:07:12,880 --> 00:07:16,000
And at that time, it was
a crucial time for me

107
00:07:16,000 --> 00:07:20,320
to realize that my
schoolmates are having

108
00:07:20,320 --> 00:07:22,780
some antisemitic remarks.

109
00:07:22,780 --> 00:07:26,140
And occasionally when I
went to Warsaw, for example,

110
00:07:26,140 --> 00:07:32,080
on a trip with my school,
they took us to a university

111
00:07:32,080 --> 00:07:35,350
where they showed us that the
left side and the right side,

112
00:07:35,350 --> 00:07:39,790
just before prior to the
beginning of the war,

113
00:07:39,790 --> 00:07:42,560
that Jews were not
supposed to sit

114
00:07:42,560 --> 00:07:46,580
on the same side in the
university as the non-Jews.

115

00:07:46,580 --> 00:07:48,950

And that's when I started
to realize that there

116

00:07:48,950 --> 00:07:50,550

is something going on.

117

00:07:50,550 --> 00:07:53,690

And we felt a little
bit, on my own

118

00:07:53,690 --> 00:07:59,210

as a girl, influence of the
Nazi movement, I would say.

119

00:07:59,210 --> 00:08:02,000

But to me, friends are friends.

120

00:08:02,000 --> 00:08:05,130

And there are good people,
and there are bad people.

121

00:08:05,130 --> 00:08:07,190

So your friendships continued.

122

00:08:07,190 --> 00:08:08,490

My friendships continued.

123

00:08:08,490 --> 00:08:11,720

At one incident, I
remember that one girl that

124

00:08:11,720 --> 00:08:15,800

made a nasty remark
during school

125

00:08:15,800 --> 00:08:19,040

hours, a non-Jewish
girl, was dancing

126

00:08:19,040 --> 00:08:20,270

with me on the lunchtime.

127

00:08:20,270 --> 00:08:24,530

That's what we do in school
in Lodz at that moment.

128

00:08:24,530 --> 00:08:26,900

And we were dancing
on the lunch hour,

129

00:08:26,900 --> 00:08:32,330

and she said to the non-Jewish
girl, you dancing with a Jew?

130

00:08:32,330 --> 00:08:33,650

She said, she's my friend.

131

00:08:33,650 --> 00:08:34,640

So what?

132

00:08:34,640 --> 00:08:36,530

And that same girl
that said that,

133

00:08:36,530 --> 00:08:42,620

a little later when the
Nazis already entered Lodz,

134

00:08:42,620 --> 00:08:46,430

she came to me to apologize
because she heard the rumors

135

00:08:46,430 --> 00:08:49,940

that not Germans are going
to be occupying Poland,

136

00:08:49,940 --> 00:08:51,650

but the Russians are coming.

137

00:08:51,650 --> 00:08:56,210

And she got scared that I
may denounce her, because she

138

00:08:56,210 --> 00:08:58,130

was using German slogans.

139

00:08:58,130 --> 00:09:01,310

140

00:09:01,310 --> 00:09:05,750

So that was just a
little against this girl

141

00:09:05,750 --> 00:09:09,020

that I had why she
acted like she acted.

142

00:09:09,020 --> 00:09:12,260

She wanted to rectify it,
but it was already too late.

143

00:09:12,260 --> 00:09:15,590

I had my opinion about her.

144

00:09:15,590 --> 00:09:19,100

What happened right at
the beginning of the war?

145

00:09:19,100 --> 00:09:19,640

OK.

146

00:09:19,640 --> 00:09:24,680

It all started on
September 1, 1939.

147

00:09:24,680 --> 00:09:28,970

I think it was a Friday from
a historical point of view.

148

00:09:28,970 --> 00:09:32,990

And Eastern Europe countries--

149

00:09:32,990 --> 00:09:41,000

when Germany occupied Poland
and Poland was invaded,

150

00:09:41,000 --> 00:09:46,670
and in a surprise blitzkrieg
attack, the Wehrmacht,

151
00:09:46,670 --> 00:09:52,010
the armed forces, the German
army, and the Luftwaffe,

152
00:09:52,010 --> 00:09:59,480
the Air Force forces, with
about 2,000 Panzer units,

153
00:09:59,480 --> 00:10:03,410
they entered the city
of Lodz, where I lived.

154
00:10:03,410 --> 00:10:06,740
And in general,
they bombed Poland.

155
00:10:06,740 --> 00:10:16,580
And Poland lost the war within
the same month, September 1939.

156
00:10:16,580 --> 00:10:19,230
can I continue
about what happened?

157
00:10:19,230 --> 00:10:23,330
OK, now at that
time, there was very

158
00:10:23,330 --> 00:10:30,590
big surprises and the soldiers
marching, which I do remember.

159
00:10:30,590 --> 00:10:35,330
And there was a halt to
industry, and to commerce,

160
00:10:35,330 --> 00:10:40,100
and a halt to education,
and a halt to culture,

161

00:10:40,100 --> 00:10:44,210
and religion, and
burning of the books,

162

00:10:44,210 --> 00:10:51,170
and burning places of
worship, houses of God.

163

00:10:51,170 --> 00:10:55,670
And then became more
serious to me as a teenager,

164

00:10:55,670 --> 00:11:02,870
and I did experience this rather
harshly with a lot of chaos

165

00:11:02,870 --> 00:11:09,230
and a feeling of degradation--

166

00:11:09,230 --> 00:11:16,070
and tyranny, and brutality,
and mostly random shootings.

167

00:11:16,070 --> 00:11:22,220
The intellectual people--
scholars, and teachers,

168

00:11:22,220 --> 00:11:27,890
and professional doctors,
and craftsmen at its best,

169

00:11:27,890 --> 00:11:34,550
they were the first
victims and destroyed--

170

00:11:34,550 --> 00:11:39,500
and it all was wasted
just from the beginning.

171

00:11:39,500 --> 00:11:45,230
That was the first
casualties of war.

172

00:11:45,230 --> 00:11:50,270
And there are many implications
of a full-scale war,

173

00:11:50,270 --> 00:11:57,020
not only politics, and
strategies, and battlefields,

174

00:11:57,020 --> 00:12:01,220
or casualties,
combat operations--

175

00:12:01,220 --> 00:12:05,390
but this was a different war.

176

00:12:05,390 --> 00:12:09,830
In the wars, no one is a winner.

177

00:12:09,830 --> 00:12:13,640
Not even the other sides.

178

00:12:13,640 --> 00:12:16,220
If I could just pause
here for a moment--

179

00:12:16,220 --> 00:12:19,100
were there any things
that you remembered

180

00:12:19,100 --> 00:12:21,170
in those early
days that happened

181

00:12:21,170 --> 00:12:22,640
that you would like to tell us?

