

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,009

2
00:00:02,009 --> 00:00:11,730
So all of these more than
troubling things are happening.

3
00:00:11,730 --> 00:00:16,880
I want to bring us up
to the point that--

4
00:00:16,880 --> 00:00:21,920
in some ways, to me it's
similar to September 1st, '39.

5
00:00:21,920 --> 00:00:27,170
You know exactly where you
were when the war started.

6
00:00:27,170 --> 00:00:32,420
Do you remember where you
were when Germany marched

7
00:00:32,420 --> 00:00:36,560
into Hungary in March 1944?

8
00:00:36,560 --> 00:00:37,790
Oh yes.

9
00:00:37,790 --> 00:00:39,070
Yes, yes, I do.

10
00:00:39,070 --> 00:00:42,020

11
00:00:42,020 --> 00:00:47,480
There was a lot of
excitement in the town.

12
00:00:47,480 --> 00:00:50,600
And people began to--

13
00:00:50,600 --> 00:00:56,360
the local people began to line
up along the one main road

14
00:00:56,360 --> 00:00:59,690
where they were coming.

15
00:00:59,690 --> 00:01:06,230
And people began to
go up into the church

16
00:01:06,230 --> 00:01:10,850
steeple, where you
could see the highway

17
00:01:10,850 --> 00:01:13,010
and how far away they were.

18
00:01:13,010 --> 00:01:14,930
There was a lot of excitement.

19
00:01:14,930 --> 00:01:17,090
The whole town was engaged.

20
00:01:17,090 --> 00:01:18,140
Everything stopped.

21
00:01:18,140 --> 00:01:21,530
You know, people moving
towards the highway.

22
00:01:21,530 --> 00:01:26,820
I remember that my
father and brother--

23
00:01:26,820 --> 00:01:31,040
I remember the discussion.

24
00:01:31,040 --> 00:01:39,730
If he goes out and
joins the happy time,

25
00:01:39,730 --> 00:01:41,760
it would be ridiculous.

26
00:01:41,760 --> 00:01:45,630
If he doesn't go, he felt that
that would be noticed too.

27
00:01:45,630 --> 00:01:47,100
Your father was saying this?

28
00:01:47,100 --> 00:01:48,470
Or your brother was saying this?

29
00:01:48,470 --> 00:01:51,030

30
00:01:51,030 --> 00:01:55,760
The discussion was between
my father and brother

31
00:01:55,760 --> 00:01:57,410
whether they should go.

32
00:01:57,410 --> 00:02:02,030
It was a discussion in the
family that I heard out loud.

33
00:02:02,030 --> 00:02:02,570
I see.

34
00:02:02,570 --> 00:02:07,070
I don't know-- it wasn't
exactly to the children.

35
00:02:07,070 --> 00:02:08,850
They didn't know
what to do about it.

36
00:02:08,850 --> 00:02:13,340
Because the whole town was
out lining the highway.

37
00:02:13,340 --> 00:02:16,520
Lining the highway in
a celebratory mood?

38
00:02:16,520 --> 00:02:17,330
Yes.

39
00:02:17,330 --> 00:02:20,936
Yes, and welcoming.

40
00:02:20,936 --> 00:02:21,785
Welcoming.

41
00:02:21,785 --> 00:02:26,085

42
00:02:26,085 --> 00:02:27,740
Well, he went up to--

43
00:02:27,740 --> 00:02:32,110
they decided to go up
to the church steeple.

44
00:02:32,110 --> 00:02:33,610
I remember that.

45
00:02:33,610 --> 00:02:37,180
And they came back and they
said they could see them up

46
00:02:37,180 --> 00:02:38,770
some miles.

47
00:02:38,770 --> 00:02:40,173
And what did they see?

48
00:02:40,173 --> 00:02:41,590
What was it that
they were seeing?

49

00:02:41,590 --> 00:02:46,510
They saw soldiers marching, a
large contingent of soldiers

50
00:02:46,510 --> 00:02:48,490
marching towards the town.

51
00:02:48,490 --> 00:02:49,900
They had to go through the town.

52
00:02:49,900 --> 00:02:51,550
They didn't stay in the town.

