

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,050

2  
00:00:01,050 --> 00:00:04,170  
So we were talking  
about these items

3  
00:00:04,170 --> 00:00:06,450  
that your father and  
brother had hidden

4  
00:00:06,450 --> 00:00:09,060  
behind a stone in the cellar.

5  
00:00:09,060 --> 00:00:12,480  
And I want to jump ahead  
of our story a little bit,

6  
00:00:12,480 --> 00:00:15,930  
because I do know that you  
do come back to your home

7  
00:00:15,930 --> 00:00:17,460  
after the war.

8  
00:00:17,460 --> 00:00:18,240  
Yes.

9  
00:00:18,240 --> 00:00:21,030  
Did you ever find these items?

10  
00:00:21,030 --> 00:00:21,700  
Oh, no.

11  
00:00:21,700 --> 00:00:22,200  
[LAUGH]

12  
00:00:22,200 --> 00:00:26,190  
Well, it was a mixed thing.

13

00:00:26,190 --> 00:00:28,920  
I am puzzled, to this day.

14  
00:00:28,920 --> 00:00:32,380  
My young uncles, who were  
some in labor brigade,

15  
00:00:32,380 --> 00:00:34,950  
some in concentration  
camp, one of them

16  
00:00:34,950 --> 00:00:37,770  
was hiding, one of them--

17  
00:00:37,770 --> 00:00:41,430  
You know, our area got  
liberated by the Russians,

18  
00:00:41,430 --> 00:00:43,920  
about a month after  
we were taken away.

19  
00:00:43,920 --> 00:00:46,170  
You know, he was  
taken away in April.

20  
00:00:46,170 --> 00:00:50,820  
And May, June, the Russian  
army already came through.

21  
00:00:50,820 --> 00:00:56,370  
And some of these, my young  
uncles, were in the area

22  
00:00:56,370 --> 00:01:00,660  
where they were  
liberated and went home.

23  
00:01:00,660 --> 00:01:02,280  
One of them-- and I don't know--

24  
00:01:02,280 --> 00:01:05,000  
here's another thing--

we never asked--

25

00:01:05,000 --> 00:01:09,350  
one of them went to our house  
and down into the cellar

26

00:01:09,350 --> 00:01:10,720  
and found the stuff.

27

00:01:10,720 --> 00:01:11,220  
Oh.

28

00:01:11,220 --> 00:01:14,710  
Now, he must-- was hidden there.

29

00:01:14,710 --> 00:01:18,380  
I can't, to this day,  
figure out who told him, how

30

00:01:18,380 --> 00:01:19,970  
did they know, what happened--

31

00:01:19,970 --> 00:01:20,930  
I don't know.

32

00:01:20,930 --> 00:01:24,960  
They had some knowledge,  
because they found this.

33

00:01:24,960 --> 00:01:27,860  
So I have my  
father's gold watch.

34

00:01:27,860 --> 00:01:33,155  
It's not valuable to anybody  
but me, but, because, you know--

35

00:01:33,155 --> 00:01:35,270  
It's incredibly valuable.

36

00:01:35,270 --> 00:01:38,630  
But anyhow, my mother's

earrings, yes, it was there.

37  
00:01:38,630 --> 00:01:42,620  
And so, I don't know  
how that happened.

38  
00:01:42,620 --> 00:01:44,650  
But in the meantime,  
back to the packing--

39  
00:01:44,650 --> 00:01:46,420  
Sure.

40  
00:01:46,420 --> 00:01:50,200  
--my parents had of  
an extremely busy day.

41  
00:01:50,200 --> 00:01:52,360  
And my mother was baking.

42  
00:01:52,360 --> 00:01:54,640  
My aunt was packing.

43  
00:01:54,640 --> 00:02:03,530  
In addition to that, we had  
a sort of a small building

44  
00:02:03,530 --> 00:02:09,169  
on the property, where firewood  
was kept to the ceiling.

45  
00:02:09,169 --> 00:02:11,480  
You know, it was  
filled with firewood,

46  
00:02:11,480 --> 00:02:15,640  
which was a wealthy thing  
to have for the winter,

47  
00:02:15,640 --> 00:02:19,270  
because that was  
for whole winter,

48

00:02:19,270 --> 00:02:20,740

that, if you didn't  
have that, you

49

00:02:20,740 --> 00:02:22,840

were staying in bed all winter.

50

00:02:22,840 --> 00:02:24,370

You were cold.

51

00:02:24,370 --> 00:02:26,680

Cold.

52

00:02:26,680 --> 00:02:31,615

And we also had a bathtub,  
a portable bathtub,

53

00:02:31,615 --> 00:02:36,350

a kind of a tin bathtub,  
which was kept in there also.

54

00:02:36,350 --> 00:02:38,950

And when the children  
were getting baths,

55

00:02:38,950 --> 00:02:41,560

that was brought  
into the kitchen

56

00:02:41,560 --> 00:02:45,550

and hot water was heated  
and everybody had a bath.

57

00:02:45,550 --> 00:02:47,830

And, you know, that  
was our bathtub.

58

00:02:47,830 --> 00:02:50,740

And so, that was in there.

59

00:02:50,740 --> 00:02:56,310

So, during the day,

my father and brother

60  
00:02:56,310 --> 00:03:05,860  
decided to bury that tub  
in the little building.

61  
00:03:05,860 --> 00:03:07,675  
And they were  
digging and digging,

62  
00:03:07,675 --> 00:03:11,140  
and they rearranged the  
wood, and they were digging.

63  
00:03:11,140 --> 00:03:14,620  
And they made a hole  
big enough for the tub

64  
00:03:14,620 --> 00:03:17,770  
to fit in into the ground.

65  
00:03:17,770 --> 00:03:23,310  
And then they proceeded  
to, in baskets,

66  
00:03:23,310 --> 00:03:27,720  
take the linens and things  
out of that precious closet

67  
00:03:27,720 --> 00:03:28,470  
that was there.

68  
00:03:28,470 --> 00:03:30,970  
That seemed very  
valuable to them.

69  
00:03:30,970 --> 00:03:31,470  
Oh.

70  
00:03:31,470 --> 00:03:36,150  
And I was told--

71

00:03:36,150 --> 00:03:41,610  
I was stationed to see how much  
the houses across the street

72  
00:03:41,610 --> 00:03:43,170  
from the windows there--

73  
00:03:43,170 --> 00:03:47,280  
how much they can see that  
my father and brother are

74  
00:03:47,280 --> 00:03:50,610  
going back and forth,  
carrying a basket--

75  
00:03:50,610 --> 00:03:51,810  
you know, a big basket.

76  
00:03:51,810 --> 00:03:54,480  
So the neighbors would--

77  
00:03:54,480 --> 00:03:56,370  
can they see that  
there's something

78  
00:03:56,370 --> 00:03:58,470  
to dig up once you're gone?

79  
00:03:58,470 --> 00:03:59,220  
Yes.

80  
00:03:59,220 --> 00:04:02,760  
Well, to even see that  
something is going on.

81  
00:04:02,760 --> 00:04:04,230  
That was suspicious.

82  
00:04:04,230 --> 00:04:06,120  
Because this was already  
when we were given

83

00:04:06,120 --> 00:04:08,370  
notice that we're  
leaving tomorrow.

84  
00:04:08,370 --> 00:04:12,150  
So across the street,  
actually, was a Jewish couple--

85  
00:04:12,150 --> 00:04:13,060  
very poor.

86  
00:04:13,060 --> 00:04:16,260  
They had a tiny, little  
mom-and-pop store.

87  
00:04:16,260 --> 00:04:20,490  
And and it was sort of a  
little higher than our street--

88  
00:04:20,490 --> 00:04:21,899  
our yard.

89  
00:04:21,899 --> 00:04:24,000  
I went over to the store.

90  
00:04:24,000 --> 00:04:26,850  
They sent me-- go  
over there and see--

91  
00:04:26,850 --> 00:04:29,850  
stay a few minutes, and  
see what you can see.

92  
00:04:29,850 --> 00:04:33,720  
That might not bring on  
suspicion [INAUDIBLE]

93  
00:04:33,720 --> 00:04:36,030  
people who might  
enter the store.

94  
00:04:36,030 --> 00:04:38,970  
So I went there and hung



around a little bit.

95

00:04:38,970 --> 00:04:42,930

And I did see them go  
back and forth, but--

96

00:04:42,930 --> 00:04:44,430

and I told them that.

97

00:04:44,430 --> 00:04:48,810

But they also covered  
each basket with wood.

98

00:04:48,810 --> 00:04:52,320

They took back wood, and so it  
didn't seem suspicious to me.

99

00:04:52,320 --> 00:04:56,940

It was activity, but the  
wood-- and so on, and--

100

00:04:56,940 --> 00:04:57,480

OK.

101

00:04:57,480 --> 00:04:59,460

So, at the end,  
they filled it up

102

00:04:59,460 --> 00:05:02,910

with this closet full  
of beautiful linens

103

00:05:02,910 --> 00:05:05,700

and whatever else--  
you know, household

104

00:05:05,700 --> 00:05:07,230

stuff that they valued.

105

00:05:07,230 --> 00:05:11,240

And then they had, like,  
a big door sitting there.

106

00:05:11,240 --> 00:05:13,590

They put the door  
on it-- covered it.

107

00:05:13,590 --> 00:05:17,160

Then they repiled the wood,  
filled with wood again

108

00:05:17,160 --> 00:05:21,630

and totally  
camouflaged and-- fine.

109

00:05:21,630 --> 00:05:24,030

They expected to come  
back, obviously, you know?

110

00:05:24,030 --> 00:05:24,755

Of course, yeah.

111

00:05:24,755 --> 00:05:27,150

But [? that's it ?]  
we were going,

112

00:05:27,150 --> 00:05:30,410

but don't know how  
long we will be gone,

113

00:05:30,410 --> 00:05:32,370

and don't know  
where we're going,

114

00:05:32,370 --> 00:05:35,310

but this has to be preserved  
when we come home--

115

00:05:35,310 --> 00:05:36,930

come back.

116

00:05:36,930 --> 00:05:39,330

So I will tell you the  
end of this story, when

117

00:05:39,330 --> 00:05:40,320

I did come back--

118

00:05:40,320 --> 00:05:42,870

I was coming back  
after the war, soon

119

00:05:42,870 --> 00:05:45,662

after, to see what was there.

120

00:05:45,662 --> 00:05:46,620

Talked to the neighbor.

121

00:05:46,620 --> 00:05:48,720

And I said, what happened there?

122

00:05:48,720 --> 00:05:50,100

Because everything was gone.

123

00:05:50,100 --> 00:05:51,340

There was a hole.

124

00:05:51,340 --> 00:05:52,200

The wood was gone.

125

00:05:52,200 --> 00:05:55,050

Everything in the  
place was empty.

126

00:05:55,050 --> 00:06:00,390

She said that some soldiers were  
billeted in our house and put

127

00:06:00,390 --> 00:06:01,890

horses in there--

128

00:06:01,890 --> 00:06:04,260

into that place--  
and that somehow

129

00:06:04,260 --> 00:06:09,180

the horses disturbed or

got stuck or something.

130  
00:06:09,180 --> 00:06:13,420  
And they had evidence that  
there's something underneath.

131  
00:06:13,420 --> 00:06:16,530  
And they opened it, and  
they took everything.

132  
00:06:16,530 --> 00:06:18,160  
Who took it doesn't matter--

133  
00:06:18,160 --> 00:06:22,440  
the soldiers-- it was  
gone, absolutely empty.

134  
00:06:22,440 --> 00:06:24,490  
That was the end of that.

135  
00:06:24,490 --> 00:06:25,840  
But I didn't care.

136  
00:06:25,840 --> 00:06:27,510  
I didn't come to take anything.

137  
00:06:27,510 --> 00:06:31,860  
And there was no one  
left to worry about that.

138  
00:06:31,860 --> 00:06:37,530  
In addition, to just  
finish this little episode,

139  
00:06:37,530 --> 00:06:41,010  
I also remember that my mother--

140  
00:06:41,010 --> 00:06:44,790  
we had a lot of bedding,  
you know, down bedding.

141  
00:06:44,790 --> 00:06:46,170

That was the way.

142  
00:06:46,170 --> 00:06:48,180  
And it was precious to them.

143  
00:06:48,180 --> 00:06:50,550  
And also, you know,  
if you come back--

144  
00:06:50,550 --> 00:06:57,990  
So, my mother bundled up some  
of those big covers and pillows

145  
00:06:57,990 --> 00:07:01,410  
or whatever, tied it  
up, and handed it over

146  
00:07:01,410 --> 00:07:06,270  
to the neighbor over the  
opening in the fence.

147  
00:07:06,270 --> 00:07:09,150  
And that was that.

148  
00:07:09,150 --> 00:07:11,100  
And they finished packing.

149  
00:07:11,100 --> 00:07:16,110  
Basically, they would put things  
in it and fill up the suitcase

150  
00:07:16,110 --> 00:07:17,460  
or whatever-- bag--

151  
00:07:17,460 --> 00:07:21,030  
and then-- wasn't good,  
they would take it out

152  
00:07:21,030 --> 00:07:25,110  
and decide that wasn't important  
and put something else in it.

153

00:07:25,110 --> 00:07:27,270

They had an awful  
lot of trouble,

154

00:07:27,270 --> 00:07:30,420

because it filled up  
fast and they needed room

155

00:07:30,420 --> 00:07:32,970

for the food and--

156

00:07:32,970 --> 00:07:36,750

anyway, it was very painful  
to see-- what to take,

157

00:07:36,750 --> 00:07:37,725

what to leave.

158

00:07:37,725 --> 00:07:39,210

Yeah.

159

00:07:39,210 --> 00:07:40,890

Did you pack your own suitcase?

160

00:07:40,890 --> 00:07:43,230

Or did your parents  
pack everybody's?

161

00:07:43,230 --> 00:07:46,500

No, I didn't have possessions  
[INAUDIBLE] [LAUGH]..

162

00:07:46,500 --> 00:07:51,210

You know, we had a few  
homemade toys that people made.

163

00:07:51,210 --> 00:07:56,670

And my older brother, he  
would make, you know--

164

00:07:56,670 --> 00:07:59,250

they made dolls,  
you know, rag dolls.

165  
00:07:59,250 --> 00:08:01,290  
And my brother would  
make little things

166  
00:08:01,290 --> 00:08:05,460  
like a cradle for the  
doll and little chairs

167  
00:08:05,460 --> 00:08:08,250  
and tables-- oh, at least I  
thought this was just fabulous.

168  
00:08:08,250 --> 00:08:09,390  
We played with it.

169  
00:08:09,390 --> 00:08:10,590  
I mean, we had those things.

170  
00:08:10,590 --> 00:08:11,220  
But that--

171  
00:08:11,220 --> 00:08:16,660  
You know, we were old enough to  
know that this is not the time

172  
00:08:16,660 --> 00:08:19,020  
[LAUGH] to worry about--

173  
00:08:19,020 --> 00:08:25,510  
you know, children get  
the meaning of trouble.

174  
00:08:25,510 --> 00:08:26,590  
No, no.

175  
00:08:26,590 --> 00:08:30,540  
I had nothing I wanted to  
take, and neither did my older

176  
00:08:30,540 --> 00:08:32,200  
brother and sister [INAUDIBLE].

177  
00:08:32,200 --> 00:08:32,700  
OK.

178  
00:08:32,700 --> 00:08:34,559  
So, they were just my parents.

179  
00:08:34,559 --> 00:08:36,990  
And, after a while,  
I can't tell you

180  
00:08:36,990 --> 00:08:38,370  
what they thought was important.

181  
00:08:38,370 --> 00:08:40,980  
All I know is that the  
suitcases filled up

182  
00:08:40,980 --> 00:08:43,380  
and they had to start all over.

183  
00:08:43,380 --> 00:08:46,920  
And I was downstairs, watching  
my father doing this business,

184  
00:08:46,920 --> 00:08:49,900  
taking out the [? stone. ?]  
So I was aware of that.