182

00:12:22,640 --> 00:12:25,170
Anything that you saw
with your own eyes?

183

00:12:25,170 --> 00:12:26,840
Yes, I saw with my own eyes.

184
00:12:26,840 --> 00:12:31,370
My cousin-- we lived in the
midtown of the city Lodz--

185
00:12:31,370 --> 00:12:33,500
Lodz just one block
from the main street,

186
00:12:33,500 --> 00:12:35,330
which was called Piotrkowska.

187
00:12:35,330 --> 00:12:39,320
And I lived on Poludniowa,
which was just less than a block

188
00:12:39,320 --> 00:12:42,980
from the main street.

189
00:12:42,980 --> 00:12:50,300
And I went to visit my cousins
who lived on Piotrkowska, 17--

190
00:12:50,300 --> 00:12:53,150
the Hubert family-- and
I was trapped there.

191
00:12:53,150 --> 00:12:56,810
For some reason, there
was some chaos going on.

192
00:12:56,810 --> 00:12:58,340
And I was trapped with them.

193
00:12:58,340 --> 00:13:01,580
But I witnessed this-- they
didn't touch me personally,

194
00:13:01,580 --> 00:13:05,810
but I witnessed shooting
into the family of my cousin.

195

00:13:05,810 --> 00:13:10,760

One cousin got shot,
and the soldiers

196

00:13:10,760 --> 00:13:13,880

threw him down, and kicked
him down, and he fell down.

197

00:13:13,880 --> 00:13:22,130

And then my cousin, which was
another cousin, was shot also.

198

00:13:22,130 --> 00:13:25,850

But he played dead.

199

00:13:25,850 --> 00:13:29,480

And it was winter, December,
and he played dead.

200

00:13:29,480 --> 00:13:32,780

And they threw him on the
wagon with the dead people.

201

00:13:32,780 --> 00:13:35,390

And he still played
dead on that wagon.

202

00:13:35,390 --> 00:13:38,480

And then later, he
rescued himself.

203

00:13:38,480 --> 00:13:43,790

So he was a victim that he
survived, and I witnessed it,

204

00:13:43,790 --> 00:13:44,840

more or less.

205

00:13:44,840 --> 00:13:47,930

I knew about it, I witnessed
it, but I personally

206

00:13:47,930 --> 00:13:49,310

was not involved in it.

207

00:13:49,310 --> 00:13:52,310

I was just standing
by like the others--

208

00:13:52,310 --> 00:13:54,110

Did he tell you the
story of what happened?

209

00:13:54,110 --> 00:13:54,650

He told me.

210

00:13:54,650 --> 00:13:57,540

He told me the story
over and over again.

211

00:13:57,540 --> 00:14:00,890

And he was the one
that is my closest

212

00:14:00,890 --> 00:14:04,250

relative who is still
alive, Adam Hubert, whom

213

00:14:04,250 --> 00:14:05,330

I love very much.

214

00:14:05,330 --> 00:14:12,390

And he rescued himself by
playing dead, and he was alive.

215

00:14:12,390 --> 00:14:14,690

He was bruised, or
scarred, or hurt,

216

00:14:14,690 --> 00:14:20,210

but he was helping himself
with the snow with his wounds

217

00:14:20,210 --> 00:14:24,270

that he had.

218
00:14:24,270 --> 00:14:26,130
Please continue.

219
00:14:26,130 --> 00:14:27,810
OK.

220
00:14:27,810 --> 00:14:32,700
And that was just
from the beginning.

221
00:14:32,700 --> 00:14:46,500
And then in my mind, it runs
as a teenager, teenagehood,

222
00:14:46,500 --> 00:14:54,240
and I somehow was very
pampered and shielded home.

223
00:14:54,240 --> 00:14:57,270
But knowing that there
is a war going on,

224
00:14:57,270 --> 00:15:06,150
I became stronger from
being just protected.

225
00:15:06,150 --> 00:15:08,070
I became the protector.

226
00:15:08,070 --> 00:15:11,340
I started to do things.

227
00:15:11,340 --> 00:15:14,220
And I was raised on
[? quote ?] which

228
00:15:14,220 --> 00:15:21,270
is unusual in Polish
circumstances, but very well

229
00:15:21,270 --> 00:15:22,980
milk and honey stories.

230
00:15:22,980 --> 00:15:25,050
But then I became
rough and tough.

231
00:15:25,050 --> 00:15:27,990
And with all my little
gentleness that I have,

232
00:15:27,990 --> 00:15:30,420
I still possessed
this roughness that

233
00:15:30,420 --> 00:15:32,910
helped me throughout the war--

234
00:15:32,910 --> 00:15:35,520
for deciding to be reckless.

235
00:15:35,520 --> 00:15:38,370
I guess it stayed in my genes.

236
00:15:38,370 --> 00:15:41,280
I'm not obnoxious,
or mean, or nasty,

237
00:15:41,280 --> 00:15:46,320
but I just figured that I
thought that I must be strong.

238
00:15:46,320 --> 00:15:50,820
And I became a little
stronger, but needless to say,

239
00:15:50,820 --> 00:15:56,850
this was a man-made
destruction that war

240
00:15:56,850 --> 00:15:59,880
geared toward the civilians.

241
00:15:59,880 --> 00:16:04,440

And a total of 12
million civilians

242
00:16:04,440 --> 00:16:08,310
perished during this
Nazi occupation.

243
00:16:08,310 --> 00:16:12,690
And 6 million of them were Jews.

244
00:16:12,690 --> 00:16:17,640
And we were condemned to
hunger, and starvation,

245
00:16:17,640 --> 00:16:21,720
homeless, and helpless,
believe it or not--

246
00:16:21,720 --> 00:16:30,330
helpless, confused, deprived
of freedom and dignity.

247
00:16:30,330 --> 00:16:37,770
But as a teenager,
it hurt me most

248
00:16:37,770 --> 00:16:47,190
to see the total of over 1
million children perished

249
00:16:47,190 --> 00:16:49,110
during this Nazi era.

250
00:16:49,110 --> 00:16:53,760

251
00:16:53,760 --> 00:16:57,050
Young children were
not permitted to live.

252
00:16:57,050 --> 00:17:00,750

253

00:17:00,750 --> 00:17:03,880

Madness fell upon this world.

254

00:17:03,880 --> 00:17:08,230

255

00:17:08,230 --> 00:17:14,260

The life of sweetness and
joy in the young children

256

00:17:14,260 --> 00:17:15,790

turned into dust.