53
00:02:51,550 --> 00:02:55,120
I know that when
the soldiers came,

54
00:02:55,120 --> 00:02:59,650
they cheered and they
marched out and left

55
00:02:59,650 --> 00:03:01,150
and went on to the next--

56
00:03:01,150 --> 00:03:04,030
probably to BaÄ u or whatever.

57
00:03:04,030 --> 00:03:06,430
There was only one
road, one highway.

58
00:03:06,430 --> 00:03:09,620
Did you see them?

59
00:03:09,620 --> 00:03:10,730
I didn't go up.

60
00:03:10,730 --> 00:03:13,130
I saw them from my house.

61
00:03:13,130 --> 00:03:16,760
We were not far from-- we

were able to see the highway--

62

00:03:16,760 --> 00:03:19,550

and there were a lot of
people lining the highway.

63

00:03:19,550 --> 00:03:20,420

I saw people.

64

00:03:20,420 --> 00:03:22,370

But we children didn't go out.

65

00:03:22,370 --> 00:03:26,000

But my father had some
kind of a dilemma about it,

66

00:03:26,000 --> 00:03:27,680

whether he should or shouldn't.

67

00:03:27,680 --> 00:03:31,460

And I don't exactly know.

68

00:03:31,460 --> 00:03:36,440

I remember the time
when it happened.

69

00:03:36,440 --> 00:03:38,870

So you didn't actually--

70

00:03:38,870 --> 00:03:41,060

one of my questions
at this point

71

00:03:41,060 --> 00:03:44,570

is, was this the first time
you see a German soldier?

72

00:03:44,570 --> 00:03:47,210

And you actually didn't
see them because there

73

00:03:47,210 --> 00:03:50,420

were people lining the streets.

74

00:03:50,420 --> 00:03:50,970

Yes.

75

00:03:50,970 --> 00:03:51,678

Yes, I didn't.

76

00:03:51,678 --> 00:03:52,970

And you were seeing the people.

77

00:03:52,970 --> 00:03:54,770

Right, I didn't see them.

78

00:03:54,770 --> 00:03:56,000

No.

79

00:03:56,000 --> 00:04:07,190

And so as I'm speaking, I
may have to correct this.

80

00:04:07,190 --> 00:04:08,140

OK.

81

00:04:08,140 --> 00:04:09,280

If I have to.

82

00:04:09,280 --> 00:04:14,620

I'm wondering if I am
mistaken and it was

83

00:04:14,620 --> 00:04:16,770

when the Hungarians came in.

84

00:04:16,770 --> 00:04:18,940

Not the Germans.

85

00:04:18,940 --> 00:04:20,050

I think so.

86

00:04:20,050 --> 00:04:26,710

I think I'm not remembering this,

87
00:04:26,710 --> 00:04:29,050
because as you were telling me that, we would not

88
00:04:29,050 --> 00:04:32,770
have been cheering or wanting to see the Germans come.

89
00:04:32,770 --> 00:04:36,190
I believe this was when the Hungarians-- the Czechs left

90
00:04:36,190 --> 00:04:37,990
and the Hungarians occupied.

91
00:04:37,990 --> 00:04:40,450
So we're talking 1938.

92
00:04:40,450 --> 00:04:42,745
Yes, yes.

93
00:04:42,745 --> 00:04:44,780
So if you want to erase that or change that.

94
00:04:44,780 --> 00:04:46,870
No, no, we leave it as it is.

95
00:04:46,870 --> 00:04:49,750
It's fine, because we have both.

96
00:04:49,750 --> 00:04:55,030
We have both what the discussion is and also--

97
00:04:55,030 --> 00:04:59,860
The discussion was even for that, whether they should--

98

00:04:59,860 --> 00:05:02,380
I bet it was the Hungarians--

99
00:05:02,380 --> 00:05:04,450
whether he should go up.

100
00:05:04,450 --> 00:05:09,340
I can't imagine that he would
have even wanted to be anywhere

101
00:05:09,340 --> 00:05:11,920
near that other occupation.

102
00:05:11,920 --> 00:05:15,940
I am almost sure as I speak
that it was the Hungarian one.

103
00:05:15,940 --> 00:05:17,230
And they came in marching.

104
00:05:17,230 --> 00:05:20,800
And of course, since it
was a Hungarian population,

105
00:05:20,800 --> 00:05:21,730
they welcomed them.

106
00:05:21,730 --> 00:05:22,540
That's what it is.