185  
00:08:49,900 --> 00:08:54,930  
So, the next morning, a  
delegation came to our house

186  
00:08:54,930 --> 00:08:57,205  
in preparation of us leaving--

187  
00:08:57,205 --> 00:08:59,220  
had to leave 9 o'clock.

188  
00:08:59,220 --> 00:09:05,220  
And that was a policeman and  
the mayor and some elder.



189

00:09:05,220 --> 00:09:09,660

And they also had the school principal of the school,

190

00:09:09,660 --> 00:09:13,980

because he was [INAUDIBLE]

Hungarian school principal,

191

00:09:13,980 --> 00:09:16,620

so he was-- he was--

192

00:09:16,620 --> 00:09:20,670

did not turn out to be as antisemite, as I know it later.

193

00:09:20,670 --> 00:09:25,350

But he was an elder, important man, you know, in the town.

194

00:09:25,350 --> 00:09:32,520

So they came into the house and took my father aside.

195

00:09:32,520 --> 00:09:38,330

And what he told us, later, was that one of them in charge said

196

00:09:38,330 --> 00:09:44,240

that they came to tell him that he should give them all his

197

00:09:44,240 --> 00:09:47,000

valuables-- money, jewelry--

198

00:09:47,000 --> 00:09:50,070

anything valuable, they must have it.

199

00:09:50,070 --> 00:09:52,020

Why?

200

00:09:52,020 --> 00:09:54,120

Well, they did  
that with all Jews.

201

00:09:54,120 --> 00:09:56,070

They confiscated everything.

202

00:09:56,070 --> 00:09:58,920

And valuables were money.

203

00:09:58,920 --> 00:10:03,150

Oh, yeah, I mean, they kept that  
up all the way to Auschwitz.

204

00:10:03,150 --> 00:10:05,370

Because they we're  
not coming back.

205

00:10:05,370 --> 00:10:11,580

[LAUGH] And they were  
confiscating the house--

206

00:10:11,580 --> 00:10:14,520

everything in it.

207

00:10:14,520 --> 00:10:15,890

The cows, the-- everything.

208

00:10:15,890 --> 00:10:17,910

[LAUGH] They wanted the money.

209

00:10:17,910 --> 00:10:22,410

And, in the beginning,  
these officials

210

00:10:22,410 --> 00:10:24,390

either divided among them--

211

00:10:24,390 --> 00:10:26,820

I found some  
evidence, later, that,

212

00:10:26,820 --> 00:10:32,350  
when it became such a mass  
amount of people being taken

213  
00:10:32,350 --> 00:10:35,230  
out of their home-- that was  
especially in the cities,

214  
00:10:35,230 --> 00:10:38,950  
where there were  
businesspeople and people--

215  
00:10:38,950 --> 00:10:42,230  
more wealthy Jews--  
there was so much--

216  
00:10:42,230 --> 00:10:43,990  
and artwork and whatnot--

217  
00:10:43,990 --> 00:10:50,170  
that it was being stolen  
and pilfered and taken

218  
00:10:50,170 --> 00:10:52,630  
by the officials who knew  
the orders ahead of time

219  
00:10:52,630 --> 00:10:54,130  
and they were ready for them.

220  
00:10:54,130 --> 00:10:59,450  
But the government stepped in  
and began to have an inventory.

221  
00:10:59,450 --> 00:11:01,540  
In fact, we found--

222  
00:11:01,540 --> 00:11:03,730  
my daughters found some records.

223  
00:11:03,730 --> 00:11:07,060  
There was an inventory of what  
was taken from various places.

224  
00:11:07,060 --> 00:11:10,720  
It was still confiscated,  
and it was divided

225  
00:11:10,720 --> 00:11:13,340  
among another level of people--

226  
00:11:13,340 --> 00:11:15,370  
not just the ones who  
came to the house--

227  
00:11:15,370 --> 00:11:19,780  
but, oh, they were desperate  
to get all the money

228  
00:11:19,780 --> 00:11:20,860  
and valuables.

229  
00:11:20,860 --> 00:11:22,440  
It was the first thing.

230  
00:11:22,440 --> 00:11:25,090  
And I know that my  
father gave them some.

231  
00:11:25,090 --> 00:11:25,600  
He did.

232  
00:11:25,600 --> 00:11:27,910  
I don't know what-- they  
were in a separate room.

233  
00:11:27,910 --> 00:11:30,578  
But when he came back, he  
said that they wouldn't leave

234  
00:11:30,578 --> 00:11:31,870  
until he gave them [INAUDIBLE].

235  
00:11:31,870 --> 00:11:33,695  
You were a businessman;

you must have.

236  
00:11:33,695 --> 00:11:34,195  
You know.

237  
00:11:34,195 --> 00:11:38,170  
So he must have given them  
some money [INAUDIBLE]..

238  
00:11:38,170 --> 00:11:42,490  
So, when they were  
gone, we were ready.

239  
00:11:42,490 --> 00:11:43,990  
It was time to leave.

240  
00:11:43,990 --> 00:11:47,280  
And-- got our stuff.

241  
00:11:47,280 --> 00:11:49,530  
And we had a dog.

242  
00:11:49,530 --> 00:11:52,140  
And our yard was fenced in.

243  
00:11:52,140 --> 00:11:55,680  
And so, when we left--  
went out, closed the door,

244  
00:11:55,680 --> 00:11:57,510  
so the dog won't follow.

245  
00:11:57,510 --> 00:12:01,920  
And we walked a short distance  
to this townhouse area,

246  
00:12:01,920 --> 00:12:03,960  
where there were  
big, empty rooms.

247  
00:12:03,960 --> 00:12:06,570  
It was, you know, conference

rooms or whatever.

248  
00:12:06,570 --> 00:12:08,670  
It was the town hall.

249  
00:12:08,670 --> 00:12:09,760  
Each family.

250  
00:12:09,760 --> 00:12:13,515  
And, as we came and  
found a corner--

251  
00:12:13,515 --> 00:12:15,670  
you know, spread some  
kind of a blanket

252  
00:12:15,670 --> 00:12:18,950  
and put all your stuff on  
it, and that was our place,

253  
00:12:18,950 --> 00:12:22,920  
and the other 10 Jewish  
families were right behind us.

254  
00:12:22,920 --> 00:12:26,460  
And they, too-- everybody  
got a corner on the floor

255  
00:12:26,460 --> 00:12:27,370  
and sat down.

256  
00:12:27,370 --> 00:12:29,370  
You know, there was the  
[? Moscovitz ?] family--

257  
00:12:29,370 --> 00:12:30,720  
had 10 children.

258  
00:12:30,720 --> 00:12:35,230  
And on and on.

259  
00:12:35,230 --> 00:12:38,140

If I count back, now,  
there were a total--

260  
00:12:38,140 --> 00:12:39,870  
with all the  
children, there were

261  
00:12:39,870 --> 00:12:44,610  
a total of 100 members  
and 10 families,

262  
00:12:44,610 --> 00:12:48,720  
you know, [INAUDIBLE] this  
family took up 10 children,

263  
00:12:48,720 --> 00:12:52,350  
my family had 6  
children, and so on.

264  
00:12:52,350 --> 00:12:57,650  
And we were left there to  
sit and wonder, what's next?

265  
00:12:57,650 --> 00:12:58,950  
Nobody told us anything.

266  
00:12:58,950 --> 00:13:02,383  
No what's the next step, where  
you're going, if you're going--

267  
00:13:02,383 --> 00:13:05,600  
How long did you stay there?

268  
00:13:05,600 --> 00:13:08,870  
I think we were there  
overnight, because I remember

269  
00:13:08,870 --> 00:13:13,910  
my mother going to the fence  
that this place had, and one

270  
00:13:13,910 --> 00:13:17,870  
of our Gentile

neighbors, a woman who

271

00:13:17,870 --> 00:13:25,610  
used to come to milk our  
cows and so on, she appeared.

272

00:13:25,610 --> 00:13:28,010  
And I was out there, too.

273

00:13:28,010 --> 00:13:30,680  
And my mother was talking  
to her through the fence.

274

00:13:30,680 --> 00:13:35,790  
And she had brought some  
butter to my mother.

275

00:13:35,790 --> 00:13:37,820  
I remember that vividly.

276

00:13:37,820 --> 00:13:40,680  
How she knew to come,  
or how she brought the--

277

00:13:40,680 --> 00:13:41,180  
why?

278

00:13:41,180 --> 00:13:44,360  
You know, she milked the  
cows for us and all that.

279

00:13:44,360 --> 00:13:45,650  
It was just--

280

00:13:45,650 --> 00:13:47,790  
I know my mother didn't  
communicate with her.

281

00:13:47,790 --> 00:13:50,180  
We had no telephone or anything.

282

00:13:50,180 --> 00:13:51,990



This woman knew us.

283

00:13:51,990 --> 00:13:54,590

She also used to  
come on the Sabbath

284

00:13:54,590 --> 00:13:59,390

to run the fire in the fireplace  
and [INAUDIBLE] the stove

285

00:13:59,390 --> 00:13:59,990

and so on.

286

00:13:59,990 --> 00:14:02,795

She was helping us  
to do the Sabbath

287

00:14:02,795 --> 00:14:04,700

that my mother wouldn't do.

288

00:14:04,700 --> 00:14:06,680

But she brought butter.

289

00:14:06,680 --> 00:14:08,990

And my mother had baked bread.

290

00:14:08,990 --> 00:14:13,670

So there was that communication.

291

00:14:13,670 --> 00:14:18,230

But nobody else that I am  
aware of came to the fence

292

00:14:18,230 --> 00:14:20,360

or talked to anybody else.

293

00:14:20,360 --> 00:14:22,790

And the officials  
didn't tell us anything.

294

00:14:22,790 --> 00:14:27,410

I think it was

the next day where

295

00:14:27,410 --> 00:14:30,320

horse and wagons appeared--

296

00:14:30,320 --> 00:14:33,650

three or four-- I don't know how many-- lined up in front of--

297

00:14:33,650 --> 00:14:35,300

on the street, there.

298

00:14:35,300 --> 00:14:38,360

And they said to us to get in.

299

00:14:38,360 --> 00:14:40,090

And we got our--

300

00:14:40,090 --> 00:14:44,060

everybody hurried up to get their belongings.

301

00:14:44,060 --> 00:14:45,980

And we piled in.

302

00:14:45,980 --> 00:14:50,490

And I don't know, at that time, whether anybody told us that

303

00:14:50,490 --> 00:14:53,000

we're going to Munkács or not.

304

00:14:53,000 --> 00:14:53,720

I don't know.

305

00:14:53,720 --> 00:14:55,340

But we were going to Munkács.

306

00:14:55,340 --> 00:14:57,760

And that was a half-a-day ride, you know?

307

00:14:57,760 --> 00:15:00,170

It was 30 minutes by train.

308

00:15:00,170 --> 00:15:05,990

And chugging along with the horse and wagons and ended up

309

00:15:05,990 --> 00:15:11,570

in Munkács, at the edge of the town, a wide open place.

310

00:15:11,570 --> 00:15:16,200

And on it there was an abandoned brick factory,

311

00:15:16,200 --> 00:15:17,480

which is now well-known--

312

00:15:17,480 --> 00:15:17,980

Yes.

313

00:15:17,980 --> 00:15:21,090

[INAUDIBLE] to find these brick factories,

314

00:15:21,090 --> 00:15:24,270

suitable for masses of people.

315

00:15:24,270 --> 00:15:27,330

And they dropped us off on the grounds.

316

00:15:27,330 --> 00:15:30,120

Were there people already there?

317

00:15:30,120 --> 00:15:31,710

Oh, we found out.

318

00:15:31,710 --> 00:15:32,470

We found out.

319

00:15:32,470 --> 00:15:33,820  
It was filled.

320  
00:15:33,820 --> 00:15:35,100  
It was filled.

321  
00:15:35,100 --> 00:15:37,050  
But as they dropped  
us off, we were

322  
00:15:37,050 --> 00:15:39,240  
sort of a distance  
from the building.

323  
00:15:39,240 --> 00:15:45,210  
There were buildings,  
like lofts, that

324  
00:15:45,210 --> 00:15:47,720  
was used for the brick factory.

325  
00:15:47,720 --> 00:15:51,030  
There were, like,  
barracks, like--

326  
00:15:51,030 --> 00:15:52,740  
not brick buildings,  
[LAUGH] actually,

327  
00:15:52,740 --> 00:15:54,900  
as I remember, but  
they were lofts

328  
00:15:54,900 --> 00:15:59,220  
where you had to climb up  
on a ladder against a wall

329  
00:15:59,220 --> 00:16:03,450  
and enter the  
upstairs of this loft.

330  
00:16:03,450 --> 00:16:05,850  
There were several of

those in the property.

331

00:16:05,850 --> 00:16:11,500

At first, we just sat  
there on the ground.

332

00:16:11,500 --> 00:16:15,820

And-- must have been  
late, because we ended up

333

00:16:15,820 --> 00:16:18,790

sleeping, the first  
night, outside, just there

334

00:16:18,790 --> 00:16:22,450

on the grounds and  
with our belongings.

335

00:16:22,450 --> 00:16:26,230

And the next day, my  
parents went in deeper

336

00:16:26,230 --> 00:16:27,970

to see what's there.

337

00:16:27,970 --> 00:16:30,250

We stayed-- the kids.

338

00:16:30,250 --> 00:16:35,450

And, of course, we watched, as  
people kept coming and coming

339

00:16:35,450 --> 00:16:41,010

from probably hundreds of  
little towns in that area.

340

00:16:41,010 --> 00:16:43,140

And I should note--

341

00:16:43,140 --> 00:16:46,530

later, from recent,  
after that, there

342

00:16:46,530 --> 00:16:51,510  
were something like 12,000  
people in that ghetto.

343

00:16:51,510 --> 00:16:53,820  
I mean, it was--

344

00:16:53,820 --> 00:16:56,850  
and there was another  
big factory in Munkács,

345

00:16:56,850 --> 00:16:58,770  
from what I understand now.

346

00:16:58,770 --> 00:17:05,280  
And then there was a ghetto for  
the Munkács Jewish residents,

347

00:17:05,280 --> 00:17:11,190  
where they blocked off a  
street or several streets,

348

00:17:11,190 --> 00:17:14,880  
where the local Jewish  
population was ghetto--

349

00:17:14,880 --> 00:17:17,849  
[INAUDIBLE] enclosed  
ghetto, there.

350

00:17:17,849 --> 00:17:21,089  
And the other two ghettos  
were filled with the people

351

00:17:21,089 --> 00:17:22,410  
from the regions.

352

00:17:22,410 --> 00:17:24,900  
Did you see any officials?

353

00:17:24,900 --> 00:17:27,060  
No, we didn't see any.

354  
00:17:27,060 --> 00:17:31,230  
There were Jewish  
appointed overseers,

355  
00:17:31,230 --> 00:17:36,090  
so to speak, you  
know, young men who

356  
00:17:36,090 --> 00:17:43,600  
were in charge of the crowds, in  
charge of where you should go,

357  
00:17:43,600 --> 00:17:45,400  
telling people what to do.

358  
00:17:45,400 --> 00:17:48,040  
They were, like,  
the Jewish police--

359  
00:17:48,040 --> 00:17:54,490  
that they needed these people  
to help them out with it.

360  
00:17:54,490 --> 00:17:57,820  
It worked very well,  
because, if it's

361  
00:17:57,820 --> 00:18:04,510  
done all by [INAUDIBLE]  
police and soldiers,

362  
00:18:04,510 --> 00:18:07,390  
there's much more tension.

363  
00:18:07,390 --> 00:18:10,330  
Through your own people,  
it's a calming thing, and--

364  
00:18:10,330 --> 00:18:13,240  
you know, they did that  
in Auschwitz, too, a lot,

365

00:18:13,240 --> 00:18:14,440  
and all the camps.