257

00:17:15,790 --> 00:17:25,390

258

00:17:25,390 --> 00:17:27,939

Can you talk about any
of this specifically?

259

00:17:27,939 --> 00:17:29,720

I can talk about
this in general,

260

00:17:29,720 --> 00:17:31,610

the way I do it, please.

261

00:17:31,610 --> 00:17:38,610

And we are just paying tribute
to those young children

262

00:17:38,610 --> 00:17:45,330

that I, a survivor,
I represent them.

263

00:17:45,330 --> 00:17:51,000

Anything in particular you
ask me if I went through?

264

00:17:51,000 --> 00:17:52,720

Yes, you will hear this later.

265

00:17:52,720 --> 00:17:56,300

266

00:17:56,300 --> 00:18:02,900

As I lost my sister, who was
younger and couldn't make it--

267

00:18:02,900 --> 00:18:06,680

I'm talking in
general and personal--

268

00:18:06,680 --> 00:18:09,420

269

00:18:09,420 --> 00:18:15,930

I was writing beautiful
poetry about those children

270

00:18:15,930 --> 00:18:17,760

that perished.

271

00:18:17,760 --> 00:18:23,580

And that little diary
was taken away from me

272

00:18:23,580 --> 00:18:27,660

at another time when
we were deported.

273

00:18:27,660 --> 00:18:31,230

And I still miss
that little poetry--

274

00:18:31,230 --> 00:18:37,500

maybe around 12
poems written by me.

275

00:18:37,500 --> 00:18:40,440

And that's where I
expressed those feelings--

276

00:18:40,440 --> 00:18:42,130

mine and others'.

277

00:18:42,130 --> 00:18:44,960

278

00:18:44,960 --> 00:18:49,870

And what I really speak
about is the anguish,

279

00:18:49,870 --> 00:18:58,960

and the deprivation, and the
grim deal of this missing

280

00:18:58,960 --> 00:19:07,300

link of this eternal
bond of family members

281

00:19:07,300 --> 00:19:15,065

that we lose, including children
that all of us hold so dear.

282

00:19:15,065 --> 00:19:19,030

283

00:19:19,030 --> 00:19:22,660

I don't fully yet
comprehend, and nor do

284

00:19:22,660 --> 00:19:27,400

I grasp at all the happenings.

285

00:19:27,400 --> 00:19:32,980

And I am still in the
soul-searching process.

286

00:19:32,980 --> 00:19:36,160

I still don't comprehend it.

287

00:19:36,160 --> 00:19:45,060

And to survive a Holocaust,
it needs a lot of strength,

288

00:19:45,060 --> 00:19:52,520
a lot of faith, a lot
of natural instinct,

289
00:19:52,520 --> 00:20:00,190
and a sheer strength
of the human spirit,

290
00:20:00,190 --> 00:20:06,670
and a touch or a big deal
of affection in your heart.

291
00:20:06,670 --> 00:20:11,770
And that helps you
to survive ordeals.

292
00:20:11,770 --> 00:20:18,710

293
00:20:18,710 --> 00:20:26,900
In 1940 in May, the
ghetto was opened--

294
00:20:26,900 --> 00:20:30,830
the first ghetto
in Poland, Lodz,

295
00:20:30,830 --> 00:20:37,250
called Litzmannstadt
ghetto, and the last ghetto

296
00:20:37,250 --> 00:20:42,530
to be closed in 1944.

297
00:20:42,530 --> 00:20:48,650
My family and I, we
spent four long years

298
00:20:48,650 --> 00:20:52,970
in the closed walls
of the ghetto.

299
00:20:52,970 --> 00:20:59,510

And having broken no rules in
the 20th century civilization,

300
00:20:59,510 --> 00:21:03,650
we were segregated
from this entire world

301
00:21:03,650 --> 00:21:08,420
and forced out of our own homes.

302
00:21:08,420 --> 00:21:13,760
Plumbing or not, it
still was our homes.

303
00:21:13,760 --> 00:21:17,000
Business-- forced
out of the business,

304
00:21:17,000 --> 00:21:21,120
and confined to
one strip of land,

305
00:21:21,120 --> 00:21:24,300
which was the ghetto in Lodz--

306
00:21:24,300 --> 00:21:26,210
the Litzmannstadt ghetto.

307
00:21:26,210 --> 00:21:30,260
In the ghetto, we had
no political purpose,

308
00:21:30,260 --> 00:21:37,130
no sanitary condition,
no social structure,

309
00:21:37,130 --> 00:21:41,780
ration of food to such
an extent that people

310
00:21:41,780 --> 00:21:48,866
were dying of malnutrition,
and no medical supply.

311
00:21:48,866 --> 00:21:51,890

312
00:21:51,890 --> 00:21:56,510
This was the time
for my own experience

313
00:21:56,510 --> 00:22:02,750
where my sister, being younger,
still in the growing stage,

314
00:22:02,750 --> 00:22:05,870
contracted tuberculosis--

315
00:22:05,870 --> 00:22:09,050
the thinning of the lungs.

316
00:22:09,050 --> 00:22:15,640
She was too young to
take this pressure

317
00:22:15,640 --> 00:22:18,130
from hunger and malnutrition.

318
00:22:18,130 --> 00:22:21,160
When she was little, she
was little to begin with.

319
00:22:21,160 --> 00:22:25,300
And before the war, my father
always told her, and mother,

320
00:22:25,300 --> 00:22:26,710
why don't you stretch out?

321
00:22:26,710 --> 00:22:30,160
Stretch out a little bit
to make you grow faster.

322
00:22:30,160 --> 00:22:33,550
And then when she was in

the ghetto, they told her,

323
00:22:33,550 --> 00:22:34,810
don't stretch.

324
00:22:34,810 --> 00:22:40,270
Don't grow so fast, because
your lungs are growing,

325
00:22:40,270 --> 00:22:42,130
and we don't have
enough food for you.

326
00:22:42,130 --> 00:22:46,040

327
00:22:46,040 --> 00:22:51,240
The father and mother,
they knew we were hungry.

328
00:22:51,240 --> 00:22:53,910
They couldn't help us with food.

329
00:22:53,910 --> 00:22:56,360
They knew we were cold.

330
00:22:56,360 --> 00:23:01,880
They couldn't help
us to keep us warm.

331
00:23:01,880 --> 00:23:07,370
My father was still
an upholstery maker

332
00:23:07,370 --> 00:23:11,960
and still went in
the ghetto to work.

333
00:23:11,960 --> 00:23:17,930
Such was the structure of
ghetto that raw material

334

00:23:17,930 --> 00:23:20,780
was coming into the ghetto.