107
00:05:22,540 --> 00:05:23,800
I'm correcting myself.

108
00:05:23,800 --> 00:05:25,060
OK, that's fine.

109
00:05:25,060 --> 00:05:27,090
That's fine.

110
00:05:27,090 --> 00:05:31,660
So to go back to March 1944--

111
00:05:31,660 --> 00:05:33,940
Yes.

112
00:05:33,940 --> 00:05:37,150
Is there a distinct
memory, then, of--

113
00:05:37,150 --> 00:05:43,900
Yes, that was not a visible
invasion by soldiers.

114
00:05:43,900 --> 00:05:48,370
That was sort of a done
deal on another level

115
00:05:48,370 --> 00:05:52,720
that the Germans took over
the government in Budapest.

116
00:05:52,720 --> 00:05:58,750
So you didn't see any
action or any movement

117
00:05:58,750 --> 00:06:01,490
locally when that happened.

118
00:06:01,490 --> 00:06:01,990
No.

119
00:06:01,990 --> 00:06:05,800
No, that was already
deep into the war.

120
00:06:05,800 --> 00:06:10,630
And the Germans
were already losing.

121
00:06:10,630 --> 00:06:16,920
And the mood in
Hungary was already--

122
00:06:16,920 --> 00:06:23,290

actually, I do remember now
the details more clearly

123
00:06:23,290 --> 00:06:34,420
that the Germans invaded the
central government in Budapest

124
00:06:34,420 --> 00:06:36,370
and took over.

125
00:06:36,370 --> 00:06:45,010
And that was because
Hungary attempted

126
00:06:45,010 --> 00:06:48,100
to pull out of the alliance,
because the Germans were

127
00:06:48,100 --> 00:06:49,750
already retreating.

128
00:06:49,750 --> 00:06:51,250
So that's what it was.

129
00:06:51,250 --> 00:06:55,060
And that was not a celebration
for the Hungarians,

130
00:06:55,060 --> 00:06:58,510
because they thought they
were on the losing side

131
00:06:58,510 --> 00:07:02,560
and attempted to withdraw from
the alliance with the Germans.

132
00:07:02,560 --> 00:07:06,610
So that was not a
visible soldier things.

133
00:07:06,610 --> 00:07:10,390
I'm sorry I missed
that [INAUDIBLE]..

134
00:07:10,390 --> 00:07:12,970
Not to worry, not to worry.

135
00:07:12,970 --> 00:07:16,660
But my question
is, after you learn

136
00:07:16,660 --> 00:07:20,020
that the Germans have
come in and that this

137
00:07:20,020 --> 00:07:26,710
is taking over the
government in Budapest,

138
00:07:26,710 --> 00:07:30,220
how does-- this is March 1944.

139
00:07:30,220 --> 00:07:31,270
Yes.

140
00:07:31,270 --> 00:07:34,330
How soon do things
start happening

141
00:07:34,330 --> 00:07:42,640
in your world with your
family, both in your hometown

142
00:07:42,640 --> 00:07:45,640
and where your maternal
grandfather lives?

143
00:07:45,640 --> 00:07:50,170
And what happens after this?

144
00:07:50,170 --> 00:07:56,630
Well, I do remember
that after this happened

145
00:07:56,630 --> 00:08:02,220

that the Germans took over the government, three weeks later,

146
00:08:02,220 --> 00:08:05,030
we were in a Munkacs ghetto.

147
00:08:05,030 --> 00:08:07,220
Three weeks later.

148
00:08:07,220 --> 00:08:09,410
That's no time at all.

149
00:08:09,410 --> 00:08:10,430
No time at all.

150
00:08:10,430 --> 00:08:13,730
It was the last day of Passover.

151
00:08:13,730 --> 00:08:16,580
And the calendar date is available,

152
00:08:16,580 --> 00:08:19,040
although I don't exactly know it.

153
00:08:19,040 --> 00:08:24,110
But from the day the Germans took over the country,

154
00:08:24,110 --> 00:08:31,310
three weeks later, we were in Munkacs in the ghetto.

155
00:08:31,310 --> 00:08:35,929
And three or four weeks in the ghetto, after that,

156
00:08:35,929 --> 00:08:36,980
we were in Auschwitz.

157
00:08:36,980 --> 00:08:39,935

And everybody was
gone and killed.