366

00:18:14,440 --> 00:18:18,200  
So, they went and  
came back and said,

367

00:18:18,200 --> 00:18:21,220  
we're moving into one of the  
buildings-- picked our stuff

368

00:18:21,220 --> 00:18:22,750  
up, and we've moved on.

369

00:18:22,750 --> 00:18:24,370  
And it was, I  
remember, climbing up

370

00:18:24,370 --> 00:18:30,970  
a ladder that led to a very  
big opening in this loft.

371

00:18:30,970 --> 00:18:32,560  
It was already full of people.

372

00:18:32,560 --> 00:18:35,620  
Again, everybody picked  
a corner on the floor.

373

00:18:35,620 --> 00:18:38,350  
And, pretty soon, it  
was filled, and there

374

00:18:38,350 --> 00:18:41,950  
was a passage left in the  
middle to walk back and forth.

375

00:18:41,950 --> 00:18:45,880  
But you could only get  
to that little passage

376

00:18:45,880 --> 00:18:50,340



by stepping over to people  
and then continue in or out.

377  
00:18:50,340 --> 00:18:51,330  
So that was--

378  
00:18:51,330 --> 00:18:54,640  
Were there any toilet  
facilities or anything?

379  
00:18:54,640 --> 00:18:56,070  
Nothing.

380  
00:18:56,070 --> 00:18:57,780  
Certainly not.

381  
00:18:57,780 --> 00:19:01,980  
No water, no toilet [INAUDIBLE].

382  
00:19:01,980 --> 00:19:03,990  
That proceeded.

383  
00:19:03,990 --> 00:19:05,800  
There were a lot  
of young people--

384  
00:19:05,800 --> 00:19:09,090  
teenagers and young men--

385  
00:19:09,090 --> 00:19:12,190  
not old enough for  
the labor brigade--

386  
00:19:12,190 --> 00:19:14,740  
young women--  
teenagers, basically--

387  
00:19:14,740 --> 00:19:21,340  
who-- I don't know whether these  
Jewish police helpers told them

388  
00:19:21,340 --> 00:19:23,980

what to do, but in  
no time they were

389  
00:19:23,980 --> 00:19:27,730  
digging a ditch that was  
going to be the toilet.

390  
00:19:27,730 --> 00:19:30,250  
And the ditch was--

391  
00:19:30,250 --> 00:19:32,860  
if you got up in the  
loft and looked down,

392  
00:19:32,860 --> 00:19:35,530  
you looked right into  
the ditch and everything

393  
00:19:35,530 --> 00:19:38,510  
that happened thereafter.

394  
00:19:38,510 --> 00:19:40,720  
So, there was this big ditch.

395  
00:19:40,720 --> 00:19:48,220  
And on all the four edges  
around, there was, like, logs--

396  
00:19:48,220 --> 00:19:54,560  
sit on-- you know, not like a  
board where you could sit out--

397  
00:19:54,560 --> 00:19:55,060  
logs.

398  
00:19:55,060 --> 00:19:55,813  
But just a log.

399  
00:19:55,813 --> 00:19:56,500  
Mhm?

400  
00:19:56,500 --> 00:19:57,190

Oh.

401

00:19:57,190 --> 00:19:59,860

Just unimaginable.

402

00:19:59,860 --> 00:20:03,830

And that became the toilet.

403

00:20:03,830 --> 00:20:08,530

And, as I say, of course

there was no water.

404

00:20:08,530 --> 00:20:12,580

And there was no

facilities or soap,

405

00:20:12,580 --> 00:20:14,410

toilet paper-- never mind.

406

00:20:14,410 --> 00:20:17,830

And you had here a

civilian population

407

00:20:17,830 --> 00:20:20,680

of very old, very

sick, very young--

408

00:20:20,680 --> 00:20:25,090

infants, pregnant women--

everybody, mixed together--

409

00:20:25,090 --> 00:20:26,800

men, women--

410

00:20:26,800 --> 00:20:31,500

This is how, from out of

your own home and privacy,

411

00:20:31,500 --> 00:20:33,520

in a matter of--

412

00:20:33,520 --> 00:20:37,720

as I said, three weeks after  
the Germans occupied Hungary,

413  
00:20:37,720 --> 00:20:41,740  
that we were subjected to--

414  
00:20:41,740 --> 00:20:45,370  
And nobody tells you-- there  
is no one telling you why

415  
00:20:45,370 --> 00:20:47,260  
you're there, how  
long you'll be there--

416  
00:20:47,260 --> 00:20:49,930  
No, no, no, absolutely not.

417  
00:20:49,930 --> 00:20:51,460  
Absolutely not.

418  
00:20:51,460 --> 00:20:55,840  
And there was-- a kind  
of life began, there,

419  
00:20:55,840 --> 00:20:59,800  
with the help of  
these Jewish guys.

420  
00:20:59,800 --> 00:21:03,010  
They were organizing  
various groups

421  
00:21:03,010 --> 00:21:07,240  
to do certain chores  
that nobody else did,

422  
00:21:07,240 --> 00:21:10,900  
you know, to keep the  
thing functioning.

423  
00:21:10,900 --> 00:21:15,550  
Pretty soon, they arranged  
to take out the dead

424  
00:21:15,550 --> 00:21:22,090  
into the Jewish community that  
was a city ghetto in Munkács--

425  
00:21:22,090 --> 00:21:24,070  
Did you see this?

426  
00:21:24,070 --> 00:21:29,770  
I did, because, unfortunately,  
my precious aunt

427  
00:21:29,770 --> 00:21:31,030  
was killed there.

428  
00:21:31,030 --> 00:21:33,280  
We thought she died  
there, but we now

429  
00:21:33,280 --> 00:21:38,800  
had evidence that they killed  
her because she came in sick.

430  
00:21:38,800 --> 00:21:47,350  
And we saw her carried out,  
by the Jewish group that

431  
00:21:47,350 --> 00:21:48,620  
was assigned to do that.

432  
00:21:48,620 --> 00:21:49,620  
And--

433  
00:21:49,620 --> 00:21:50,120  
So she--

434  
00:21:50,120 --> 00:21:51,500  
It was a very--

435  
00:21:51,500 --> 00:21:56,090  
that's a very sad story  
that happened, pretty soon.

436  
00:21:56,090 --> 00:21:57,770  
That happened after,  
before they were

437  
00:21:57,770 --> 00:21:59,810  
ready to take us to Auschwitz.

438  
00:21:59,810 --> 00:22:03,960  
And we thought that she  
died of natural causes.

439  
00:22:03,960 --> 00:22:06,950  
But, when we got to  
Auschwitz and we realized

440  
00:22:06,950 --> 00:22:09,740  
the killing was in  
full force, they

441  
00:22:09,740 --> 00:22:14,090  
were not about to send  
sick people in the train.

442  
00:22:14,090 --> 00:22:16,780  
They already knew what  
to do with sick people,

443  
00:22:16,780 --> 00:22:17,960  
right in the ghetto.

444  
00:22:17,960 --> 00:22:22,250  
So, when you had left  
your home, your aunt

445  
00:22:22,250 --> 00:22:25,115  
was with you, in the town hall.

446  
00:22:25,115 --> 00:22:26,240  
And she was with you when--

447  
00:22:26,240 --> 00:22:27,560

Oh, yeah, she was--

448

00:22:27,560 --> 00:22:28,680  
she was with us.

449

00:22:28,680 --> 00:22:30,470  
She was with us, on the floor.

450

00:22:30,470 --> 00:22:31,610  
And what happened--

451

00:22:31,610 --> 00:22:34,220  
She was about 55 years old.

452

00:22:34,220 --> 00:22:37,640  
And, for a long  
time, she had-- what

453

00:22:37,640 --> 00:22:42,340  
my aunt Rose and older people  
told us, after the war,

454

00:22:42,340 --> 00:22:44,350  
that she probably had cancer.

455

00:22:44,350 --> 00:22:46,330  
But nobody talked about cancer.

456

00:22:46,330 --> 00:22:50,440  
And [INAUDIBLE] back and  
forth to the hospital,

457

00:22:50,440 --> 00:22:54,000  
not in Munkács but in the  
other big city, Beregszász,

458

00:22:54,000 --> 00:22:55,690  
that had a hospital.

459

00:22:55,690 --> 00:22:58,540  
And I know that, periodically,  
she went for some treatment

460  
00:22:58,540 --> 00:22:59,690  
there.

461  
00:22:59,690 --> 00:23:01,240  
And she was sick.

462  
00:23:01,240 --> 00:23:06,880  
And lying on the floor, there,  
made her very, very unhappy

463  
00:23:06,880 --> 00:23:07,990  
and uncomfortable.

464  
00:23:07,990 --> 00:23:11,030  
And they had a little infirmary.

465  
00:23:11,030 --> 00:23:16,180  
The Jews were-- well, we  
thought that an infirmary

466  
00:23:16,180 --> 00:23:20,050  
meant there is a doctor and  
that it's like a hospital.

467  
00:23:20,050 --> 00:23:24,220  
But the Germans did  
that in every camp

468  
00:23:24,220 --> 00:23:27,770  
that I was in, starting  
with the ghetto.

469  
00:23:27,770 --> 00:23:29,950  
And we discovered that--

470  
00:23:29,950 --> 00:23:30,940  
Excuse me.

471  
00:23:30,940 --> 00:23:32,920  
Is something moving?



472

00:23:32,920 --> 00:23:36,162

Because I'm hearing a  
sort of swishing sound.

473

00:23:36,162 --> 00:23:38,750

OK, I must move it away again.

474

00:23:38,750 --> 00:23:42,990

So, she could not  
function on the floor.

475

00:23:42,990 --> 00:23:45,850

476

00:23:45,850 --> 00:23:49,390

My father put her into  
this little infirmary,

477

00:23:49,390 --> 00:23:50,560

where there was a bed--

478

00:23:50,560 --> 00:23:52,150

maybe for two people--

479

00:23:52,150 --> 00:23:53,590

something like that.

480

00:23:53,590 --> 00:23:58,460

And my sister Serena  
and I would regularly

481

00:23:58,460 --> 00:24:01,340

go see her-- you know,  
go in [INAUDIBLE] we

482

00:24:01,340 --> 00:24:03,380

were not kept out.

483

00:24:03,380 --> 00:24:06,020

And we would talk to her,  
and she said she better

484

00:24:06,020 --> 00:24:07,460  
sleeping in a bed.

485

00:24:07,460 --> 00:24:14,700  
And my parents thought that  
that was a good decision.

486

00:24:14,700 --> 00:24:19,800  
And then, one day, my sister  
went there and I went there.

487

00:24:19,800 --> 00:24:22,440  
And she was in bed,  
but she was dead.

488

00:24:22,440 --> 00:24:25,830  
And, you know, the day  
before, she wasn't dead.

489

00:24:25,830 --> 00:24:28,770  
And, of course, we still  
thought she died, because she--

490

00:24:28,770 --> 00:24:30,820  
Yeah, naturally.

491

00:24:30,820 --> 00:24:34,650  
How would ever, who could  
ever think of anything else?

492

00:24:34,650 --> 00:24:36,820  
But we put two and two together.

493

00:24:36,820 --> 00:24:40,620  
And then, when we were in the  
train on the way to Auschwitz,

494

00:24:40,620 --> 00:24:47,720  
and understanding that our  
fate is in great jeopardy

495

00:24:47,720 --> 00:24:50,570

and that we're  
suffering in the way

496  
00:24:50,570 --> 00:24:55,050  
they transported us and took  
everything away from us,

497  
00:24:55,050 --> 00:24:58,100  
and I realized that we  
were in deep trouble.

498  
00:24:58,100 --> 00:25:01,770  
I remember my parents  
and others saying

499  
00:25:01,770 --> 00:25:04,950  
that [? Laney ?]  
[INAUDIBLE] called her--

500  
00:25:04,950 --> 00:25:09,540  
that [? Laney ?] it was a  
saint, to die before she had

501  
00:25:09,540 --> 00:25:14,580  
this experience, that  
God did her a favor,

502  
00:25:14,580 --> 00:25:19,740  
better than for us, that she  
had a chance to die and not

503  
00:25:19,740 --> 00:25:22,170  
suffer what we were suffering.

504  
00:25:22,170 --> 00:25:24,120  
So they too thought she died.

505  
00:25:24,120 --> 00:25:27,500  
So how did you  
find out otherwise?

506  
00:25:27,500 --> 00:25:29,440  
When we got to Auschwitz.

507  
00:25:29,440 --> 00:25:31,540  
And even then, when  
we got to Auschwitz,

508  
00:25:31,540 --> 00:25:34,210  
we didn't know where we were.

509  
00:25:34,210 --> 00:25:36,640  
We found out from  
the prisoners who

510  
00:25:36,640 --> 00:25:40,160  
had come before us,  
when we asked them,

511  
00:25:40,160 --> 00:25:42,550  
when is the reunion  
with our families--

512  
00:25:42,550 --> 00:25:46,610  
because we were separated from  
our families, upon arrival.

513  
00:25:46,610 --> 00:25:48,940  
So we said, so,  
when is the reunion?

514  
00:25:48,940 --> 00:25:52,570  
And they pointed to the  
chimneys and told us

515  
00:25:52,570 --> 00:25:54,940  
what happened to them  
when they arrived.

516  
00:25:54,940 --> 00:25:58,360  
And we thought, well,  
you people are crazy.

517  
00:25:58,360 --> 00:26:01,060  
You people-- what have  
they done to you, here,

518  
00:26:01,060 --> 00:26:02,910  
that you speak like that?

519  
00:26:02,910 --> 00:26:03,790  
Mmm.

520  
00:26:03,790 --> 00:26:07,840  
Dismiss that-- everybody  
dismissed that.

521  
00:26:07,840 --> 00:26:10,570  
But this is a second issue.

522  
00:26:10,570 --> 00:26:13,660  
This is a second  
issue about Auschwitz.

523  
00:26:13,660 --> 00:26:18,280  
What I'm interested in, is did  
you ever get factual proof that

524  
00:26:18,280 --> 00:26:22,600  
[? Laney ?] was killed in  
Munkács at the brick factory?

525  
00:26:22,600 --> 00:26:25,980  
Well, nobody told us that.

526  
00:26:25,980 --> 00:26:30,470  
But we came back from  
Auschwitz, and we

527  
00:26:30,470 --> 00:26:35,510  
realized that,  
while in the ghetto,

528  
00:26:35,510 --> 00:26:38,330  
we were marginalized  
in every way

529  
00:26:38,330 --> 00:26:43,040

and disrespected and humiliated  
and not cared for and not fed

530  
00:26:43,040 --> 00:26:48,380  
and not provided  
for, and that this--

531  
00:26:48,380 --> 00:26:53,000  
they had maybe two people  
in that infirmary, that--

532  
00:26:53,000 --> 00:26:58,600  
they were-- those in charge  
knew where they're sending us.

533  
00:26:58,600 --> 00:27:00,280  
And here was a sick person.

534  
00:27:00,280 --> 00:27:03,340  
Were going to put her on a  
stretcher into the thing?

535  
00:27:03,340 --> 00:27:07,660  
We just put 2 and 2  
together, realizing that we

536  
00:27:07,660 --> 00:27:10,310  
were in a death factory.

537  
00:27:10,310 --> 00:27:14,470  
We were not there for  
work, temporary work.

538  
00:27:14,470 --> 00:27:19,250  
We were there in a genocidal  
place, and it started there.

539  
00:27:19,250 --> 00:27:19,750  
OK.

540  
00:27:19,750 --> 00:27:20,690  
Now, I don't have--

541

00:27:20,690 --> 00:27:24,010

[INAUDIBLE] from  
your telling me,

542

00:27:24,010 --> 00:27:30,190

I could see how this whole  
disruption and tearing away

543

00:27:30,190 --> 00:27:33,580

from one's home could  
have sped her death--

544

00:27:33,580 --> 00:27:35,590

you know, if you're a  
sick person already--

545

00:27:35,590 --> 00:27:36,370

True.