335
00:23:20,780 --> 00:23:24,410
And it was delivered
as a finished goods.

336
00:23:24,410 --> 00:23:27,590
And that's how the
Jews in the ghetto

337
00:23:27,590 --> 00:23:32,580
sustained themselves
with their own resources.

338
00:23:32,580 --> 00:23:35,630
Many of them were not capable.

339
00:23:35,630 --> 00:23:43,710
When you were too young or too
old, too skinny, or too sick,

340
00:23:43,710 --> 00:23:46,710
you were not able
to be productive.

341
00:23:46,710 --> 00:23:50,190
And the people who
were unproductive

342
00:23:50,190 --> 00:23:53,670
were sent away for deportation.

343
00:23:53,670 --> 00:23:59,180
At that time, the deportation
destination was still, to us,

344
00:23:59,180 --> 00:23:59,680
unknown.

345
00:23:59,680 --> 00:24:02,880

346

00:24:02,880 --> 00:24:09,330

So living in the ghetto,
you know that hunger

347

00:24:09,330 --> 00:24:11,370

leaves your belly empty.

348

00:24:11,370 --> 00:24:16,780

And war and hunger
degenerates your mind.

349

00:24:16,780 --> 00:24:21,690

And starving is painful.

350

00:24:21,690 --> 00:24:26,785

And starved mind hurts
and leaves scars forever.

351

00:24:26,785 --> 00:24:32,780

352

00:24:32,780 --> 00:24:35,180

In the ghetto, we
had no uprising.

353

00:24:35,180 --> 00:24:38,790

We only relied on our
own resourcefulness.

354

00:24:38,790 --> 00:24:41,570

355

00:24:41,570 --> 00:24:46,610

And we had no uprising like
in the historic Warsaw ghetto,

356

00:24:46,610 --> 00:24:51,410

where the heroic people,
against all odds,

357

00:24:51,410 --> 00:24:53,360

were fighting with an uprising.

358
00:24:53,360 --> 00:24:59,540
But the people of ghetto of
Lodz decided against all odds

359
00:24:59,540 --> 00:25:04,220
to have their own
obedience to authorities

360
00:25:04,220 --> 00:25:09,155
and just revive with their
own resources by working.

361
00:25:09,155 --> 00:25:12,070

362
00:25:12,070 --> 00:25:18,210
And this was actually
the resistance action--

363
00:25:18,210 --> 00:25:24,190
to work and obey in
order to survive.

364
00:25:24,190 --> 00:25:30,150
And the need for survival
runs very, very high.

365
00:25:30,150 --> 00:25:32,500
And people want to survive.

366
00:25:32,500 --> 00:25:35,880
And they will do
things, firstly,

367
00:25:35,880 --> 00:25:38,050
things what makes them survive.

368
00:25:38,050 --> 00:25:40,890
And therefore, against
all odds, there

369

00:25:40,890 --> 00:25:43,770
was no uprising in ghetto.

370
00:25:43,770 --> 00:25:47,715
And those unproductive
were sent away.

371
00:25:47,715 --> 00:25:51,510

372
00:25:51,510 --> 00:25:57,160
And at that time,
we did not know,

373
00:25:57,160 --> 00:26:01,130
but this was the ultimate
concentration camps.

374
00:26:01,130 --> 00:26:03,790
I mentioned before, I
was only a teenager,

375
00:26:03,790 --> 00:26:05,500
and I worked in a factory.

376
00:26:05,500 --> 00:26:08,410

377
00:26:08,410 --> 00:26:10,270
Before they were
making anything,

378
00:26:10,270 --> 00:26:15,670
I was put in charge of a small
group of small children--

379
00:26:15,670 --> 00:26:18,310
unproductive children.

380
00:26:18,310 --> 00:26:21,820
And one of them was
my little cousin

381

00:26:21,820 --> 00:26:24,790
who had a touch of genius.

382

00:26:24,790 --> 00:26:31,300
He knew mathematics to
solve very big problems--

383

00:26:31,300 --> 00:26:34,210
multiply by heart in seconds.

384

00:26:34,210 --> 00:26:37,150
And he was one of the
children in that class.

385

00:26:37,150 --> 00:26:42,010
I was acting like a sort
of a surrogate teacher,

386

00:26:42,010 --> 00:26:45,280
without my own
background in education--

387

00:26:45,280 --> 00:26:49,480
but just teaching the
children the basic ABC

388

00:26:49,480 --> 00:26:51,340
and a little bit arithmetics.

389

00:26:51,340 --> 00:26:58,030
Until one day, I asked
to be discharged.

390

00:26:58,030 --> 00:27:03,340
I could not stand
the pain of seeing

391

00:27:03,340 --> 00:27:10,570
those young little
children coming in one day,

392

00:27:10,570 --> 00:27:14,440

and the next day,
they were gone.

393
00:27:14,440 --> 00:27:17,380
As a teenager, I felt it.

394
00:27:17,380 --> 00:27:23,740
And I could only imagine how
it was felt by the parents

395
00:27:23,740 --> 00:27:29,200
and by the children
to be deported.

396
00:27:29,200 --> 00:27:32,530
And I did ask to be
relieved from that.

397
00:27:32,530 --> 00:27:35,820

398
00:27:35,820 --> 00:27:39,750
I went again to a
place that we were

399
00:27:39,750 --> 00:27:44,400
making straw shoes out of hay.

400
00:27:44,400 --> 00:27:48,060
The raw material in the
form of straw and hay

401
00:27:48,060 --> 00:27:50,100
came into the ghetto.

402
00:27:50,100 --> 00:27:58,440
And the people of the ghetto
in this particular factory,

403
00:27:58,440 --> 00:28:03,360
we were braiding the
straw and the hay

404

00:28:03,360 --> 00:28:10,020
into a shape of straw shoes,
which in turn the shoes

405

00:28:10,020 --> 00:28:12,870
were sent to the German army--

406

00:28:12,870 --> 00:28:14,560
to the front.

407

00:28:14,560 --> 00:28:16,720
So we were productive.

408

00:28:16,720 --> 00:28:21,450
And that's how we quote,
"resisted" it, and also

409

00:28:21,450 --> 00:28:26,510
protected ourselves
with our own lives.

410

00:28:26,510 --> 00:28:31,510
I also worked later
in a place where

411

00:28:31,510 --> 00:28:37,720
they were having a
warehouse full of shoes--

412

00:28:37,720 --> 00:28:42,610
the shoes that were taken
away at the concentration

413

00:28:42,610 --> 00:28:48,550
camps and sent back to the
ghetto for redistribution

414

00:28:48,550 --> 00:28:50,410
and for other reasons too.