158
00:08:39,935 --> 00:08:41,390
My god, that's lightning.

159
00:08:41,390 --> 00:08:42,770
That's lightning speed.

160
00:08:42,770 --> 00:08:46,100
Yeah, we had
absolutely no warning.

161
00:08:46,100 --> 00:08:48,800
We knew, of course, that--

162
00:08:48,800 --> 00:08:53,540
by that time, by
1944, we knew a lot

163
00:08:53,540 --> 00:08:56,330
about the plight of the Jews.

164
00:08:56,330 --> 00:09:01,670
And that being now not under
the Hungarian government

165
00:09:01,670 --> 00:09:05,630
but the German government,
we saw trouble.

166
00:09:05,630 --> 00:09:08,660
But we had absolutely no
idea how much trouble.

167
00:09:08,660 --> 00:09:10,850
And we never heard
of Auschwitz till--

168
00:09:10,850 --> 00:09:12,860
but we were in the ghetto.

169

00:09:12,860 --> 00:09:16,130
And taken out of our home.

170
00:09:16,130 --> 00:09:17,900
Tell me about that.

171
00:09:17,900 --> 00:09:21,020
How did it happen--

172
00:09:21,020 --> 00:09:24,740
from your home to Munkacs,
describe to me the sequence.

173
00:09:24,740 --> 00:09:27,290

174
00:09:27,290 --> 00:09:32,180
Well, there was a
Queen's Announcement.

175
00:09:32,180 --> 00:09:35,660
You know, we had a town
crier, believe it or not.

176
00:09:35,660 --> 00:09:38,030
I feel like I'm 200 years old.

177
00:09:38,030 --> 00:09:39,810
But that was the way.

178
00:09:39,810 --> 00:09:41,930
There was no internet.

179
00:09:41,930 --> 00:09:45,200
So there was a guy
whose job it was--

180
00:09:45,200 --> 00:09:49,640
he came with a drum up
and down the street.

181
00:09:49,640 --> 00:09:53,330

Every other few feet, he
would stop beating the drum.

182
00:09:53,330 --> 00:09:55,370
He would beat the drum
and people would come out

183
00:09:55,370 --> 00:09:57,320
to the street, because
there was going

184
00:09:57,320 --> 00:10:01,460
to be a public announcement.

185
00:10:01,460 --> 00:10:04,220
And that was for
everything, small and big.

186
00:10:04,220 --> 00:10:06,290
So we heard the
beating of the drum

187
00:10:06,290 --> 00:10:11,000
and we'd go to the front of the
house to the street to hear.

188
00:10:11,000 --> 00:10:18,170
And the announcement was that
all the Jews of BÃ³trÃ¡gy should

189
00:10:18,170 --> 00:10:23,930
leave their home tomorrow
morning and gather

190
00:10:23,930 --> 00:10:28,850
at the building, which
was the town hall,

191
00:10:28,850 --> 00:10:32,990
and bring a suitcase each.

192
00:10:32,990 --> 00:10:36,500
And went up and

down the one road

193
00:10:36,500 --> 00:10:40,380
that was going through
the streets of the town.

194
00:10:40,380 --> 00:10:41,600
And we heard it.

195
00:10:41,600 --> 00:10:45,470
And everybody else heard it.

196
00:10:45,470 --> 00:10:49,460
That was it.

197
00:10:49,460 --> 00:10:54,470
That was the last day
of Passover, 1944.

198
00:10:54,470 --> 00:10:57,290
And a lot of Jews in
that part of Hungary

199
00:10:57,290 --> 00:11:01,580
know that, the date of the
day after Passover in 1944.

200
00:11:01,580 --> 00:11:03,410
Yeah.

201
00:11:03,410 --> 00:11:09,050
So as I told you, that
was the [INAUDIBLE]----

202
00:11:09,050 --> 00:11:10,800
Can we pause just for a second?

203
00:11:10,800 --> 00:11:11,300
Yes.

204
00:11:11,300 --> 00:11:13,710
There is some audio sound.

205
00:11:13,710 --> 00:11:14,210
Are--

206
00:11:14,210 --> 00:11:17,140
You know what, I got it
too close to me again.

207
00:11:17,140 --> 00:11:18,560
OK.

208
00:11:18,560 --> 00:11:24,140
I don't need to hold it
like an ordinary phone,

209
00:11:24,140 --> 00:11:26,350
because it's so loud.