546

00:27:36,370 --> 00:27:40,690

--then, yeah, that--  
then these circumstances

547

00:27:40,690 --> 00:27:44,290

and these conditions  
are going to exacerbate

548

00:27:44,290 --> 00:27:48,880

everything that is already  
weakening your system.

549

00:27:48,880 --> 00:27:50,560

Quite possible.

550

00:27:50,560 --> 00:27:53,740

But what was even  
more unbelievable

551

00:27:53,740 --> 00:27:58,000

is that when, after  
Auschwitz, I came home,

552

00:27:58,000 --> 00:28:00,970  
the neighbors came out--  
the Gentile neighbors--

553  
00:28:00,970 --> 00:28:04,300  
to greet us coming back--  
those who came back.

554  
00:28:04,300 --> 00:28:08,770  
One of them said  
to me, we heard--

555  
00:28:08,770 --> 00:28:13,750  
they called her [? Laney ?]---  
we heard that [? Laney ?] died.

556  
00:28:13,750 --> 00:28:15,610  
And I was stunned.

557  
00:28:15,610 --> 00:28:22,060  
It seems that BÃ³trÃ¡gy was  
notified that [? Laney ?] died.

558  
00:28:22,060 --> 00:28:24,880  
And I thought, how can that be?

559  
00:28:24,880 --> 00:28:26,870  
Well, that's-- yeah.

560  
00:28:26,870 --> 00:28:28,710  
This actually happened.

561  
00:28:28,710 --> 00:28:33,950  
So, it seems that, between  
the Hungarian government

562  
00:28:33,950 --> 00:28:35,825  
and the Jewish agency--

563  
00:28:35,825 --> 00:28:39,050  
[INAUDIBLE] the Jewish young  
guys who took her to the Jewish



564

00:28:39,050 --> 00:28:40,220  
cemetery--

565

00:28:40,220 --> 00:28:43,740  
somehow, her whole  
town was notified.

566

00:28:43,740 --> 00:28:48,390  
Which maybe comes closer to  
maybe what you were saying.

567

00:28:48,390 --> 00:28:54,840  
But, after being in  
Auschwitz, and I saw the just

568

00:28:54,840 --> 00:28:59,590  
mass killing, and they brought  
them there to be killed,

569

00:28:59,590 --> 00:29:01,100  
I can also be right.

570

00:29:01,100 --> 00:29:01,600  
Yeah.

571

00:29:01,600 --> 00:29:02,980  
No, no, no.

572

00:29:02,980 --> 00:29:06,310  
Listen-- when I'm  
asking this, I am not

573

00:29:06,310 --> 00:29:08,038  
doubting what you're saying.

574

00:29:08,038 --> 00:29:08,830  
Yeah, I understand.

575

00:29:08,830 --> 00:29:11,860  
What I was wondering is just--

576

00:29:11,860 --> 00:29:14,710  
I can see how you would--

577  
00:29:14,710 --> 00:29:17,950  
I can see your logic  
to it, but there's

578  
00:29:17,950 --> 00:29:21,500  
the actual fact of a person--

579  
00:29:21,500 --> 00:29:23,570  
let's say she's  
in the infirmary,

580  
00:29:23,570 --> 00:29:26,150  
and she could be  
injected with something,

581  
00:29:26,150 --> 00:29:28,740  
which is an active step.

582  
00:29:28,740 --> 00:29:29,240  
Yeah.

583  
00:29:29,240 --> 00:29:30,530  
I think that's what they did.

584  
00:29:30,530 --> 00:29:33,140

585  
00:29:33,140 --> 00:29:35,990  
Knowing what I  
know, that killing

586  
00:29:35,990 --> 00:29:39,110  
was the aim and the plan--

587  
00:29:39,110 --> 00:29:42,860  
but in the train,  
when I heard people

588  
00:29:42,860 --> 00:29:49,460

say that it was a blessing  
that she died, I kind of--

589  
00:29:49,460 --> 00:29:54,410  
listening to it and seeing what  
my parents were-- and all of us

590  
00:29:54,410 --> 00:29:56,420  
were-- experiencing--  
it made sense,

591  
00:29:56,420 --> 00:29:59,570  
you know, that thought she died.

592  
00:29:59,570 --> 00:30:03,930  
So [INAUDIBLE] don't know  
exactly what happened,

593  
00:30:03,930 --> 00:30:06,740  
but the fact that the  
town was notified was--

594  
00:30:06,740 --> 00:30:10,370  
I am sure the town was not  
notified when my whole family

595  
00:30:10,370 --> 00:30:11,550  
was murdered, You know?

596  
00:30:11,550 --> 00:30:12,050  
Yes.

597  
00:30:12,050 --> 00:30:12,590  
Yes.

598  
00:30:12,590 --> 00:30:13,090  
Yes.

599  
00:30:13,090 --> 00:30:17,330  
But this was still in  
the Jewish community,

600

00:30:17,330 --> 00:30:22,450  
where there was a Jewish  
ghetto run by Jewish people.

601  
00:30:22,450 --> 00:30:24,080  
You know-- Judenrat--

602  
00:30:24,080 --> 00:30:27,050  
[INAUDIBLE] the  
Jews managed this.

603  
00:30:27,050 --> 00:30:30,500  
So you saw [? Laney ?]  
being taken out,

604  
00:30:30,500 --> 00:30:32,410  
together with others--

605  
00:30:32,410 --> 00:30:37,480  
Again, the Jewish group  
provided a coffin.

606  
00:30:37,480 --> 00:30:40,240  
And by the time I saw her next--

607  
00:30:40,240 --> 00:30:44,380  
I saw her dead in bed, yes,  
for [INAUDIBLE] an instant.

608  
00:30:44,380 --> 00:30:46,760  
But, by the time--

609  
00:30:46,760 --> 00:30:50,810  
then they provided-- the  
Jewish community in Munkács,

610  
00:30:50,810 --> 00:30:55,400  
it was in ghetto, but they  
had certain abilities to do--

611  
00:30:55,400 --> 00:30:57,890  
to bury their own--

612

00:30:57,890 --> 00:31:01,600  
they sent a coffin.

613

00:31:01,600 --> 00:31:06,540  
And when these young guys  
came to take the coffin away

614

00:31:06,540 --> 00:31:15,200  
on a horse and buggy, my  
father and I and Serena--

615

00:31:15,200 --> 00:31:18,990  
I don't think-- my mother was  
probably with the little kids.

616

00:31:18,990 --> 00:31:24,180  
My father came-- we all came  
there, stood by the coffin,

617

00:31:24,180 --> 00:31:27,330  
and my father said  
a certain prayer.

618

00:31:27,330 --> 00:31:34,200  
I understand it's some Jews'  
relatives do, to [? honor ?]..

619

00:31:34,200 --> 00:31:37,200  
You know, it's sort  
of a prayer and also

620

00:31:37,200 --> 00:31:39,570  
asking for  
forgiveness-- something

621

00:31:39,570 --> 00:31:41,100  
like that-- it's a  
prayer like that.

622

00:31:41,100 --> 00:31:43,210  
Is it Kaddish?

623

00:31:43,210 --> 00:31:45,630  
And maybe it was  
Kaddish, too, yes.

624  
00:31:45,630 --> 00:31:50,550  
Somebody told me that it  
includes the prayer of,

625  
00:31:50,550 --> 00:31:54,720  
in general, saying  
goodbye and hoping

626  
00:31:54,720 --> 00:31:59,580  
that they forgive for all-- if  
there were any sins, you know.

627  
00:31:59,580 --> 00:32:01,940  
I don't know, but  
somebody told me that.

628  
00:32:01,940 --> 00:32:03,960  
But my father was  
saying the prayer.

629  
00:32:03,960 --> 00:32:07,330  
And then the coffin  
was taken away.

630  
00:32:07,330 --> 00:32:12,880  
And how long did  
you stay in Munkács,

631  
00:32:12,880 --> 00:32:15,690  
in this loft-like situation?

632  
00:32:15,690 --> 00:32:17,040  
Yeah.

633  
00:32:17,040 --> 00:32:20,490  
Well, people make a  
general statement,

634  
00:32:20,490 --> 00:32:22,500

from people who there--  
they say four weeks.

635  
00:32:22,500 --> 00:32:24,630  
I think it was  
under four weeks--

636  
00:32:24,630 --> 00:32:26,970  
so, between three  
and four weeks.

637  
00:32:26,970 --> 00:32:29,400  
And that's a long time--

638  
00:32:29,400 --> 00:32:30,600  
It is.

639  
00:32:30,600 --> 00:32:35,490  
--to deprive and to live in  
a mass community of people

640  
00:32:35,490 --> 00:32:37,800  
without the needs being met.

641  
00:32:37,800 --> 00:32:41,730  
And it got worse and worse,  
because the food was short--

642  
00:32:41,730 --> 00:32:43,560  
was gone, in no time.

643  
00:32:43,560 --> 00:32:44,970  
And it--

644  
00:32:44,970 --> 00:32:53,900  
Again, the food was supplied by  
the Jewish ghetto in the city.

645  
00:32:53,900 --> 00:32:56,690  
It seems from-- this  
is all I know, later--

646

00:32:56,690 --> 00:33:01,040  
that they allowed those  
Jews in the ghetto

647  
00:33:01,040 --> 00:33:09,080  
to go out to the city market,  
after the general population

648  
00:33:09,080 --> 00:33:10,940  
took all that they took--

649  
00:33:10,940 --> 00:33:13,680  
and after it was  
closed off to them,

650  
00:33:13,680 --> 00:33:17,360  
then the ghetto people  
were able to go out and buy

651  
00:33:17,360 --> 00:33:19,840  
things for the ghetto.

652  
00:33:19,840 --> 00:33:23,150

653  
00:33:23,150 --> 00:33:24,770  
And what happened was--

654  
00:33:24,770 --> 00:33:28,910  
how we were fed, that,  
from what I understand,

655  
00:33:28,910 --> 00:33:38,400  
that those ghetto people were  
in charge somehow to cook.

656  
00:33:38,400 --> 00:33:42,850  
What they brought in was a  
huge kettle of soup, every day.

657  
00:33:42,850 --> 00:33:48,380  
And it was brought in by  
these Jewish people in charge.



658

00:33:48,380 --> 00:33:54,400

And it had to come from  
that ghetto, because--

659

00:33:54,400 --> 00:33:58,590

I don't-- I might be wrong,  
but who else would-- you know,

660

00:33:58,590 --> 00:34:01,360

it seemed like they  
brought it from the ghetto,

661

00:34:01,360 --> 00:34:06,120

and then it was  
distributed, once a day,

662

00:34:06,120 --> 00:34:08,760

to us in this ghetto.

663

00:34:08,760 --> 00:34:10,199

And [INAUDIBLE]--

664

00:34:10,199 --> 00:34:14,610

What they did is, they  
would give each family

665

00:34:14,610 --> 00:34:19,580

a ladle of soup for each  
member in the family.

666

00:34:19,580 --> 00:34:23,510

You know, my mother took  
out a pot and held it out,

667

00:34:23,510 --> 00:34:27,739

and that's how-- that was-- and  
there was some kind of a bread.

668

00:34:27,739 --> 00:34:29,040

That was it.

669

00:34:29,040 --> 00:34:31,310  
And then soon we were  
getting hungry already

670  
00:34:31,310 --> 00:34:32,699  
before we were sent off.

671  
00:34:32,699 --> 00:34:33,199  
Of course.

672  
00:34:33,199 --> 00:34:35,610  
And, of course, the  
bathroom facility,

673  
00:34:35,610 --> 00:34:43,210  
and the constant harassment--  
now, here, they abused the men.

674  
00:34:43,210 --> 00:34:47,380  
They called-- I remember, in the  
middle of the night, you know,

675  
00:34:47,380 --> 00:34:48,940  
up in this loft--

676  
00:34:48,940 --> 00:34:52,409  
very dark, and people are  
sleeping on the floor.

677  
00:34:52,409 --> 00:34:55,150  
All of a sudden,  
shouting, yelling--

678  
00:34:55,150 --> 00:34:56,920  
all the lights went on.

679  
00:34:56,920 --> 00:35:01,390  
And people-- soldiers,  
men, don't know whom--

680  
00:35:01,390 --> 00:35:04,180  
yelling, screaming,  
get up, get up.

681  
00:35:04,180 --> 00:35:07,930  
All men under 16, get  
out, get out, get out.

682  
00:35:07,930 --> 00:35:08,830  
You know?

683  
00:35:08,830 --> 00:35:10,330  
And waking people.

684  
00:35:10,330 --> 00:35:15,400  
And people begin to get up and  
make their way to the exit.

685  
00:35:15,400 --> 00:35:18,380  
And I remember my father  
lying there on the floor,

686  
00:35:18,380 --> 00:35:21,340  
my six-year-old  
brother on the floor--

687  
00:35:21,340 --> 00:35:24,130  
and my mother-- so--

688  
00:35:24,130 --> 00:35:25,480  
so clever.

689  
00:35:25,480 --> 00:35:30,340  
She threw a blanket on both of  
them, and she said, don't move.

690  
00:35:30,340 --> 00:35:33,135  
Don't go.

691  
00:35:33,135 --> 00:35:37,570  
And I also remember  
that anything like that

692  
00:35:37,570 --> 00:35:39,370  
made me tremble.

693  
00:35:39,370 --> 00:35:41,860  
What if-- what if they  
come and find him?

694  
00:35:41,860 --> 00:35:43,570  
They will really beat him.

695  
00:35:43,570 --> 00:35:45,070  
They will punish him.

696  
00:35:45,070 --> 00:35:50,060  
And I had many  
instances like that,

697  
00:35:50,060 --> 00:35:52,630  
that I would rather  
comply than what

698  
00:35:52,630 --> 00:35:55,620  
the outcome would  
be [LAUGH] if they

699  
00:35:55,620 --> 00:35:58,120  
found that you didn't comply.

700  
00:35:58,120 --> 00:36:00,750  
So, it was very terrible.

701  
00:36:00,750 --> 00:36:06,700  
But, you know, it was  
like an impulse on someone

702  
00:36:06,700 --> 00:36:09,420  
to do something cruel.

703  
00:36:09,420 --> 00:36:12,630  
After a while, you  
know, a lot of men

704  
00:36:12,630 --> 00:36:16,320  
left, the lights went

out, and what they did

705

00:36:16,320 --> 00:36:21,210

is interrogate them,  
demand money, beat them up,

706

00:36:21,210 --> 00:36:24,790

and disrupt their peace.

707

00:36:24,790 --> 00:36:28,440

And they wandered back,  
and it was over, you know?

708

00:36:28,440 --> 00:36:32,190

And so my mother  
understood that, somehow.

709

00:36:32,190 --> 00:36:33,530

So--

710

00:36:33,530 --> 00:36:37,160

But you're telling  
me this, I'm having

711

00:36:37,160 --> 00:36:44,490

in mind an image of a young girl  
who is 13 and 1/2 years old.

712

00:36:44,490 --> 00:36:45,260

Yeah.

713

00:36:45,260 --> 00:36:49,190

And there's a certain  
kind of stage of life

714

00:36:49,190 --> 00:36:53,270

that children go through,  
and the ages of 12 and 13

715

00:36:53,270 --> 00:36:55,870

are very--

716

00:36:55,870 --> 00:36:57,400  
they're very tender.

717  
00:36:57,400 --> 00:36:58,220  
You know?

718  
00:36:58,220 --> 00:37:03,190  
You're on the cusp  
of being a teenager,

719  
00:37:03,190 --> 00:37:07,800  
but you're still in  
many ways a child.

720  
00:37:07,800 --> 00:37:12,640  
And to be frightened  
to one's boots,

721  
00:37:12,640 --> 00:37:15,110  
the way this sounds  
like, I mean,

722  
00:37:15,110 --> 00:37:19,537  
had you ever had  
such fear before?