415

00:28:50,410 --> 00:28:56,240

416
00:28:56,240 --> 00:29:04,740
Little did we know that
those shoes came back

417
00:29:04,740 --> 00:29:09,860
for redistributions,
but the people who

418
00:29:09,860 --> 00:29:18,770
got the same implication when
I worked again in a factory

419
00:29:18,770 --> 00:29:22,880
where we were making rugs--

420
00:29:22,880 --> 00:29:28,160
very pretty designs,
rugs, out of rags--

421
00:29:28,160 --> 00:29:34,040
rags that were sent back
with the same theory

422
00:29:34,040 --> 00:29:38,480
for redistribution
to make pretty rugs,

423
00:29:38,480 --> 00:29:46,130
while the clothes that
the rugs were made from

424
00:29:46,130 --> 00:29:53,000
came from our people from
the concentration camps.

425
00:29:53,000 --> 00:29:57,470
They came for
making pretty rugs,

426
00:29:57,470 --> 00:30:12,475
but those garments once
adorned a human being.

427
00:30:12,475 --> 00:30:17,270

428
00:30:17,270 --> 00:30:22,130
And the rugs were
made of those rags

429
00:30:22,130 --> 00:30:25,235
that once adorned human beings.

430
00:30:25,235 --> 00:30:32,340

431
00:30:32,340 --> 00:30:40,150
The humble and gentle
person was discarded,

432
00:30:40,150 --> 00:30:43,240
and the garments
were put to use.

433
00:30:43,240 --> 00:30:49,400

434
00:30:49,400 --> 00:30:53,690
And I worked in a place
where I made pretty rugs--

435
00:30:53,690 --> 00:30:57,740

436
00:30:57,740 --> 00:30:59,720
with the fingers on that--

437
00:30:59,720 --> 00:31:02,480
the place was very
well-organized.

438
00:31:02,480 --> 00:31:06,360

439

00:31:06,360 --> 00:31:07,830

But the people were gone.

440

00:31:07,830 --> 00:31:12,480

441

00:31:12,480 --> 00:31:14,550

A true question

comes to mind-- why?

442

00:31:14,550 --> 00:31:20,080

443

00:31:20,080 --> 00:31:21,590

And can it happen again?

444

00:31:21,590 --> 00:31:30,640

445

00:31:30,640 --> 00:31:33,665

And who are those who survived?

446

00:31:33,665 --> 00:31:37,010

447

00:31:37,010 --> 00:31:41,690

That's why we are
here with a mission,

448

00:31:41,690 --> 00:31:50,600

with an obligation of telling
about man's inhumanity to man.

449

00:31:50,600 --> 00:31:56,420

450

00:31:56,420 --> 00:32:04,290

This is the growing stage,
stage of a growing process.

451

00:32:04,290 --> 00:32:09,530

452

00:32:09,530 --> 00:32:13,340

It was getting worse and
worse by the day because

453

00:32:13,340 --> 00:32:15,740

of malnutrition.

454

00:32:15,740 --> 00:32:22,790

I myself, at the age of 18,
contracted disease called

455

00:32:22,790 --> 00:32:24,620

typhoid.

456

00:32:24,620 --> 00:32:27,440

As a matter of fact,
I had twice typhoid--

457

00:32:27,440 --> 00:32:31,430

at this time in the ghetto
and at the end of the war.

458

00:32:31,430 --> 00:32:35,000

And such is due to
the lower resistance

459

00:32:35,000 --> 00:32:39,470

and crowded,
unsanitary conditions,

460

00:32:39,470 --> 00:32:42,050

an epidemic broke out.

461

00:32:42,050 --> 00:32:46,010

And actually, the head
of the Lodz ghetto

462

00:32:46,010 --> 00:32:50,030

went to Warsaw to bring
some doctors and nurses

463

00:32:50,030 --> 00:32:54,170
for this epidemic to cure.

464

00:32:54,170 --> 00:32:59,420
And such is the typhoid that
the central nervous system

465

00:32:59,420 --> 00:33:01,430
gets attacked.

466

00:33:01,430 --> 00:33:06,740
And you fall into a coma
with very high fever, which

467

00:33:06,740 --> 00:33:13,060
I'd like to share with you a
little spiritual encounter,

468

00:33:13,060 --> 00:33:18,350
a spiritual experience that
I had when I had the typhoid.

469

00:33:18,350 --> 00:33:22,250
My grandfather, who
was a religious man,

470

00:33:22,250 --> 00:33:27,290
a very wise and
proud man who died

471

00:33:27,290 --> 00:33:35,150
prior to my sickness of typhoid,
at the time of my recovery,

472

00:33:35,150 --> 00:33:38,600
the beginning of my
recovery, appeared to me

473

00:33:38,600 --> 00:33:42,440
in my delirious
stage with fever--

474

00:33:42,440 --> 00:33:54,720
and appeared to me and
handed me a kiddush cup,

475
00:33:54,720 --> 00:34:00,060
and said to me-- and with those
words, I acted very slowly.

476
00:34:00,060 --> 00:34:03,510
And I still remember how
I uttered those words.

477
00:34:03,510 --> 00:34:07,980
He said to me, drink
this wine, my child.

478
00:34:07,980 --> 00:34:09,750
Drink it.

479
00:34:09,750 --> 00:34:17,460
And that was a cup of life.

480
00:34:17,460 --> 00:34:21,540
That was a gift of life--

481
00:34:21,540 --> 00:34:26,460
a kind of a spiritual experience
while I had the typhoid.

482
00:34:26,460 --> 00:34:30,870
And that particular
typhoid, where

483
00:34:30,870 --> 00:34:37,980
the central nervous system gets
attacked, when I did recover,

484
00:34:37,980 --> 00:34:42,600
I started to walk like a baby.

485
00:34:42,600 --> 00:34:48,510
You had to be trained
walking like an infant.

486
00:34:48,510 --> 00:34:49,860
Such is the disease.

487
00:34:49,860 --> 00:34:54,330
And I do remember that
my friends from around me

488
00:34:54,330 --> 00:34:57,120
and my family gathered,
and they were encouraging

489
00:34:57,120 --> 00:34:59,130
me to make my first step.

490
00:34:59,130 --> 00:35:01,790
Therefore, I call
it a gift of life.

491
00:35:01,790 --> 00:35:05,600

492
00:35:05,600 --> 00:35:12,470
I had my other tuberculosis,
typhoid at later time,

493
00:35:12,470 --> 00:35:16,300
and that was a
bacterial infection

494
00:35:16,300 --> 00:35:22,840
when the gastrointestinal
tract attacked.