210
00:11:26,350 --> 00:11:29,280
OK, so I'm going to
take it away from me

211
00:11:29,280 --> 00:11:30,380
and see if that's better.

212
00:11:30,380 --> 00:11:31,220
That's better.

213
00:11:31,220 --> 00:11:32,390
That's better.

214
00:11:32,390 --> 00:11:33,668
OK, I'll have to remember.

215
00:11:33,668 --> 00:11:34,460
That's the problem.

216
00:11:34,460 --> 00:11:38,630

217
00:11:38,630 --> 00:11:40,910

How did you spend that
last day of Passover?

218
00:11:40,910 --> 00:11:43,080
What did you do?

219
00:11:43,080 --> 00:11:46,510
Well, a lot happened
in my household.

220
00:11:46,510 --> 00:11:50,820
First of all, terror
set in, for sure.

221
00:11:50,820 --> 00:11:58,590
And one thing that happened
almost immediately is some

222
00:11:58,590 --> 00:12:00,990
neighbor-- a Gentile neighbor--

223
00:12:00,990 --> 00:12:03,480
came to our house.

224
00:12:03,480 --> 00:12:05,820
And I don't remember--

225
00:12:05,820 --> 00:12:10,590
I wasn't aware of the incident--
but I know that they told

226
00:12:10,590 --> 00:12:16,260
my mother that in [? BacsÅ³ ?],
the Jews had been collected

227
00:12:16,260 --> 00:12:17,520
already.

228
00:12:17,520 --> 00:12:21,600
And that they're in trains
and they're being deported.

229

00:12:21,600 --> 00:12:25,890
And that her parents are
already on the train.

230
00:12:25,890 --> 00:12:31,470
That was the day before the
announcement was for us.

231
00:12:31,470 --> 00:12:32,640
Wow.

232
00:12:32,640 --> 00:12:38,440
My mother became
terribly agitated.

233
00:12:38,440 --> 00:12:41,770
First of all, her old parents.

234
00:12:41,770 --> 00:12:49,900
But in addition to that,
our older brother, Moshe,

235
00:12:49,900 --> 00:12:52,990
he was sent--

236
00:12:52,990 --> 00:12:57,730
my mother sent the older
kids to various cities

237
00:12:57,730 --> 00:12:59,230
to continue their education.

238
00:12:59,230 --> 00:13:01,525
So we went to
Munkacs, the girls.

239
00:13:01,525 --> 00:13:05,890
My 16-year-old brother
went to yeshiva

240
00:13:05,890 --> 00:13:10,750
in a city called Khust, where
one of my mother's sisters

241
00:13:10,750 --> 00:13:11,710
lived.

242
00:13:11,710 --> 00:13:17,050
And he was to live
with her and her family

243
00:13:17,050 --> 00:13:20,380
and go to yeshiva where
there was a rabbi.

244
00:13:20,380 --> 00:13:22,330
He could not go to
a regular school.

245
00:13:22,330 --> 00:13:24,940
He had to get a
yeshiva education.

246
00:13:24,940 --> 00:13:29,800
And so for Passover, he came
back from there to [? BacsÃ³ ?]

247
00:13:29,800 --> 00:13:33,670
to be with the grandfather
and his family.

248
00:13:33,670 --> 00:13:37,930
And to exhibit how
much he learned

249
00:13:37,930 --> 00:13:42,820
and how well he knew all that
a yeshiva student should know.

250
00:13:42,820 --> 00:13:46,750
My parents were
showing off with him.

251
00:13:46,750 --> 00:13:51,310
So he didn't come home for the
seder, not the first seder.

252

00:13:51,310 --> 00:13:53,800

He stayed there.

253

00:13:53,800 --> 00:13:56,090

He was actually still there.

254

00:13:56,090 --> 00:14:00,850

And so when this announcement--
when my mother heard that

255

00:14:00,850 --> 00:14:05,200

the Jews in [? BacsÃ³ ?] were
already in the trains being

256

00:14:05,200 --> 00:14:11,870

deported, she needed to know
what happened to her son Moshe.

257

00:14:11,870 --> 00:14:12,830

Yeah.

258

00:14:12,830 --> 00:14:14,210

So she took off--

259

00:14:14,210 --> 00:14:15,830

now this wasn't far.