723  
00:37:19,537 --> 00:37:21,120  
You know, do you  
remember the moment--

724  
00:37:21,120 --> 00:37:22,480  
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

725  
00:37:22,480 --> 00:37:27,910  
Yeah, do you remember the  
moment when you thought,

726  
00:37:27,910 --> 00:37:29,560  
I'm terrified.

727  
00:37:29,560 --> 00:37:32,020  
And I've never known  
what "terrified" means.

728  
00:37:32,020 --> 00:37:32,980  
Yeah, yeah.

729  
00:37:32,980 --> 00:37:36,610  
Well, there were some incidents I had with my father

730  
00:37:36,610 --> 00:37:38,440  
when we were still at home.

731  
00:37:38,440 --> 00:37:42,160  
But I agree-- just to back up a little bit--

732  
00:37:42,160 --> 00:37:51,710  
that I'm-- in my real old age, I began to see that my reaction

733  
00:37:51,710 --> 00:37:55,730  
to that whole experience is different from my sister's.

734  
00:37:55,730 --> 00:37:57,760  
And I always wondered why.

735  
00:37:57,760 --> 00:38:00,440  
First of all, she was 17.

736  
00:38:00,440 --> 00:38:03,090

737  
00:38:03,090 --> 00:38:10,920  
She was, by the calendar, 3 years and 10 months older-- so,

738  
00:38:10,920 --> 00:38:12,870  
practically almost 14.

739  
00:38:12,870 --> 00:38:13,710  
Yeah.

740

00:38:13,710 --> 00:38:15,440

And-- no, I'm sorry--

741

00:38:15,440 --> 00:38:16,350

I'm confusing.

742

00:38:16,350 --> 00:38:20,020

She was practically

4 years older than I.

743

00:38:20,020 --> 00:38:20,820

Yes.

744

00:38:20,820 --> 00:38:28,190

And I was always much more

terrified in Auschwitz

745

00:38:28,190 --> 00:38:29,660

than she was.

746

00:38:29,660 --> 00:38:35,000

I came back, after, much

more affected emotionally

747

00:38:35,000 --> 00:38:36,300

than she is.

748

00:38:36,300 --> 00:38:39,570

And I know that-- not

that she wasn't affected.

749

00:38:39,570 --> 00:38:42,590

But I was affected in

just the way you say--

750

00:38:42,590 --> 00:38:44,250

like a child.

751

00:38:44,250 --> 00:38:48,930

And she was more like a

teenager and more independent,



752

00:38:48,930 --> 00:38:52,800

not clinging to her  
parents the way I did

753

00:38:52,800 --> 00:38:55,320

or, later on, to my aunt Rosie.

754

00:38:55,320 --> 00:38:59,370

Well, I was just going  
to say-- that the need

755

00:38:59,370 --> 00:39:02,490

of a 13-year-old  
girl for her mother

756

00:39:02,490 --> 00:39:05,880

is much greater  
than that of a 17-

757

00:39:05,880 --> 00:39:07,910

or an 18-year-old  
girl for her mother.

758

00:39:07,910 --> 00:39:08,480

Yeah.

759

00:39:08,480 --> 00:39:10,270

It's developmental.

760

00:39:10,270 --> 00:39:13,140

She was pulling away  
already, you know.

761

00:39:13,140 --> 00:39:17,910

And I was-- that's why I didn't  
want to stay in Munk's with

762

00:39:17,910 --> 00:39:20,160

my uncle and family--

763

00:39:20,160 --> 00:39:23,700

to stay there in school, and

she wanted to stay there.

764

00:39:23,700 --> 00:39:26,820

You know, I would take  
the train back every day.

765

00:39:26,820 --> 00:39:30,390

Was ridiculous thing  
to do, in every way.

766

00:39:30,390 --> 00:39:33,060

But I was adamant--

767

00:39:33,060 --> 00:39:34,440

I'm not staying.

768

00:39:34,440 --> 00:39:35,010

I couldn't.

769

00:39:35,010 --> 00:39:35,510

You know--

770

00:39:35,510 --> 00:39:36,420

It's what you needed.

771

00:39:36,420 --> 00:39:40,240

It's what you needed,  
for your peace of mind.

772

00:39:40,240 --> 00:39:41,100

Yeah, yeah.

773

00:39:41,100 --> 00:39:42,990

And I didn't understand  
that, but I never

774

00:39:42,990 --> 00:39:46,820

could see why I was--

775

00:39:46,820 --> 00:39:50,900

well, I now understand  
myself better.

776  
00:39:50,900 --> 00:39:53,000  
But, to this day--

777  
00:39:53,000 --> 00:39:55,370  
I'm almost 90--

778  
00:39:55,370 --> 00:39:57,860  
I am still clinging  
to my parents.

779  
00:39:57,860 --> 00:39:59,940  
And you may think that  
that's impossible.

780  
00:39:59,940 --> 00:40:00,440  
But--

781  
00:40:00,440 --> 00:40:00,830  
No.

782  
00:40:00,830 --> 00:40:01,330  
--I am.

783  
00:40:01,330 --> 00:40:04,050  
[LAUGH] I'm still 13 years old.

784  
00:40:04,050 --> 00:40:04,550  
Yeah.

785  
00:40:04,550 --> 00:40:05,800  
I mean, I--

786  
00:40:05,800 --> 00:40:09,090  
I have heard this,  
I have seen this--

787  
00:40:09,090 --> 00:40:09,590  
Really.

788  
00:40:09,590 --> 00:40:13,970

--yeah-- I have seen this,  
and it's heartbreaking.

789  
00:40:13,970 --> 00:40:16,720  
It's absolutely  
heartbreaking, because--

790  
00:40:16,720 --> 00:40:17,390  
It is.

791  
00:40:17,390 --> 00:40:18,440  
--yeah.

792  
00:40:18,440 --> 00:40:24,470  
you're caught-- these  
things overwhelm your life,

793  
00:40:24,470 --> 00:40:29,550  
at a point where  
you don't have the--

794  
00:40:29,550 --> 00:40:31,280  
no one has.

795  
00:40:31,280 --> 00:40:34,490  
Because developmentally  
it doesn't happen.

796  
00:40:34,490 --> 00:40:36,560  
You don't have  
that inner resource

797  
00:40:36,560 --> 00:40:40,010  
that a young adult does.

798  
00:40:40,010 --> 00:40:43,050  
There's a vulnerability, there.

799  
00:40:43,050 --> 00:40:48,330  
And children-- so, you know,  
children experience these

800

00:40:48,330 --> 00:40:54,570  
things in one way, and someone  
who is 12 or 13 is in that

801  
00:40:54,570 --> 00:40:55,680  
in-between--

802  
00:40:55,680 --> 00:40:57,890  
It's sort of like  
a little deer who

803  
00:40:57,890 --> 00:41:03,040  
is born and is getting its legs,  
you know, and is standing up?

804  
00:41:03,040 --> 00:41:08,160  
But they're still a little  
shaky on those legs.

805  
00:41:08,160 --> 00:41:11,490  
That's how I see a 13-year-old.

806  
00:41:11,490 --> 00:41:14,160  
Well, I thought  
that I was brave.

807  
00:41:14,160 --> 00:41:14,730  
I--

808  
00:41:14,730 --> 00:41:16,260  
You probably were.

809  
00:41:16,260 --> 00:41:17,970  
You probably were.

810  
00:41:17,970 --> 00:41:21,750  
I certainly never complained,  
because I understood.

811  
00:41:21,750 --> 00:41:26,910  
But I watched my sister,  
after-- as she became 20,

812  
00:41:26,910 --> 00:41:31,490  
by the time we got to this  
country, and I was 16.

813  
00:41:31,490 --> 00:41:36,480  
And I just know that she  
went through the same thing

814  
00:41:36,480 --> 00:41:39,660  
I did but--

815  
00:41:39,660 --> 00:41:43,050  
I am much more affected.

816  
00:41:43,050 --> 00:41:44,400  
There's no doubt.

817  
00:41:44,400 --> 00:41:46,230  
You know.

818  
00:41:46,230 --> 00:41:50,850  
So, when you tell me about  
seeing Aunt [? Laney ?],,

819  
00:41:50,850 --> 00:41:55,170  
I mean, that's going from a  
normal life to being thrust

820  
00:41:55,170 --> 00:41:58,170  
in-- you know, within  
a matter of days,

821  
00:41:58,170 --> 00:42:02,490  
into a world that is surreal  
and cruel and dangerous.

822  
00:42:02,490 --> 00:42:03,660  
Oh, yes.

823  
00:42:03,660 --> 00:42:06,890  
And very worried for my parents.

824

00:42:06,890 --> 00:42:10,260

I trembled for them and  
for the other children.

825

00:42:10,260 --> 00:42:13,950

I was so frightened,  
something will happen to them.

826

00:42:13,950 --> 00:42:15,300

And, you know--

827

00:42:15,300 --> 00:42:20,130

And my mother  
covered him up, and--

828

00:42:20,130 --> 00:42:24,960

don't go-- I was worried that  
they'll find him and hurt him,

829

00:42:24,960 --> 00:42:27,445

if he doesn't go.

830

00:42:27,445 --> 00:42:29,070

If he goes, they'll hurt him.

831

00:42:29,070 --> 00:42:32,140

If he stays, they  
find-- they'll hurt him.

832

00:42:32,140 --> 00:42:33,660

It was just terrifying.

833

00:42:33,660 --> 00:42:36,240

Yeah, yeah.

834

00:42:36,240 --> 00:42:37,860

But they didn't--  
in that instance,

835

00:42:37,860 --> 00:42:40,280

they did not find him.

836  
00:42:40,280 --> 00:42:40,780  
No.

837  
00:42:40,780 --> 00:42:42,430  
They didn't search.

838  
00:42:42,430 --> 00:42:45,320  
They couldn't come  
up into this mob of--

839  
00:42:45,320 --> 00:42:46,060  
Ah.

840  
00:42:46,060 --> 00:42:48,950  
--people, covering  
the entire floor.

841  
00:42:48,950 --> 00:42:51,182  
They just shouted at the  
opening-- get out, get out--

842  
00:42:51,182 --> 00:42:52,140  
and the lights were on.

843  
00:42:52,140 --> 00:42:53,000  
I see.

844  
00:42:53,000 --> 00:42:53,500  
I see.

845  
00:42:53,500 --> 00:42:56,200

846  
00:42:56,200 --> 00:42:59,290  
But you have to, I think,  
still give my mother credit.

847  
00:42:59,290 --> 00:43:03,140  
She was-- well, she was an  
adult, and she understood,

848



00:43:03,140 --> 00:43:04,630  
[LAUGH] and I'm just--

849  
00:43:04,630 --> 00:43:05,530  
what is she doing?

850  
00:43:05,530 --> 00:43:06,370  
What is she doing?

851  
00:43:06,370 --> 00:43:07,990  
Maybe she should let him go.

852  
00:43:07,990 --> 00:43:09,880  
No, she knew not to let him go.

853  
00:43:09,880 --> 00:43:10,900  
That was the danger--

854  
00:43:10,900 --> 00:43:12,700  
to let him go, you know?

855  
00:43:12,700 --> 00:43:16,450  
So were these just hooligans?

856  
00:43:16,450 --> 00:43:20,950  
Or were these quasi officials,  
who came and shouted

857  
00:43:20,950 --> 00:43:22,036  
and interrogated?

858  
00:43:22,036 --> 00:43:24,340  
[INAUDIBLE] already  
the hooligans in charge

859  
00:43:24,340 --> 00:43:26,350  
could do anything  
they wanted to.

860  
00:43:26,350 --> 00:43:29,050  
And mostly, they  
humiliated them.

861  
00:43:29,050 --> 00:43:32,650  
First they demanded money,  
and then they humiliated them

862  
00:43:32,650 --> 00:43:34,690  
in the way they--

863  
00:43:34,690 --> 00:43:36,130  
nobody stopped them.

864  
00:43:36,130 --> 00:43:39,550  
And then, they beat  
up some of them.

865  
00:43:39,550 --> 00:43:41,065  
And--

866  
00:43:41,065 --> 00:43:44,770  
In other words, it was  
an exercise of cruelty,

867  
00:43:44,770 --> 00:43:46,090  
for no reason.

868  
00:43:46,090 --> 00:43:47,590  
You know, and they  
did that a lot.

869  
00:43:47,590 --> 00:43:50,800  
In the camps, they did it  
daily, hourly, to the men--

870  
00:43:50,800 --> 00:43:54,040  
and to the women, too.

871  
00:43:54,040 --> 00:43:58,960  
[INAUDIBLE] I was saying that,  
[INAUDIBLE] in the ghetto,

872  
00:43:58,960 --> 00:44:03,550  
there were always announcements

to control the crowd and move

873  
00:44:03,550 --> 00:44:07,810  
them here and there  
and give orders and--

874  
00:44:07,810 --> 00:44:11,470  
you know, but basically, it  
was just people mingling around

875  
00:44:11,470 --> 00:44:12,250  
on the grounds.

876  
00:44:12,250 --> 00:44:16,450  
And it was it was a terrible  
thing, because there were--

877  
00:44:16,450 --> 00:44:18,760  
[INAUDIBLE] we never--

878  
00:44:18,760 --> 00:44:21,370  
I don't think I ever  
got out of my clothes.

879  
00:44:21,370 --> 00:44:24,460  
We slept in our  
clothes, on the floor.

880  
00:44:24,460 --> 00:44:25,870  
I don't think I--

881  
00:44:25,870 --> 00:44:29,200  
don't remember ever even  
washing my face or hands.

882  
00:44:29,200 --> 00:44:29,980  
I don't.

883  
00:44:29,980 --> 00:44:32,560  
I remember some of those  
things in Auschwitz,

884

00:44:32,560 --> 00:44:34,090  
later, but not here.

885  
00:44:34,090 --> 00:44:36,430  
And then-- you said 13--

886  
00:44:36,430 --> 00:44:39,320  
I got my period for  
the first time, there.

887  
00:44:39,320 --> 00:44:44,410  
Well, I was-- you know, it's  
such a personal question,

888  
00:44:44,410 --> 00:44:47,260  
but it did cross my mind.

889  
00:44:47,260 --> 00:44:51,100  
And, what happens  
then, for a young girl?

890  
00:44:51,100 --> 00:44:55,330  
Well, it was one  
of those disasters.

891  
00:44:55,330 --> 00:44:59,170  
[LAUGH] I don't know  
what else to call it.

892  
00:44:59,170 --> 00:45:00,460  
I had no facility.

893  
00:45:00,460 --> 00:45:03,820

894  
00:45:03,820 --> 00:45:07,300  
The toileting was  
out in the open,

895  
00:45:07,300 --> 00:45:09,400  
with all kinds of people--

896

00:45:09,400 --> 00:45:11,860  
older, younger.

897  
00:45:11,860 --> 00:45:16,920  
My mother tore up some  
rags and gave them to me.

898  
00:45:16,920 --> 00:45:20,240  
And those rags were  
with me the entire time

899  
00:45:20,240 --> 00:45:22,900  
of the lasting of the period.

900  
00:45:22,900 --> 00:45:27,520  
And, going to the bathroom,  
I don't even know--

901  
00:45:27,520 --> 00:45:31,378  
You know, after a  
while, necessity--

902  
00:45:31,378 --> 00:45:34,750  
[LAUGH] you have to do  
something, and you do it.

903  
00:45:34,750 --> 00:45:39,670  
But it was a  
terrible experience.

904  
00:45:39,670 --> 00:45:41,710  
And my mother couldn't help me--

905  
00:45:41,710 --> 00:45:44,695  
couldn't do anything about it.

906  
00:45:44,695 --> 00:45:48,160  
[INAUDIBLE] just--  
and didn't wash,

907  
00:45:48,160 --> 00:45:51,100  
didn't have toilet  
facilities, didn't--

908  
00:45:51,100 --> 00:45:53,300  
she didn't talk to me about it.