495
00:35:22,840 --> 00:35:26,980
But that was towards the
end because of unsanitary.

496
00:35:26,980 --> 00:35:33,970
One is called [NON-ENGLISH] and
one it's called [NON-ENGLISH]

497

00:35:33,970 --> 00:35:35,165

--

498

00:35:35,165 --> 00:35:38,020

typhoid.

499

00:35:38,020 --> 00:35:42,670

And yet in the Lodz ghetto,

I feel we were together--

500

00:35:42,670 --> 00:35:47,560

the family, and uncles,

and aunts, and cousins,

501

00:35:47,560 --> 00:35:48,460

and friends--

502

00:35:48,460 --> 00:35:49,870

yes, friends too.

503

00:35:49,870 --> 00:35:56,530

And that made me come back

with thoughts of good feeling

504

00:35:56,530 --> 00:35:59,920

that, at least, in

the very extreme

505

00:35:59,920 --> 00:36:07,930

difficult tragic conditions, we

still have some memories that

506

00:36:07,930 --> 00:36:09,670

linger on to this day.

507

00:36:09,670 --> 00:36:14,620

There was a touch of culture

in the ghetto as a form

508

00:36:14,620 --> 00:36:18,820

of cultural resistance.

509

00:36:18,820 --> 00:36:21,760

We had the concert
hall, not for long,

510

00:36:21,760 --> 00:36:27,670

because the musicians eventually
got thinner, and thinner,

511

00:36:27,670 --> 00:36:32,050

and they were
deported, and so on.

512

00:36:32,050 --> 00:36:36,340

But it started, I think,
in around March '41.

513

00:36:36,340 --> 00:36:38,320

And that was like
showing that this

514

00:36:38,320 --> 00:36:40,780

is our culture of resistance--

515

00:36:40,780 --> 00:36:44,800

to have a house of culture--

516

00:36:44,800 --> 00:36:47,200

they called it a cultura--

517

00:36:47,200 --> 00:36:53,367

and a touch of
class for the soul.

518

00:36:53,367 --> 00:36:54,950

Do you remember any
of those concerts?

519

00:36:54,950 --> 00:36:57,070

I remember attending
the concerts.

520

00:36:57,070 --> 00:37:02,470

And I remember that a variety

show, which one of my friends

521

00:37:02,470 --> 00:37:05,650

is in Canada, and he's
still handsome-- he still

522

00:37:05,650 --> 00:37:08,140

thinks he's an actor,
but I don't think so.

523

00:37:08,140 --> 00:37:11,780

524

00:37:11,780 --> 00:37:15,310

But that was like a form
of resistance, I would say.

525

00:37:15,310 --> 00:37:22,900

And I have my best friend who
calls me sister, because we

526

00:37:22,900 --> 00:37:24,650

were very good friends.

527

00:37:24,650 --> 00:37:29,320

And later, she was an opera
singer trained in Milan.

528

00:37:29,320 --> 00:37:31,510

But while in
ghetto, she was also

529

00:37:31,510 --> 00:37:34,300

giving concert as a singer--

530

00:37:34,300 --> 00:37:37,710

not opera necessarily, but
she was a beautiful singer.

531

00:37:37,710 --> 00:37:40,710

532

00:37:40,710 --> 00:37:46,920
Esther Greenhud-- she calls
me, you're like my sister.

533
00:37:46,920 --> 00:37:48,930
And I feel the same way.

534
00:37:48,930 --> 00:37:51,060
She has a beautiful voice.

535
00:37:51,060 --> 00:37:52,740
I didn't hear her
for many years,

536
00:37:52,740 --> 00:37:58,600
because she has some kind of
depression set in [INAUDIBLE]..

537
00:37:58,600 --> 00:38:08,910

538
00:38:08,910 --> 00:38:13,650
Outside the ghetto,
the war was raging.

539
00:38:13,650 --> 00:38:18,390
And Germany was occupying
Eastern Europe countries

540
00:38:18,390 --> 00:38:20,820
one by one.

541
00:38:20,820 --> 00:38:23,820
And a lot of
concentration camps,

542
00:38:23,820 --> 00:38:30,540
and labor camps, and forced
labor camps, and extermination

543
00:38:30,540 --> 00:38:32,730
camps came into being.

544

00:38:32,730 --> 00:38:36,090

Needless to say, how many
countries were involved?

545

00:38:36,090 --> 00:38:45,330

History tells it, but I speak
that was what happened to us,

546

00:38:45,330 --> 00:38:46,710

my family.

547

00:38:46,710 --> 00:38:56,780

And in 1944 in August,
the last crucial year

548

00:38:56,780 --> 00:39:04,370

for a transition for all
of us in the Lodz ghetto,

549

00:39:04,370 --> 00:39:07,040

and for our family--

550

00:39:07,040 --> 00:39:13,430

the so-called final
solution, the extermination.

551

00:39:13,430 --> 00:39:17,130

552

00:39:17,130 --> 00:39:20,010

The family-- father,
mother, and sister,

553

00:39:20,010 --> 00:39:23,940

and I were hiding for three
days only in an attic,

554

00:39:23,940 --> 00:39:29,520

which was full of dust
without food, without water,

555

00:39:29,520 --> 00:39:36,870

without proper
sanitary conditions--

556
00:39:36,870 --> 00:39:38,370
and a lot of dust.

557
00:39:38,370 --> 00:39:40,860
And the dust was
making my sister,

558
00:39:40,860 --> 00:39:44,580
who had tuberculosis,
cough more and more.

559
00:39:44,580 --> 00:39:50,520
And because of the deterioration
that was present from the dust,

560
00:39:50,520 --> 00:39:53,290
and because of the noise
that she was making,

561
00:39:53,290 --> 00:39:57,000
and because we had no way
in the long run to survive,

562
00:39:57,000 --> 00:39:59,460
we decided, the
family, the parents,

563
00:39:59,460 --> 00:40:04,560
decided to surrender to
the German authority.

564
00:40:04,560 --> 00:40:13,540

565
00:40:13,540 --> 00:40:24,150
It was time for us to take the
journey to the concentration

566
00:40:24,150 --> 00:40:24,650
camp.

567

00:40:24,650 --> 00:40:35,840

We became the persona non grata
at the time on August 1944.

568

00:40:35,840 --> 00:40:43,990

In very simple words, a
very complicated story--

569

00:40:43,990 --> 00:40:51,280

no home to live,
no place to sit,

570

00:40:51,280 --> 00:40:59,850

no chair to sit on,
no table to sit at,

571

00:40:59,850 --> 00:41:12,130

no food, no houses of worship,
no stores, no lipstick,

572

00:41:12,130 --> 00:41:17,700

no romances, no library to
visit, no Sabbath candles,

573

00:41:17,700 --> 00:41:19,360

but the ultimate--

574

00:41:19,360 --> 00:41:22,830

575

00:41:22,830 --> 00:41:27,720

the deportation, the
concentration camp.