260

00:14:15,830 --> 00:14:19,890

Like two and a half kilometers.

261

00:14:19,890 --> 00:14:25,350

She took off on foot to go to
[? BacsÃ³ ?] to see what was

262

00:14:25,350 --> 00:14:26,100

going on.

263

00:14:26,100 --> 00:14:28,320

She just ran.

264

00:14:28,320 --> 00:14:32,430
And in a very short
time, she was coming back

265
00:14:32,430 --> 00:14:34,330
with our brother.

266
00:14:34,330 --> 00:14:39,940
So what I remember she said--
and I [INAUDIBLE] some of it--

267
00:14:39,940 --> 00:14:43,450
that he had been let go.

268
00:14:43,450 --> 00:14:47,920
And he was on his way to
Batrad' and they didn't let her

269
00:14:47,920 --> 00:14:51,790
into [? BacsÃ³ ?].

270
00:14:51,790 --> 00:14:54,220
The entrance was guarded.

271
00:14:54,220 --> 00:14:56,260
But they let him out.

272
00:14:56,260 --> 00:14:59,300
It seems that he
took off to go home,

273
00:14:59,300 --> 00:15:03,970
whether there was a question
of you don't belong here.

274
00:15:03,970 --> 00:15:07,060
Or he said he
doesn't belong here.

275
00:15:07,060 --> 00:15:08,410
I'm guessing.

276

00:15:08,410 --> 00:15:10,630
But he headed home.

277
00:15:10,630 --> 00:15:15,350
She met him at the border and
both of them were coming home.

278
00:15:15,350 --> 00:15:17,720
And there was a huge relief.

279
00:15:17,720 --> 00:15:21,600
But it still was-- her parents
are in the train and all

280
00:15:21,600 --> 00:15:23,030
the [? BacsÃ³ ?] Jews.

281
00:15:23,030 --> 00:15:28,160
Next thing we heard is they
unloaded all the [? BacsÃ³ ?]

282
00:15:28,160 --> 00:15:33,450
Jews from the train and sent
them back again to their home.

283
00:15:33,450 --> 00:15:35,880
And that was another
astonishing thing.

284
00:15:35,880 --> 00:15:38,420

285
00:15:38,420 --> 00:15:42,390
Then to end up
this little scene,

286
00:15:42,390 --> 00:15:48,480
the next day they reloaded them
into the train and they left.

287
00:15:48,480 --> 00:15:51,060
And then it was our turn.

288

00:15:51,060 --> 00:15:53,610

So why did they not
leave the first day

289

00:15:53,610 --> 00:15:55,920

when they put them
in the trains?

290

00:15:55,920 --> 00:15:59,790

I can only guess
that it was war time.

291

00:15:59,790 --> 00:16:02,760

[? BacsÃ³ ?] was a
railroad crossing.

292

00:16:02,760 --> 00:16:04,890

There were only so
many tracks and so

293

00:16:04,890 --> 00:16:07,530

many ways to use the tracks.

294

00:16:07,530 --> 00:16:10,470

And I imagine that they
didn't have the track.

295

00:16:10,470 --> 00:16:12,630

And probably, soldiers
needed the track.

296

00:16:12,630 --> 00:16:14,520

Or the war needed the track.

297

00:16:14,520 --> 00:16:18,300

So they unloaded them and
made room on the tracks

298

00:16:18,300 --> 00:16:20,190

and then they reloaded them.

299

00:16:20,190 --> 00:16:22,410

That's what happened.

300
00:16:22,410 --> 00:16:25,320
There is no other reason,
because they always

301
00:16:25,320 --> 00:16:27,120
have to have the line open.

302
00:16:27,120 --> 00:16:31,440
And you know, Eichmann--

303
00:16:31,440 --> 00:16:35,130
the German Nazi who was
in charge of deporting

304
00:16:35,130 --> 00:16:36,640
the Hungarian Jews--

305
00:16:36,640 --> 00:16:40,410
he made sure that these
things went smoothly.

306
00:16:40,410 --> 00:16:43,300
He needed to deal
with the railroads.

307
00:16:43,300 --> 00:16:44,890
So anyhow, they were gone.

308
00:16:44,890 --> 00:16:47,790
And so now, Moshe was home.

309
00:16:47,790 --> 00:16:49,260
So what did we do?