909  
00:45:53,300 --> 00:45:57,088  
She just handed me a rag, and--

910  
00:45:57,088 --> 00:45:57,980  
[LAUGH]

911  
00:45:57,980 --> 00:45:59,450  
Did-- excuse me, to ask this--

912  
00:45:59,450 --> 00:46:00,290  
--somehow, I'm here.

913  
00:46:00,290 --> 00:46:02,720  
--did you know what  
was happening to you?

914  
00:46:02,720 --> 00:46:06,810  
Were you aware of  
what this meant?

915  
00:46:06,810 --> 00:46:09,755  
I must have known.

916  
00:46:09,755 --> 00:46:12,590  
I must have known that--

917  
00:46:12,590 --> 00:46:13,950  
I had an older sister--

918  
00:46:13,950 --> 00:46:14,670  
I don't know.

919  
00:46:14,670 --> 00:46:15,680  
I really don't know.

920  
00:46:15,680 --> 00:46:17,030  
I wasn't surprised.

921  
00:46:17,030 --> 00:46:21,170  
I wasn't surprised, in  
that respect, somehow.

922  
00:46:21,170 --> 00:46:24,200  
But I didn't keep track  
of when it happens

923  
00:46:24,200 --> 00:46:28,220  
or that it's about to happen.

924  
00:46:28,220 --> 00:46:31,820  
Well, it's also-- you  
know, a lot of people

925  
00:46:31,820 --> 00:46:35,900  
have said that, when there  
is extreme stress and trauma,

926  
00:46:35,900 --> 00:46:40,260  
women lose their monthly cycles.

927  
00:46:40,260 --> 00:46:40,760  
And--

928  
00:46:40,760 --> 00:46:41,820  
Well-- yeah.

929  
00:46:41,820 --> 00:46:44,100  
Well, I can tell you about that.

930  
00:46:44,100 --> 00:46:49,550  
First of all, now that I  
experienced that at 13,

931  
00:46:49,550 --> 00:46:55,400  
there were thousands of women  
in that loft, and all around

932  
00:46:55,400 --> 00:46:59,990  
in the ghettos, where they

naturally had their periods.

933

00:46:59,990 --> 00:47:04,610

And undoubtedly, they had very similar experiences to mine,

934

00:47:04,610 --> 00:47:07,800

except they had had it before and knew more about it.

935

00:47:07,800 --> 00:47:10,730

But when we got to Auschwitz--

936

00:47:10,730 --> 00:47:14,390

I need to complete this episode--

937

00:47:14,390 --> 00:47:17,150

that, almost immediately, all the women

938

00:47:17,150 --> 00:47:18,890

stopped menstruating--

939

00:47:18,890 --> 00:47:20,210

and I stopped.

940

00:47:20,210 --> 00:47:23,450

But I know my aunt Rosie, who was 25--

941

00:47:23,450 --> 00:47:24,980

her sister was 27--

942

00:47:24,980 --> 00:47:27,260

I know the women were saying--

943

00:47:27,260 --> 00:47:29,300

the women were saying--

944

00:47:29,300 --> 00:47:31,250

Rosie and others--



945  
00:47:31,250 --> 00:47:33,800  
I heard it, you know,  
the conversation.

946  
00:47:33,800 --> 00:47:36,500  
They said, they're  
feeding us something

947  
00:47:36,500 --> 00:47:38,605  
here to make this happen--

948  
00:47:38,605 --> 00:47:43,130  
put it in the stuff we get-- the  
soup that we get, and that, who

949  
00:47:43,130 --> 00:47:46,040  
knows if we will ever be  
able to have children?

950  
00:47:46,040 --> 00:47:49,190  
I remember the older girls  
saying that-- we will never

951  
00:47:49,190 --> 00:47:50,338  
have children.

952  
00:47:50,338 --> 00:47:51,314  
Oh.

953  
00:47:51,314 --> 00:47:53,610  
They didn't [INAUDIBLE]  
menstruation.

954  
00:47:53,610 --> 00:47:57,080  
So I was-- you see,  
I was 13, but I

955  
00:47:57,080 --> 00:48:00,220  
was tuned into an awful  
lot of conversation.

956

00:48:00,220 --> 00:48:00,720  
Yeah.

957  
00:48:00,720 --> 00:48:01,220  
Yeah.

958  
00:48:01,220 --> 00:48:02,010  
I see that.

959  
00:48:02,010 --> 00:48:07,550  
And a lot of it might not  
have been as clear to me

960  
00:48:07,550 --> 00:48:10,430  
as it is, after-- as  
it has become, after.

961  
00:48:10,430 --> 00:48:13,460  
But I heard a lot of stuff.

962  
00:48:13,460 --> 00:48:15,710  
And that, I clearly heard.

963  
00:48:15,710 --> 00:48:18,830  
I somehow didn't connect  
having a menstruation with not

964  
00:48:18,830 --> 00:48:20,330  
being able to have children.

965  
00:48:20,330 --> 00:48:22,250  
But, you know, sooner or later.

966  
00:48:22,250 --> 00:48:27,050  
But nobody had-- nobody  
menstruated for the entire time

967  
00:48:27,050 --> 00:48:28,700  
we were in Auschwitz.

968  
00:48:28,700 --> 00:48:29,540  
Yeah.

969  
00:48:29,540 --> 00:48:31,910  
And now I hear, over and over--

970  
00:48:31,910 --> 00:48:33,410  
I've made inquiries--

971  
00:48:33,410 --> 00:48:36,020  
Doctors, so on,  
others say no, they

972  
00:48:36,020 --> 00:48:38,832  
didn't feed you anything  
to make that happen--

973  
00:48:38,832 --> 00:48:43,610  
that it happened from what  
you say-- stress and trauma.

974  
00:48:43,610 --> 00:48:45,145  
Stress and trauma.

975  
00:48:45,145 --> 00:48:47,490  
Yeah, and so I--

976  
00:48:47,490 --> 00:48:49,260  
that's a surprise to me.

977  
00:48:49,260 --> 00:48:50,930  
I was convinced,  
and they were, too,

978  
00:48:50,930 --> 00:48:54,020  
that we were being fed  
something so that they would not

979  
00:48:54,020 --> 00:48:58,290  
have to bother with that aspect  
of the women by the thousands.

980  
00:48:58,290 --> 00:49:00,290  
You know, I thought they

just put an end to that

981  
00:49:00,290 --> 00:49:02,420  
for their own convenience.

982  
00:49:02,420 --> 00:49:06,210  
Well, thank you  
for sharing this.

983  
00:49:06,210 --> 00:49:11,780  
I mean, it's personal,  
and yet it is something

984  
00:49:11,780 --> 00:49:14,780  
that is such a human function.

985  
00:49:14,780 --> 00:49:17,990  
And it's part of  
what the story is.

986  
00:49:17,990 --> 00:49:23,870  
It's part of, what do people go  
through when they are targeted

987  
00:49:23,870 --> 00:49:31,970  
in this way and have these types  
of experiences and policies

988  
00:49:31,970 --> 00:49:33,470  
imposed on them?

989  
00:49:33,470 --> 00:49:37,540  
You know, that is part  
of what they experience.

990  
00:49:37,540 --> 00:49:38,040  
Yeah.

991  
00:49:38,040 --> 00:49:39,000  
Oh, of course.

992  
00:49:39,000 --> 00:49:44,180

And other humiliation.

993

00:49:44,180 --> 00:49:48,950

And, you know, the  
whole gamut of hunger.

994

00:49:48,950 --> 00:49:53,660

Hunger is another [INAUDIBLE]  
that I can write a book about--

995

00:49:53,660 --> 00:49:55,070

what happens to you when--

996

00:49:55,070 --> 00:49:56,100

When you're hungry.

997

00:49:56,100 --> 00:49:57,745

--not hunger but starvation.

998

00:49:57,745 --> 00:49:59,960

[LAUGH] You know?

999

00:49:59,960 --> 00:50:05,400

But, in addition to that,  
there were periods--

1000

00:50:05,400 --> 00:50:10,470

jumping ahead-- where we  
were infested with lice,

1001

00:50:10,470 --> 00:50:18,620

where we had no way of washing  
up in any way, when you know,

1002

00:50:18,620 --> 00:50:21,230

you just--

1003

00:50:21,230 --> 00:50:26,600

the sanitation-- the ordinary  
things that human beings need,

1004

00:50:26,600 --> 00:50:32,840

to survive, and the cold  
and just, the crowding and--

1005  
00:50:32,840 --> 00:50:34,712  
you know.

1006  
00:50:34,712 --> 00:50:40,790  
I can "boast" [LAUGH] of  
having been infected with lice,

1007  
00:50:40,790 --> 00:50:48,380  
having bedbugs, having  
[LAUGH] starved,

1008  
00:50:48,380 --> 00:50:54,050  
you know, having been looked  
at as subhuman, on and on.

1009  
00:50:54,050 --> 00:50:56,390  
And--

1010  
00:50:56,390 --> 00:50:57,530  
Do you-- yeah.

1011  
00:50:57,530 --> 00:50:58,030  
Mhm?

1012  
00:50:58,030 --> 00:51:01,875  
[INAUDIBLE] had to be  
dealt with, somehow.

1013  
00:51:01,875 --> 00:51:02,375  
Yeah.

1014  
00:51:02,375 --> 00:51:06,730

1015  
00:51:06,730 --> 00:51:08,720  
Do you have a number?

1016  
00:51:08,720 --> 00:51:10,300  
Were you tattooed a number?

1017  
00:51:10,300 --> 00:51:11,840  
I got a number in Auschwitz.

1018  
00:51:11,840 --> 00:51:12,770  
Yes, I did.

1019  
00:51:12,770 --> 00:51:16,610  
And many, many years later,  
in this country, after I

1020  
00:51:16,610 --> 00:51:20,310  
already had two kids, and--

1021  
00:51:20,310 --> 00:51:21,990  
well, a little before--

1022  
00:51:21,990 --> 00:51:26,660  
I had a lot of attention  
played to it, by people--

1023  
00:51:26,660 --> 00:51:30,380  
tattooing was unheard-of,  
in those days.

1024  
00:51:30,380 --> 00:51:34,140  
And I was in my late teens.

1025  
00:51:34,140 --> 00:51:37,050  
And people asked  
me, what's that?

1026  
00:51:37,050 --> 00:51:37,620  
What's that?

1027  
00:51:37,620 --> 00:51:38,750  
Is that your phone number?

1028  
00:51:38,750 --> 00:51:40,420  
You know, what is that about?

1029

00:51:40,420 --> 00:51:43,230  
And I could not talk about it.

1030  
00:51:43,230 --> 00:51:45,680  
It didn't have a simple answer.

1031  
00:51:45,680 --> 00:51:48,900  
You couldn't tell Americans--

1032  
00:51:48,900 --> 00:51:51,540  
normal people-- well,  
I was in Auschwitz

1033  
00:51:51,540 --> 00:51:52,860  
and they did that to me.

1034  
00:51:52,860 --> 00:51:54,150  
That didn't satisfy.

1035  
00:51:54,150 --> 00:51:55,620  
[LAUGH]

1036  
00:51:55,620 --> 00:51:57,270  
I had a neighbor, at the time.

1037  
00:51:57,270 --> 00:51:59,280  
She said, you know,  
I have this surgeon.

1038  
00:51:59,280 --> 00:52:01,560  
He will take it off  
you, and you won't

1039  
00:52:01,560 --> 00:52:04,500  
have to suffer having  
to answer the questions.

1040  
00:52:04,500 --> 00:52:09,000  
It was all about my  
inability to talk about it,

1041  
00:52:09,000 --> 00:52:12,620



but it was very, very upsetting.

1042  
00:52:12,620 --> 00:52:18,240  
It made my heart pound  
and sweat in to my palms.

1043  
00:52:18,240 --> 00:52:20,745  
I just could not deal  
with the subject.

1044  
00:52:20,745 --> 00:52:21,570  
And so I did.

1045  
00:52:21,570 --> 00:52:22,860  
I went to this surgeon.

1046  
00:52:22,860 --> 00:52:23,820  
And he cut it out.

1047  
00:52:23,820 --> 00:52:24,840  
And I have a scar.

1048  
00:52:24,840 --> 00:52:27,990  
He cut it out and stitched it.

1049  
00:52:27,990 --> 00:52:33,070  
And my sister didn't do that,  
and hers is quite a bit faded,

1050  
00:52:33,070 --> 00:52:36,157  
but you can still  
tell, you know,

1051  
00:52:36,157 --> 00:52:38,080  
but-- yes, that's  
what happened to mine.

1052  
00:52:38,080 --> 00:52:39,870  
I remember the number and so on.

1053  
00:52:39,870 --> 00:52:40,680  
What is the number?

1054  
00:52:40,680 --> 00:52:45,200  
[INAUDIBLE] It was--  
the Hungarians, usually,

1055  
00:52:45,200 --> 00:52:46,830  
that were coming  
in at that time--

1056  
00:52:46,830 --> 00:52:52,410  
it started with  
an A, dash, 6236.

1057  
00:52:52,410 --> 00:52:53,920  
6236.

1058  
00:52:53,920 --> 00:52:54,420  
Yes.

1059  
00:52:54,420 --> 00:52:58,038  
And my sister's would  
be 6237, you know,

1060  
00:52:58,038 --> 00:53:01,200  
she was right next to me.

1061  
00:53:01,200 --> 00:53:03,380  
What reminded me  
of that question

1062  
00:53:03,380 --> 00:53:07,010  
was when you were saying  
you have lice, you have--

1063  
00:53:07,010 --> 00:53:09,590  
all of this is dehumanization.

1064  
00:53:09,590 --> 00:53:13,790  
All of this is taking  
someone from a normal world

1065  
00:53:13,790 --> 00:53:17,010

and thrusting them  
into Dante's hell.

1066  
00:53:17,010 --> 00:53:17,510  
And--

1067  
00:53:17,510 --> 00:53:18,050  
Yeah?

1068  
00:53:18,050 --> 00:53:20,390  
--and the steps that are--

1069  
00:53:20,390 --> 00:53:25,430  
and the various factors  
that contribute,

1070  
00:53:25,430 --> 00:53:29,010  
some of which are  
proactive and some of which

1071  
00:53:29,010 --> 00:53:33,040  
just come with the  
territory, like the lice--

1072  
00:53:33,040 --> 00:53:33,540  
Yeah.

1073  
00:53:33,540 --> 00:53:38,100  
--like the bodily,  
physical needs

1074  
00:53:38,100 --> 00:53:42,450  
that are not being met,  
that-- you know, all of that

1075  
00:53:42,450 --> 00:53:45,450  
you have described  
to me, and having

1076  
00:53:45,450 --> 00:53:51,334  
a number being your identifier  
is one part of that process.

1077  
00:53:51,334 --> 00:53:53,700  
Oh, yeah.

1078  
00:53:53,700 --> 00:53:56,340  
It's-- you can't  
imagine, again--

1079  
00:53:56,340 --> 00:53:58,770  
I mean, again,  
thrusting yourself back

1080  
00:53:58,770 --> 00:54:01,140  
into a normal  
world, where people

1081  
00:54:01,140 --> 00:54:02,730  
don't know about such things.

1082  
00:54:02,730 --> 00:54:04,620  
And then, you're  
at a cocktail party

1083  
00:54:04,620 --> 00:54:07,320  
and somebody asks you,  
what's that number, what

1084  
00:54:07,320 --> 00:54:08,310  
are you supposed to do?

1085  
00:54:08,310 --> 00:54:10,170  
[LAUGH] You know?

1086  
00:54:10,170 --> 00:54:11,550  
What do you do with that?

1087  
00:54:11,550 --> 00:54:14,970  
You cannot open that  
subject casually.

1088  
00:54:14,970 --> 00:54:15,840  
No.

1089  
00:54:15,840 --> 00:54:17,058  
You cannot.

1090  
00:54:17,058 --> 00:54:20,100  
It's-- you know, and this was--

1091  
00:54:20,100 --> 00:54:22,560  
I was much younger, actually.