576

00:41:27,720 --> 00:41:31,860

At that time, the
destination to us, unknown--

577

00:41:31,860 --> 00:41:34,170

Auschwitz.

578

00:41:34,170 --> 00:41:36,450

As a matter of fact,
I remember one case

579

00:41:36,450 --> 00:41:42,810

that my girlfriend, who her
father was Professor Herschbach

580

00:41:42,810 --> 00:41:47,440

from Danzig, and they
lived in the ghetto,

581

00:41:47,440 --> 00:41:54,540

he was a translator for
the German authorities

582

00:41:54,540 --> 00:41:57,540

and came up from
the ghetto every day

583

00:41:57,540 --> 00:42:04,050

to work to translate the
Bible testaments-- whatever

584

00:42:04,050 --> 00:42:05,370

he was doing for them.

585

00:42:05,370 --> 00:42:08,700

And he was one of the
first ones to be deported

586

00:42:08,700 --> 00:42:10,650

with my girlfriend,
Zima [? Rakia, ?]

587

00:42:10,650 --> 00:42:14,590

and her family and her
sister, Boobie, and mother.

588

00:42:14,590 --> 00:42:17,220

And he didn't know
where he's going.

589

00:42:17,220 --> 00:42:19,860

He did not know where
the destinations.

590

00:42:19,860 --> 00:42:23,820

We waved goodbye to each other,
we said, we see you again,

591

00:42:23,820 --> 00:42:25,500

maybe you come back.

592

00:42:25,500 --> 00:42:28,170

And that's Professor
Herschbach that

593

00:42:28,170 --> 00:42:30,570

went out of the ghetto
almost every day

594

00:42:30,570 --> 00:42:33,660

to work for the Germans
was the first casualty

595

00:42:33,660 --> 00:42:36,750

of this particular
closing of the ghetto

596

00:42:36,750 --> 00:42:38,700

and did not know
where he's going.

597

00:42:38,700 --> 00:42:42,960

They took all the
things with them,

598

00:42:42,960 --> 00:42:47,320

and we did not
know at that time.

599

00:42:47,320 --> 00:42:54,510

But this was the crucial year
for my family, for our family.

600

00:42:54,510 --> 00:43:01,500
And the transportation from the
ghetto was in cattle wagons--

601
00:43:01,500 --> 00:43:06,660
about 80 to 100 strangers
between themselves

602
00:43:06,660 --> 00:43:12,360
sealed in in the cattle wagon
without sanitary condition,

603
00:43:12,360 --> 00:43:16,860
with one pair of strangers
between themselves

604
00:43:16,860 --> 00:43:18,690
to eliminate--

605
00:43:18,690 --> 00:43:23,130
beneath animal treatment.

606
00:43:23,130 --> 00:43:27,480
And only a mess of
flesh laying and pushing

607
00:43:27,480 --> 00:43:30,570
each other in one cattle wagon--

608
00:43:30,570 --> 00:43:33,330
I guess it was for
three days, the ordeal.

609
00:43:33,330 --> 00:43:37,400

610
00:43:37,400 --> 00:43:42,230
And the arrival to
the Auschwitz gates--

611
00:43:42,230 --> 00:43:48,770
Arbeit macht frei--
work makes you free.

612
00:43:48,770 --> 00:43:52,660
But inside, an inferno--

613
00:43:52,660 --> 00:43:57,690

614
00:43:57,690 --> 00:44:07,050
the notorious Auschwitz camp,
separation of male and female,

615
00:44:07,050 --> 00:44:13,830
separation of children
and parents from children

616
00:44:13,830 --> 00:44:20,260
and mothers, and separation
from fathers and friends--

617
00:44:20,260 --> 00:44:22,890
yes, separation
from friends too.

618
00:44:22,890 --> 00:44:25,990

619
00:44:25,990 --> 00:44:34,336
With deep sadness in my heart,
I share with you my emotions--

620
00:44:34,336 --> 00:44:38,010

621
00:44:38,010 --> 00:44:41,670
with a genuine
desire to understand

622
00:44:41,670 --> 00:44:48,030
and capture my heart when I saw
for the last time my father--

623
00:44:48,030 --> 00:44:51,570

for the last time,
I saw my father.

624
00:44:51,570 --> 00:44:54,340
And you hear the
echo of my soul.

625
00:44:54,340 --> 00:45:01,330

626
00:45:01,330 --> 00:45:06,670
Gentle Ravic, 44 years old--

627
00:45:06,670 --> 00:45:10,975
beautiful father and husband.

628
00:45:10,975 --> 00:45:15,070

629
00:45:15,070 --> 00:45:20,800
He was separated
from us, and he did

630
00:45:20,800 --> 00:45:28,180
die seven months
later in Dachau when

631
00:45:28,180 --> 00:45:39,700
his strength and health failed.

632
00:45:39,700 --> 00:45:48,430
He died alone without his
family, without his dear ones.

633
00:45:48,430 --> 00:45:53,230

634
00:45:53,230 --> 00:46:07,760
But you don't need a
monument of stone or granite

635
00:46:07,760 --> 00:46:15,149

to remember them
and to love them.

636
00:46:15,149 --> 00:46:22,000

637
00:46:22,000 --> 00:46:26,950
The last chapter
of family life--

638
00:46:26,950 --> 00:46:37,075
family life shattered,
closed behind us forever.

639
00:46:37,075 --> 00:46:41,580

640
00:46:41,580 --> 00:46:46,830
The powerful structure of
family life, which all of us

641
00:46:46,830 --> 00:46:54,840
hold so dear, the
unity of family--

642
00:46:54,840 --> 00:47:01,410
closed gates, a new
horizon, the Auschwitz camp,

643
00:47:01,410 --> 00:47:06,510
the notorious
extermination camp.

644
00:47:06,510 --> 00:47:09,660
We're inside the compounds.

645
00:47:09,660 --> 00:47:14,460
The prisoners when we
arrived were yelling.

646
00:47:14,460 --> 00:47:16,930
We understood they
wanted bread and food,

647
00:47:16,930 --> 00:47:18,180
but they also wanted spoons.

648
00:47:18,180 --> 00:47:21,950

649
00:47:21,950 --> 00:47:25,100
To divide equally
the ration of soup,

650
00:47:25,100 --> 00:47:26,210
they want the day rations.