310
00:16:49,260 --> 00:16:52,840
As soon as we heard the
announcement in the street

311
00:16:52,840 --> 00:16:55,050
at the last day of Passover--

312
00:16:55,050 --> 00:16:58,760
we didn't have bread yet.

313
00:16:58,760 --> 00:17:00,040
Still Passover.

314
00:17:00,040 --> 00:17:02,695
Not eating anything but matzas.

315
00:17:02,695 --> 00:17:06,130
There was now a
shortage of food.

316
00:17:06,130 --> 00:17:09,700
And my mother
abandoned the rules

317
00:17:09,700 --> 00:17:13,770
and she immediately
started baking bread.

318
00:17:13,770 --> 00:17:17,339
Just immediately, because she
did that once a week anyway.

319
00:17:17,339 --> 00:17:21,790
And she [INAUDIBLE] she was
going to do it the next day.

320
00:17:21,790 --> 00:17:26,579
So she was totally occupied
with baking all day

321
00:17:26,579 --> 00:17:28,500
and cooking all day.

322
00:17:28,500 --> 00:17:32,610
And what she had in mind is
that they were being taken away

323
00:17:32,610 --> 00:17:33,900

with six kids.

324

00:17:33,900 --> 00:17:35,490

She needed to take food.

325

00:17:35,490 --> 00:17:36,840

Yeah, she needs to feed them.

326

00:17:36,840 --> 00:17:38,257

You don't know
where you're going.

327

00:17:38,257 --> 00:17:39,600

You don't know what you'll find.

328

00:17:39,600 --> 00:17:40,100

No.

329

00:17:40,100 --> 00:17:42,780

But the fact that we're
being taken out of our home

330

00:17:42,780 --> 00:17:44,340

was evident.

331

00:17:44,340 --> 00:17:46,050

What about your father's sister?

332

00:17:46,050 --> 00:17:47,850

Was she still with you?

333

00:17:47,850 --> 00:17:50,190

Oh, yes, she was with us.

334

00:17:50,190 --> 00:17:52,860

And it was pitiful to see.

335

00:17:52,860 --> 00:17:57,630

She was more or less in
charge of packing suitcases,

336

00:17:57,630 --> 00:17:59,910
because my mother was so busy.

337
00:17:59,910 --> 00:18:02,970
And I remember she
did closet doors--

338
00:18:02,970 --> 00:18:05,920
and oh my god, what to take?

339
00:18:05,920 --> 00:18:08,710
And I mean, it was--

340
00:18:08,710 --> 00:18:12,460
we kids just sort of
followed the grown-ups around

341
00:18:12,460 --> 00:18:14,200
and watched what
they were doing.

342
00:18:14,200 --> 00:18:17,890
And we saw the
confusion and the worry.

343
00:18:17,890 --> 00:18:21,100
And what do kids do?

344
00:18:21,100 --> 00:18:22,960
I remember the tension.

345
00:18:22,960 --> 00:18:25,450
I remember the fear.

346
00:18:25,450 --> 00:18:30,373
But you know, we were going
with our parents, right?

347
00:18:30,373 --> 00:18:31,540
Yeah, it makes it different.

348
00:18:31,540 --> 00:18:33,820

For children, that's
the key thing.

349
00:18:33,820 --> 00:18:36,010
They want to be
with their parents.

350
00:18:36,010 --> 00:18:37,880
They were in charge.

351
00:18:37,880 --> 00:18:40,510
And it was chaos.

352
00:18:40,510 --> 00:18:43,330
And there was a lot
of talk what to take.

353
00:18:43,330 --> 00:18:46,015
They had a hard time.

354
00:18:46,015 --> 00:18:48,340
One suitcase each.

355
00:18:48,340 --> 00:18:53,560
My aunt, who lived in
that house and had--

356
00:18:53,560 --> 00:18:57,220
they had a closet in one
of the bedrooms, where

357
00:18:57,220 --> 00:19:01,810
it was linens,
hand-embroidered and damasks

358
00:19:01,810 --> 00:19:04,420
and things that were never used.

359
00:19:04,420 --> 00:19:06,970
It was something
beautiful to look at.

360

00:19:06,970 --> 00:19:10,180
It was either my mother's
dowry or whatever.

361
00:19:10,180 --> 00:19:12,490
It was a showplace.