1092  
00:54:22,560 --> 00:54:25,320  
I was going to  
school [INAUDIBLE]..

1093  
00:54:25,320 --> 00:54:32,160  
I guess I-- maybe my  
idea that it was after--

1094  
00:54:32,160 --> 00:54:34,320  
no, I was [INAUDIBLE]--

1095  
00:54:34,320 --> 00:54:36,690  
the biggest-- well,  
I had it, after, too.

1096  
00:54:36,690 --> 00:54:41,340  
But in school, when I  
entered American high school,

1097  
00:54:41,340 --> 00:54:47,880  
that's when I was exposed to  
all the light, funny questions,

1098  
00:54:47,880 --> 00:54:49,560  
when students thought--

1099  
00:54:49,560 --> 00:54:53,310  
other girls-- thought  
I could not just--

1100  
00:54:53,310 --> 00:54:54,330  
they had no idea--

1101

00:54:54,330 --> 00:54:56,220

they probably would  
have thought I was crazy

1102

00:54:56,220 --> 00:54:58,620

or thought making up stories.

1103

00:54:58,620 --> 00:55:02,571

To me, it was very painful to  
talk about it, at that point.

1104

00:55:02,571 --> 00:55:06,370

Were there years that you did  
not talk about these things?

1105

00:55:06,370 --> 00:55:10,920

Oh, all of us-- my sister-- all  
of us-- oh, at least 20 years,

1106

00:55:10,920 --> 00:55:11,700

we didn't.

1107

00:55:11,700 --> 00:55:13,080

No, no, we couldn't.

1108

00:55:13,080 --> 00:55:14,310

We couldn't.

1109

00:55:14,310 --> 00:55:15,510

No, it was too raw.

1110

00:55:15,510 --> 00:55:20,160

It was to-- how to begin?

1111

00:55:20,160 --> 00:55:21,510

How to explain?

1112

00:55:21,510 --> 00:55:22,920

How to--

1113

00:55:22,920 --> 00:55:26,870

And people were not ready  
to understand it really,

1114  
00:55:26,870 --> 00:55:28,440  
in this country.

1115  
00:55:28,440 --> 00:55:30,510  
And even today, or later--

1116  
00:55:30,510 --> 00:55:35,040  
no, no, they-- it's some  
kind of a weird experience,

1117  
00:55:35,040 --> 00:55:39,270  
that probably we  
are exaggerating,

1118  
00:55:39,270 --> 00:55:40,620  
and things like that, you know?

1119  
00:55:40,620 --> 00:55:41,655  
No, it was--

1120  
00:55:41,655 --> 00:55:48,580  
You know, if you just say, in  
kind of cold, simple sentences,

1121  
00:55:48,580 --> 00:55:50,080  
what happened--

1122  
00:55:50,080 --> 00:55:51,580  
doesn't make sense.

1123  
00:55:51,580 --> 00:55:53,420  
[LAUGH] not at all.

1124  
00:55:53,420 --> 00:55:54,040  
Yeah.

1125  
00:55:54,040 --> 00:55:54,540  
Yeah.

1126

00:55:54,540 --> 00:55:59,830

It's something that cannot be  
absorbed as other than some

1127

00:55:59,830 --> 00:56:03,578

weird person making  
up some stories.

1128

00:56:03,578 --> 00:56:05,840

Well, I hate to--

1129

00:56:05,840 --> 00:56:08,840

I-- the first thing  
that comes to my mind

1130

00:56:08,840 --> 00:56:13,160

is that poor Polish lady who  
escaped the pits in Poland

1131

00:56:13,160 --> 00:56:15,020

and comes to your town.

1132

00:56:15,020 --> 00:56:17,720

And your lives  
were normal, then.

1133

00:56:17,720 --> 00:56:20,270

You hadn't known  
what it was like.

1134

00:56:20,270 --> 00:56:20,870

You know?

1135

00:56:20,870 --> 00:56:24,650

And you heard it, and,  
very well meaning--

1136

00:56:24,650 --> 00:56:27,620

but it's not part of  
the reality that anybody

1137

00:56:27,620 --> 00:56:31,910



can recognize in a normal world, and so they doubt it.

1138  
00:56:31,910 --> 00:56:32,840  
Yes.

1139  
00:56:32,840 --> 00:56:37,670  
Well, [INAUDIBLE],, it's a well-documented thing,

1140  
00:56:37,670 --> 00:56:44,930  
that a person came from the ghetto--

1141  
00:56:44,930 --> 00:56:47,420  
this Jan Karski?

1142  
00:56:47,420 --> 00:56:52,040  
Oh, Jan Karski, of course, the Polish underground--

1143  
00:56:52,040 --> 00:56:53,930  
Nobleman, yeah.

1144  
00:56:53,930 --> 00:56:59,630  
He snuck into the ghetto, to find out-- the Polish ghetto,

1145  
00:56:59,630 --> 00:57:00,680  
in Warsaw.

1146  
00:57:00,680 --> 00:57:04,580  
And then, he came to this country

1147  
00:57:04,580 --> 00:57:08,780  
and met with government officials,

1148  
00:57:08,780 --> 00:57:12,200  
to tell them what he saw, and they wouldn't believe it.

1149  
00:57:12,200 --> 00:57:16,760  
And apparently, he spoke  
to Supreme Court Justice

1150  
00:57:16,760 --> 00:57:17,540  
Frankfurter.

1151  
00:57:17,540 --> 00:57:18,590  
Yeah.

1152  
00:57:18,590 --> 00:57:22,910  
And Frankfurter said,  
I see that you are--

1153  
00:57:22,910 --> 00:57:24,830  
I'm paraphrasing, for sure--

1154  
00:57:24,830 --> 00:57:29,360  
that you are a fine young  
man, an incredible young man,

1155  
00:57:29,360 --> 00:57:32,120  
but, sir, I don't believe you.

1156  
00:57:32,120 --> 00:57:33,110  
Yeah.

1157  
00:57:33,110 --> 00:57:36,820  
Something to that effect-- that  
Jewish Supreme Court justice--

1158  
00:57:36,820 --> 00:57:39,470  
you know, he came  
to tell him, and he

1159  
00:57:39,470 --> 00:57:41,170  
said, I don't believe  
you, even though I

1160  
00:57:41,170 --> 00:57:43,500  
think you're a nice person.

1161

00:57:43,500 --> 00:57:47,100

And all of that is  
part of the post--

1162

00:57:47,100 --> 00:57:50,610

the after story,  
if you survive, you

1163

00:57:50,610 --> 00:57:53,030

know, what we've talked about.

1164

00:57:53,030 --> 00:57:55,850

I want to go back to MunkÅ;cs.

1165

00:57:55,850 --> 00:57:57,890

When you get to  
this brick factory,

1166

00:57:57,890 --> 00:58:02,120

do you recognize the  
part of town you were in?

1167

00:58:02,120 --> 00:58:03,500

Because you've been to MunkÅ;cs.

1168

00:58:03,500 --> 00:58:04,100

Ever?

1169

00:58:04,100 --> 00:58:05,970

You mean, after, or--

1170

00:58:05,970 --> 00:58:06,470

or--

1171

00:58:06,470 --> 00:58:09,380

I'm saying, when you've come--  
when you've been deported from

1172

00:58:09,380 --> 00:58:13,430

your home, and you're in MunkÅ;cs  
brick factory for three weeks--

1173

00:58:13,430 --> 00:58:18,320  
or plus-- in that loft, when you  
were brought there do you know

1174

00:58:18,320 --> 00:58:22,010  
what part of Munkács you were  
in, what neighborhood you were

1175

00:58:22,010 --> 00:58:23,000  
in?

1176

00:58:23,000 --> 00:58:25,280  
Well, I know I'm in Munkács.

1177

00:58:25,280 --> 00:58:28,400  
But this is outside the city.

1178

00:58:28,400 --> 00:58:32,870  
The factory was--  
after the war, I went,

1179

00:58:32,870 --> 00:58:34,940  
and I still wouldn't  
[LAUGH] know where I was,

1180

00:58:34,940 --> 00:58:36,290  
compared to the city.

1181

00:58:36,290 --> 00:58:39,470  
But it wasn't in the city  
like when I went to school.

1182

00:58:39,470 --> 00:58:43,220  
It was in a, you  
know, a regular city,

1183

00:58:43,220 --> 00:58:45,530  
from the railroad station.

1184

00:58:45,530 --> 00:58:48,050  
This was in the  
outskirts-- like,

1185  
00:58:48,050 --> 00:58:50,000  
if you went outside  
of Washington,

1186  
00:58:50,000 --> 00:58:52,370  
in some industrial area.

1187  
00:58:52,370 --> 00:58:55,860  
But we-- my parents-- we  
all knew we were in Munk's.

1188  
00:58:55,860 --> 00:58:56,360  
[INAUDIBLE]

1189  
00:58:56,360 --> 00:58:59,240  
You mentioned, earlier, that  
there was more than one brick

1190  
00:58:59,240 --> 00:58:59,840  
factory.

1191  
00:58:59,840 --> 00:59:02,360  
That's why I ask,  
because I'd like to know

1192  
00:59:02,360 --> 00:59:04,610  
if this had an identifier.

1193  
00:59:04,610 --> 00:59:09,200  
The place that you were, was it  
identified as a particular name

1194  
00:59:09,200 --> 00:59:10,580  
for that brick factory?

1195  
00:59:10,580 --> 00:59:13,280  
Yes, you know, it  
was, by who owned it,

1196  
00:59:13,280 --> 00:59:15,040  
by the name of the owner.

1197  
00:59:15,040 --> 00:59:16,850  
And I can't even remember that.

1198  
00:59:16,850 --> 00:59:21,350  
I didn't know that there  
were two until recent years.

1199  
00:59:21,350 --> 00:59:23,240  
I always said "the"  
big brick factory."

1200  
00:59:23,240 --> 00:59:24,800  
And somebody at the  
Holocaust museum

1201  
00:59:24,800 --> 00:59:26,480  
said, you know, there  
was another one.

1202  
00:59:26,480 --> 00:59:30,830  
And this was named so-and-so,  
and that was named so-and-so.

1203  
00:59:30,830 --> 00:59:31,490  
But--

1204  
00:59:31,490 --> 00:59:36,470  
And after the war, actually, we  
went back to the brick factory.

1205  
00:59:36,470 --> 00:59:40,370  
And, even then, there were  
a couple of buildings there,

1206  
00:59:40,370 --> 00:59:44,430  
but there was really  
nothing there anymore.

1207  
00:59:44,430 --> 00:59:46,100  
And it was just  
fields, you know?

1208  
00:59:46,100 --> 00:59:47,120  
And-- I don't know--

1209  
00:59:47,120 --> 00:59:48,810  
some buildings left.

1210  
00:59:48,810 --> 00:59:53,210  
But it was not in the city  
at all, but it was Munkács.

1211  
00:59:53,210 --> 00:59:56,540  
Was it close to the  
railway station?

1212  
00:59:56,540 --> 00:59:58,950  
No, but they were very clever.

1213  
00:59:58,950 --> 01:00:05,990  
The Germans never-- they were  
organized, prepared, and--

1214  
01:00:05,990 --> 01:00:09,830  
for their needs,  
not for our needs.

1215  
01:00:09,830 --> 01:00:12,080  
But, for their needs,  
they were organized.

1216  
01:00:12,080 --> 01:00:15,560  
So the brick factory  
[LAUGH] we were in

1217  
01:00:15,560 --> 01:00:18,090  
had a railroad siding in it.

1218  
01:00:18,090 --> 01:00:18,590  
Ah.

1219  
01:00:18,590 --> 01:00:20,030  
I see.

1220

01:00:20,030 --> 01:00:22,107  
They knew what they were doing.

1221

01:00:22,107 --> 01:00:23,690  
(EMPHASIS) We didn't  
know that a train

1222

01:00:23,690 --> 01:00:26,510  
would arrive there and take us.

1223

01:00:26,510 --> 01:00:29,510  
You know, it was sort of  
overgrown, in the grass.

1224

01:00:29,510 --> 01:00:32,260  
But one day, when they  
were ready to take us,

1225

01:00:32,260 --> 01:00:34,770  
a huge train--

1226

01:00:34,770 --> 01:00:36,860  
cattle car-- showed  
up, right there.

1227

01:00:36,860 --> 01:00:38,630  
We didn't have to go far.

1228

01:00:38,630 --> 01:00:40,200  
They knew what they were doing.

1229

01:00:40,200 --> 01:00:40,790  
I see.

1230

01:00:40,790 --> 01:00:44,750  
So right there is where  
you're taken on to the train.

1231

01:00:44,750 --> 01:00:46,820  
You're told to get onto it.

1232



01:00:46,820 --> 01:00:47,450  
Yes.

1233  
01:00:47,450 --> 01:00:50,390  
And, you know, because  
they did it so cleverly,

1234  
01:00:50,390 --> 01:00:52,700  
the general population  
didn't necessarily

1235  
01:00:52,700 --> 01:00:55,700  
know what was happening  
at the moment.

1236  
01:00:55,700 --> 01:00:57,825  
I mean, trains went  
through, later on,

1237  
01:00:57,825 --> 01:01:01,910  
and through cities and  
stations of every kind.

1238  
01:01:01,910 --> 01:01:04,460  
But we were locked in  
in cattle cars, and--

1239  
01:01:04,460 --> 01:01:08,960  
I mean, a lot of people  
say, we didn't know.

1240  
01:01:08,960 --> 01:01:11,330  
A lot of it is believable,  
because (EMPHASIS) we didn't

1241  
01:01:11,330 --> 01:01:13,040  
know, and we were affected.

1242  
01:01:13,040 --> 01:01:15,080  
We didn't know.

1243  
01:01:15,080 --> 01:01:16,820  
With all that you

knew there, these

1244  
01:01:16,820 --> 01:01:19,100  
are the things you didn't know.

1245  
01:01:19,100 --> 01:01:21,850  
[INAUDIBLE] the real  
thing, we didn't know.

1246  
01:01:21,850 --> 01:01:25,400  
[INAUDIBLE] I'm reading  
a lot about this topic--

1247  
01:01:25,400 --> 01:01:29,480  
how the Jewish leadership  
kept it from us,

1248  
01:01:29,480 --> 01:01:32,720  
because they felt  
that it was too late.

1249  
01:01:32,720 --> 01:01:36,500  
In 1944, they knew  
exactly about Auschwitz

1250  
01:01:36,500 --> 01:01:37,700  
and where we were going.

1251  
01:01:37,700 --> 01:01:39,680  
They felt it was too  
late to alert us,

1252  
01:01:39,680 --> 01:01:42,650  
because it would just-- it was--

1253  
01:01:42,650 --> 01:01:45,120  
there was no more  
escape from it,

1254  
01:01:45,120 --> 01:01:50,720  
and that it would  
cause greater pain

1255

01:01:50,720 --> 01:01:52,340  
to tell us than not tell us.

1256

01:01:52,340 --> 01:01:53,480  
I disagree.

1257

01:01:53,480 --> 01:01:55,020  
I wanted to ask you--

1258

01:01:55,020 --> 01:01:58,320  
what do you think of  
that, that kind of logic?

1259

01:01:58,320 --> 01:01:58,950  
No.

1260

01:01:58,950 --> 01:01:59,450  
No.

1261

01:01:59,450 --> 01:02:00,110  
No.

1262

01:02:00,110 --> 01:02:08,210  
No, because a lot of people  
would have been killed anyway,

1263

01:02:08,210 --> 01:02:11,780  
but a lot of people would  
have scattered in way

1264

01:02:11,780 --> 01:02:15,650  
that the Germans would have had  
a harder time with their very

1265

01:02:15,650 --> 01:02:19,070  
well-planned,  
well-organized people who

1266

01:02:19,070 --> 01:02:21,950  
didn't resist and  
didn't complain,

1267

01:02:21,950 --> 01:02:25,130

and we went to the  
slaughter, [INAUDIBLE]

1268

01:02:25,130 --> 01:02:27,920

we got right to the  
door of the gas chamber,

1269

01:02:27,920 --> 01:02:30,173

without knowing  
where we were going.