651
00:47:26,210 --> 00:47:28,670
Only then when we
were inside, we

652
00:47:28,670 --> 00:47:32,090
knew why they were screaming
and yelling to us--

653
00:47:32,090 --> 00:47:39,200
send us, give us some food,
some bread, give us some spoons.

654
00:47:39,200 --> 00:47:42,710
And the Auschwitz
notorious selections--

655
00:47:42,710 --> 00:47:55,520
who should live and who should
die at the mercy of men--

656
00:47:55,520 --> 00:47:57,800
at the mercy of mad men--

657
00:47:57,800 --> 00:48:03,600

658
00:48:03,600 --> 00:48:06,750
mad men acting as God.

659

00:48:06,750 --> 00:48:13,320

660

00:48:13,320 --> 00:48:18,570

The gas chambers, the showers
with no drain and no water,

661

00:48:18,570 --> 00:48:21,360

only poisonous vapor--

662

00:48:21,360 --> 00:48:24,990

so-called Zyklon B vapor--

663

00:48:24,990 --> 00:48:31,740

poisonous vapor that's designed
especially for this occasion

664

00:48:31,740 --> 00:48:32,895

to gas people.

665

00:48:32,895 --> 00:48:38,030

666

00:48:38,030 --> 00:48:41,000

The mass selection, who should
live and who should die?

667

00:48:41,000 --> 00:48:48,130

668

00:48:48,130 --> 00:49:04,635

You're left in your own crushing
grief and soul to be consumed.

669

00:49:04,635 --> 00:49:08,978

670

00:49:08,978 --> 00:49:17,420

The crematoria, where they
gassed people, bodies,

671

00:49:17,420 --> 00:49:20,690

the oven chambers, where
the name Holocaust,

672

00:49:20,690 --> 00:49:25,110

consumed by fire, comes from,
[GREEK],, the Greek name--

673

00:49:25,110 --> 00:49:25,610

[GREEK]

674

00:49:25,610 --> 00:49:30,930

675

00:49:30,930 --> 00:49:40,590

I still remember the smell
and the smell of the burnt

676

00:49:40,590 --> 00:49:44,730

bones, and skin, and hair.

677

00:49:44,730 --> 00:49:49,140

I witnessed this
dreadful terror--

678

00:49:49,140 --> 00:49:59,770

679

00:49:59,770 --> 00:50:05,380

the gushing, the
flames, the blue sky.

680

00:50:05,380 --> 00:50:10,980

681

00:50:10,980 --> 00:50:17,160

What I am about to tell you
is an isolated case about what

682

00:50:17,160 --> 00:50:19,260

happened to my mother--

683

00:50:19,260 --> 00:50:20,970

my dear mother.

684

00:50:20,970 --> 00:50:23,130

It's one in a million--

685

00:50:23,130 --> 00:50:28,290

a case, perhaps, one in a
million, an isolated case that

686

00:50:28,290 --> 00:50:30,990

ended well.

687

00:50:30,990 --> 00:50:37,650

What prompted this Nazi
guard to take my mother out

688

00:50:37,650 --> 00:50:41,710

from the door of the gas
chamber, to this day,

689

00:50:41,710 --> 00:50:43,710

I don't know.

690

00:50:43,710 --> 00:50:50,010

We were all stripped
naked in a huge room--

691

00:50:50,010 --> 00:50:56,640

stripped of everything
physically and mentally,

692

00:50:56,640 --> 00:51:00,420

hair shaved off.

693

00:51:00,420 --> 00:51:06,630

I noticed my mother being
separated from my sister,

694

00:51:06,630 --> 00:51:12,450

standing at the door,
which proved to be

695

00:51:12,450 --> 00:51:14,050
the door to the gas chamber.

696

00:51:14,050 --> 00:51:17,790

697

00:51:17,790 --> 00:51:23,790
With a shriek, I exclaimed,
in front of the guard, meine

698

00:51:23,790 --> 00:51:26,250
Mutter, mama, mother.

699

00:51:26,250 --> 00:51:28,770

700

00:51:28,770 --> 00:51:35,490
And in a fleeting moment
of unexplained emotions,

701

00:51:35,490 --> 00:51:42,600
this Nazi guard was instrumental
in saving one life--

702

00:51:42,600 --> 00:51:44,235
that one of my mother.

703

00:51:44,235 --> 00:51:48,600

704

00:51:48,600 --> 00:51:52,660
Mother was 44 years
old at that time.

705

00:51:52,660 --> 00:51:56,410
She was always beautiful.

706

00:51:56,410 --> 00:51:59,950
Mother survived selections.

707

00:51:59,950 --> 00:52:02,740
She was alive.

708
00:52:02,740 --> 00:52:10,210
I was most privileged to have
my mother all those years where

709
00:52:10,210 --> 00:52:13,238
other daughters
and sons did not.

710
00:52:13,238 --> 00:52:18,020

711
00:52:18,020 --> 00:52:22,640
My mother died at the age
of 82 of natural causes.

712
00:52:22,640 --> 00:52:29,110

713
00:52:29,110 --> 00:52:35,630
My mother, like any other
mothers, will live in my heart

714
00:52:35,630 --> 00:52:38,370
forever.

715
00:52:38,370 --> 00:52:42,090
And now I am alone.

716
00:52:42,090 --> 00:52:44,620
And my family is together.

717
00:52:44,620 --> 00:52:47,930

718
00:52:47,930 --> 00:52:49,570
But I don't feel alone.

719
00:52:49,570 --> 00:52:54,440

720
00:52:54,440 --> 00:53:00,760
Seared into my memories
is the sentiment,

721
00:53:00,760 --> 00:53:04,130
which I don't let it
crush in my own body.

722
00:53:04,130 --> 00:53:09,280
I reveal it, and
I open my heart.

723
00:53:09,280 --> 00:53:12,490
I open my feelings.

724
00:53:12,490 --> 00:53:18,280
And since I do not have
a capacity for hate--

725
00:53:18,280 --> 00:53:22,970
I do not have a
capacity for hate--

726
00:53:22,970 --> 00:53:28,582
it is easier to reveal
sentiment and love.

727
00:53:28,582 --> 00:53:35,390

728
00:53:35,390 --> 00:53:40,670
I would like to pause at
this time for a few minutes,

729
00:53:40,670 --> 00:53:43,900
and then we come back, we'll
ask you some questions.

730
00:53:43,900 --> 00:53:44,490
OK.

731

00:53:44,490 --> 00:53:45,680
Gladys, thank you very much.

732
00:53:45,680 --> 00:53:47,530
Thank you.

733
00:53:47,530 --> 00:53:55,000