362
00:19:12,490 --> 00:19:13,810
It was never used.

363
00:19:13,810 --> 00:19:16,300
Just gorgeous stuff.

364
00:19:16,300 --> 00:19:19,690
And my aunt was in that
closet looking to see--

365
00:19:19,690 --> 00:19:22,630
soon abandoned it,
because obviously that

366
00:19:22,630 --> 00:19:23,960
was the wrong thing.

367
00:19:23,960 --> 00:19:32,440
So they ended up taking
bedding, clothing, and the food,

368
00:19:32,440 --> 00:19:34,310
when it was ready.

369
00:19:34,310 --> 00:19:40,970
And I don't-- things,
children's clothing.

370
00:19:40,970 --> 00:19:44,030
They were talking
about taking valuables

371
00:19:44,030 --> 00:19:47,060
to exchange for
food along the way.

372

00:19:47,060 --> 00:19:49,220

They were thinking of that.

373

00:19:49,220 --> 00:19:56,330

So my father was attempting
to hide some things.

374

00:19:56,330 --> 00:19:58,760

We had a cellar.

375

00:19:58,760 --> 00:20:04,910

But they also were sewing
some money into some clothes.

376

00:20:04,910 --> 00:20:12,050

They did, for exchange
for food for children.

377

00:20:12,050 --> 00:20:17,930

And we didn't have
gold and diamonds.

378

00:20:17,930 --> 00:20:21,350

But there was my mother's
engagement ring, wedding ring.

379

00:20:21,350 --> 00:20:24,110

There were little
diamond earrings.

380

00:20:24,110 --> 00:20:28,610

My father had a gold pocket
watch from his father.

381

00:20:28,610 --> 00:20:29,910

Stuff like that.

382

00:20:29,910 --> 00:20:32,660

And I remember he,
with my brother,

383

00:20:32,660 --> 00:20:36,110

went down into the cellar,
which was deep and dark.

384
00:20:36,110 --> 00:20:40,100
And I followed them
back and forth.

385
00:20:40,100 --> 00:20:44,990
The cellar was lined
with big stones.

386
00:20:44,990 --> 00:20:47,420
It was a stone wall.

387
00:20:47,420 --> 00:20:51,330
They took out a stone and
put in some of these--

388
00:20:51,330 --> 00:20:55,200
my mother's earrings
and what I just said.

389
00:20:55,200 --> 00:20:58,950
They took some that
they sewed into clothes.

390
00:20:58,950 --> 00:21:00,390
They did that.

391
00:21:00,390 --> 00:21:03,460
Probably my aunt did that,
because my mother was so busy.

392
00:21:03,460 --> 00:21:08,700
But they did put my father's
pocket watch and a couple

393
00:21:08,700 --> 00:21:13,950
of earrings and a ring.

394
00:21:13,950 --> 00:21:17,010
And put the stone back.

395

00:21:17,010 --> 00:21:20,250

So they hid it in the
wall of the house?

396

00:21:20,250 --> 00:21:27,810

It was a deep cellar
where if you took one--

397

00:21:27,810 --> 00:21:29,760

it was all stone, you know.

398

00:21:29,760 --> 00:21:37,800

But they removed it and upset
the area, it didn't seem to.

399

00:21:37,800 --> 00:21:42,510

Nobody would know that
that stone had been moved.

400

00:21:42,510 --> 00:21:47,890

To just jump ahead, the
miracle is that, of course,

401

00:21:47,890 --> 00:21:50,100

my parents didn't come back.

402

00:21:50,100 --> 00:21:53,820

I had no way of telling anyone.

403

00:21:53,820 --> 00:21:57,510

By the time we came
back, one of my--

404

00:21:57,510 --> 00:22:02,090

405

00:22:02,090 --> 00:22:03,500

excuse me.

406

00:22:03,500 --> 00:22:05,150

I'm looking to see--

407

00:22:05,150 --> 00:22:07,270

I have a phone call.

408

00:22:07,270 --> 00:22:08,170

Could I stop here?

409

00:22:08,170 --> 00:22:09,350

It might be important.

410

00:22:09,350 --> 00:22:10,390

OK, sure.

411

00:22:10,390 --> 00:22:11,030

Not a problem.

412

00:22:11,030 --> 00:22:12,880

Thank you.