1270

01:02:30,173 --> 01:02:31,340

We should have [INAUDIBLE]--

1271

01:02:31,340 --> 01:02:34,430

There were small numbers  
of people in the leadership

1272

01:02:34,430 --> 01:02:37,545

and beyond that that  
knew, but they kept it.

1273

01:02:37,545 --> 01:02:38,820

They kept it a secret.

1274

01:02:38,820 --> 01:02:39,320

No.

1275

01:02:39,320 --> 01:02:42,810

I think even my parents--

1276

01:02:42,810 --> 01:02:46,200

although, there  
was even some talk,

1277

01:02:46,200 --> 01:02:50,610

just before we left our house,  
that maybe Serena and I--

1278

01:02:50,610 --> 01:02:52,210

I remember my

mother saying, well,

1279

01:02:52,210 --> 01:02:55,200  
maybe we should try to leave  
you with some of the Gentiles

1280

01:02:55,200 --> 01:02:56,580  
in the town.

1281

01:02:56,580 --> 01:03:00,090  
And, of course,  
both Serena and I

1282

01:03:00,090 --> 01:03:02,880  
said, no, no, no-- but I was  
violently opposed, [LAUGH]

1283

01:03:02,880 --> 01:03:05,760  
for the reasons we  
just talked about.

1284

01:03:05,760 --> 01:03:08,340  
But the preparation wasn't made.

1285

01:03:08,340 --> 01:03:11,020  
And it would not have  
worked in a small town.

1286

01:03:11,020 --> 01:03:12,000  
Everybody knew us.

1287

01:03:12,000 --> 01:03:14,990  
[LAUGH] We didn't look like  
the rest of them, and so on.

1288

01:03:14,990 --> 01:03:21,520  
But, had my mother  
known what would happen,

1289

01:03:21,520 --> 01:03:25,030  
yes, she would have, even  
at that point, insisted.

1290

01:03:25,030 --> 01:03:29,230

Because somebody  
would have stayed.

1291

01:03:29,230 --> 01:03:32,230

Something different would  
have happened, even--

1292

01:03:32,230 --> 01:03:35,850

Well, you'd have more  
control over your fate.

1293

01:03:35,850 --> 01:03:36,520

The knowledge--

1294

01:03:36,520 --> 01:03:37,020

Yes.

1295

01:03:37,020 --> 01:03:41,800

--would have given you  
maybe a sliver of a choice.

1296

01:03:41,800 --> 01:03:42,910

Absolutely.

1297

01:03:42,910 --> 01:03:46,690

And people who did know  
in the leadership--

1298

01:03:46,690 --> 01:03:50,960

and it's well-documented-- there  
are books written about it--

1299

01:03:50,960 --> 01:03:53,050

they took their own  
families out in time,

1300

01:03:53,050 --> 01:03:54,860

you know those who knew.

1301

01:03:54,860 --> 01:03:58,870

And so, they have been

vilified for that.

1302

01:03:58,870 --> 01:04:03,677

And I don't think that they have ever won that battle, you know,

1303

01:04:03,677 --> 01:04:06,240

[INAUDIBLE].

1304

01:04:06,240 --> 01:04:08,960

There are names-- people--

1305

01:04:08,960 --> 01:04:12,840

it's known who said what and why and what happened.

1306

01:04:12,840 --> 01:04:15,740

Tell me-- were you amongst the first transports out

1307

01:04:15,740 --> 01:04:19,910

of Munkács, or somewhere in the middle, or how in the sequence?

1308

01:04:19,910 --> 01:04:24,650

Well, I think we were the first train out of that ghetto.

1309

01:04:24,650 --> 01:04:28,340

And I don't know [INAUDIBLE] post--

1310

01:04:28,340 --> 01:04:31,800

that there were many, many trains coming from Munkács,

1311

01:04:31,800 --> 01:04:35,400

because there were about 10,000 Jews.

1312

01:04:35,400 --> 01:04:37,140

And so, they kept coming.

1313

01:04:37,140 --> 01:04:42,750  
And the last were the Munkács  
city Jews who came from

1314

01:04:42,750 --> 01:04:44,940  
the regular ghetto.

1315

01:04:44,940 --> 01:04:48,570  
They were the last to  
come, from what I know now.

1316

01:04:48,570 --> 01:04:49,440  
So--

1317

01:04:49,440 --> 01:04:53,040  
I'm kind of thinking, this  
must have been sometime

1318

01:04:53,040 --> 01:04:57,230  
in May of '44?

1319

01:04:57,230 --> 01:04:58,590  
Would that be right--

1320

01:04:58,590 --> 01:05:01,890  
sort of, like, springtime?

1321

01:05:01,890 --> 01:05:04,960  
If Passover was-- the  
last day of Passover

1322

01:05:04,960 --> 01:05:09,210  
is when you get the word that  
you have to leave your home?

1323

01:05:09,210 --> 01:05:12,480  
[INAUDIBLE] it was in--

1324

01:05:12,480 --> 01:05:17,190  
we went to the ghetto in April,  
and we left for Auschwitz



1325  
01:05:17,190 --> 01:05:18,060  
in May.

1326  
01:05:18,060 --> 01:05:19,070  
OK.

1327  
01:05:19,070 --> 01:05:20,760  
Towards the end of May.

1328  
01:05:20,760 --> 01:05:21,420  
What was--

1329  
01:05:21,420 --> 01:05:24,990  
This was well-documented.

1330  
01:05:24,990 --> 01:05:27,870  
Your journey-- what do you  
remember, from the train?

1331  
01:05:27,870 --> 01:05:30,580

1332  
01:05:30,580 --> 01:05:34,750  
Oh, I would tell  
you, but one thing,

1333  
01:05:34,750 --> 01:05:42,610  
back into Munkács ghetto, with  
the way we were living there,

1334  
01:05:42,610 --> 01:05:43,330  
like animals.

1335  
01:05:43,330 --> 01:05:48,610

1336  
01:05:48,610 --> 01:05:52,900  
The Jewish agencies  
actually who helped run it,

1337  
01:05:52,900 --> 01:05:57,100

they were wanting  
to prevent typhus.

1338  
01:05:57,100 --> 01:06:02,390  
Lice is always common in a  
crowded, unsanitary place.

1339  
01:06:02,390 --> 01:06:03,717  
So there was an announcement.

1340  
01:06:03,717 --> 01:06:05,050  
There were always announcements.

1341  
01:06:05,050 --> 01:06:07,480  
You go here, you go  
there, don't go here,

1342  
01:06:07,480 --> 01:06:10,750  
don't do this-- you know,  
always orders, shouted.

1343  
01:06:10,750 --> 01:06:13,850  
There was this order  
shouted, for all to hear,

1344  
01:06:13,850 --> 01:06:18,290  
that girls under 16 have  
to have their hair cut

1345  
01:06:18,290 --> 01:06:22,690  
and report to such-and-such  
a place on the grounds there,

1346  
01:06:22,690 --> 01:06:26,210  
or your fathers  
will be punished.

1347  
01:06:26,210 --> 01:06:29,000  
Well, that's all I had to hear.

1348  
01:06:29,000 --> 01:06:34,070  
And so, I had long hair, at  
the time, and mostly in braids.

1349  
01:06:34,070 --> 01:06:40,600  
And I was roaming around  
outside, in the daytime.

1350  
01:06:40,600 --> 01:06:43,420  
My mother was with  
the little kids.

1351  
01:06:43,420 --> 01:06:48,040  
Serena was helping--  
there were teenagers

1352  
01:06:48,040 --> 01:06:49,400  
doing some other things.

1353  
01:06:49,400 --> 01:06:52,900  
They were-- it's another story.

1354  
01:06:52,900 --> 01:06:57,010  
They helped out with the  
kindergarten-age kids.

1355  
01:06:57,010 --> 01:06:58,360  
I was roaming around.

1356  
01:06:58,360 --> 01:07:03,940  
I ran right to that tent, sat  
down, and they cut my hair.

1357  
01:07:03,940 --> 01:07:08,320  
And other girls showed up, too,  
like me and-- cut the hair.

1358  
01:07:08,320 --> 01:07:12,790  
So I went back to the  
barrack where my mother was.

1359  
01:07:12,790 --> 01:07:18,390  
And she took one  
look at me and--

1360

01:07:18,390 --> 01:07:24,120  
wasn't crying or anything, and  
I wasn't crying or anything.

1361  
01:07:24,120 --> 01:07:30,620  
it was-- it was the way,  
you know, you say, oh, well,

1362  
01:07:30,620 --> 01:07:33,230  
this I can withstand.

1363  
01:07:33,230 --> 01:07:36,880  
The hair will grow  
back, [LAUGH] you know?

1364  
01:07:36,880 --> 01:07:42,810  
I was not upset, because my  
father would be punished.

1365  
01:07:42,810 --> 01:07:46,220  
So, she gave me a kerchief.

1366  
01:07:46,220 --> 01:07:47,320  
She wore a kerchief.

1367  
01:07:47,320 --> 01:07:49,493  
Her head was covered  
all the time.

1368  
01:07:49,493 --> 01:07:50,340  
Oh, OK.

1369  
01:07:50,340 --> 01:07:54,630  
Because she was a orthodox  
Jewish woman whose hair was

1370  
01:07:54,630 --> 01:07:55,650  
cut when she married.

1371  
01:07:55,650 --> 01:07:56,600  
You know that custom.

1372

01:07:56,600 --> 01:07:57,690  
Yes.

1373  
01:07:57,690 --> 01:08:02,020  
So I never saw her  
without a scarf.

1374  
01:08:02,020 --> 01:08:04,860  
So she had some,  
and she gave me one.

1375  
01:08:04,860 --> 01:08:06,340  
I put it on.

1376  
01:08:06,340 --> 01:08:09,120  
And, from then on, till  
I arrived in Auschwitz,

1377  
01:08:09,120 --> 01:08:11,210  
I wore a kerchief.

1378  
01:08:11,210 --> 01:08:13,640  
And the reason I tell you this--

1379  
01:08:13,640 --> 01:08:16,430  
because, as the story unfolds--

1380  
01:08:16,430 --> 01:08:20,210  
and you might have read  
about some of these things--

1381  
01:08:20,210 --> 01:08:23,540  
that saved my life.

1382  
01:08:23,540 --> 01:08:28,160  
My first chance to live was the  
fact that I had a kerchief on

1383  
01:08:28,160 --> 01:08:29,510  
and my hair was cut.

1384  
01:08:29,510 --> 01:08:31,279

So that was very important.

1385

01:08:31,279 --> 01:08:34,430

Was your hair shaven, or  
was it just cut short?

1386

01:08:34,430 --> 01:08:38,490

Well, I think it was  
just cut with a scissor.

1387

01:08:38,490 --> 01:08:40,729

I used to think--

1388

01:08:40,729 --> 01:08:43,550

you know, these are  
fuzzy-- a little fuzzy.

1389

01:08:43,550 --> 01:08:45,630

Because [LAUGH] I must  
have been under tension.

1390

01:08:45,630 --> 01:08:46,609

Yeah.

1391

01:08:46,609 --> 01:08:53,540

I think it was a scissor, cut  
close, so that I now look bald,

1392

01:08:53,540 --> 01:08:55,460

or just with a little--

1393

01:08:55,460 --> 01:08:58,520

not down to the--  
like a clipper--

1394

01:08:58,520 --> 01:08:59,939

wasn't a clipper.

1395

01:08:59,939 --> 01:09:02,990

Because, you know, they had  
to cut off the braids and all

1396

01:09:02,990 --> 01:09:04,340  
the other hair.

1397  
01:09:04,340 --> 01:09:10,010  
And there was just a  
little bit above the skull.

1398  
01:09:10,010 --> 01:09:12,620  
Like it could be  
like a boy's haircut.

1399  
01:09:12,620 --> 01:09:13,609  
Right.

1400  
01:09:13,609 --> 01:09:16,970  
Maybe like a Jewish  
boy's [LAUGH] haircut--

1401  
01:09:16,970 --> 01:09:17,840  
really short.

1402  
01:09:17,840 --> 01:09:21,290  
And, of course, I  
needed a kerchief--

1403  
01:09:21,290 --> 01:09:22,340  
no doubt about it.

1404  
01:09:22,340 --> 01:09:24,590  
I wasn't-- that was being bald--

1405  
01:09:24,590 --> 01:09:25,140  
was short.

1406  
01:09:25,140 --> 01:09:27,050  
Mhm?

1407  
01:09:27,050 --> 01:09:29,609  
So you were in the  
train, with the kerchief.

1408  
01:09:29,609 --> 01:09:30,109

And--

1409  
01:09:30,109 --> 01:09:31,040  
Yes?

1410  
01:09:31,040 --> 01:09:33,260  
--your mother wears a kerchief?

1411  
01:09:33,260 --> 01:09:33,920  
Oh, yeah.

1412  
01:09:33,920 --> 01:09:38,000  
And in what way  
does this save you?

1413  
01:09:38,000 --> 01:09:39,290  
Oh.

1414  
01:09:39,290 --> 01:09:42,500  
So, see, we don't know what's  
happening to us whatsoever.

1415  
01:09:42,500 --> 01:09:44,300  
Yeah, you're in the trains.

1416  
01:09:44,300 --> 01:09:47,060  
And my question had been,  
do you have memories

1417  
01:09:47,060 --> 01:09:49,189  
of what that trip was like?

1418  
01:09:49,189 --> 01:09:50,090  
Oh, yes.

1419  
01:09:50,090 --> 01:09:51,420  
Oh, yes.

1420  
01:09:51,420 --> 01:09:57,740  
So now, every step of the  
way from being taken out



1421

01:09:57,740 --> 01:10:03,890  
of our home to taking our stuff  
away to living in the ghetto,

1422

01:10:03,890 --> 01:10:08,180  
being hungry, being humiliated,  
being dirty, being everything

1423

01:10:08,180 --> 01:10:11,960  
else, all the time  
we think we're still

1424

01:10:11,960 --> 01:10:14,030  
in our hometown area.

1425

01:10:14,030 --> 01:10:18,450  
We're still nearby,  
and things will change.

1426

01:10:18,450 --> 01:10:21,170

1427

01:10:21,170 --> 01:10:26,690  
We knew that-- this-- they  
hoped-- everybody always

1428

01:10:26,690 --> 01:10:29,330  
looked to see for some miracle.

1429

01:10:29,330 --> 01:10:33,530  
We're still in the Munkács.

1430

01:10:33,530 --> 01:10:35,690  
Now, the train starts going.

1431

01:10:35,690 --> 01:10:39,590  
And my father is looking out  
the little window of this cattle

1432

01:10:39,590 --> 01:10:43,550  
car, deliberately  
looking to see whether--

1433  
01:10:43,550 --> 01:10:45,480  
and he knows the terrain--

1434  
01:10:45,480 --> 01:10:50,360  
whether the train will  
turn towards Poland

1435  
01:10:50,360 --> 01:10:52,910  
or turn towards Hungary.

1436  
01:10:52,910 --> 01:10:56,510  
And the minute it turned  
towards Poland, he announced it.

1437  
01:10:56,510 --> 01:10:59,600  
And everybody was waiting  
for that announcement.

1438  
01:10:59,600 --> 01:11:05,150  
Because now, we heard that  
what that young woman said

1439  
01:11:05,150 --> 01:11:06,890  
and others, since then--

1440  
01:11:06,890 --> 01:11:11,330  
that, when you cross  
the border into Poland,

1441  
01:11:11,330 --> 01:11:15,050  
the Nazis are waiting for  
you and they mow you down.

1442  
01:11:15,050 --> 01:11:16,800  
That's what we heard.

1443  
01:11:16,800 --> 01:11:17,870  
We didn't believe it.

1444  
01:11:17,870 --> 01:11:20,750  
But now, are we

going towards Poland?

1445  
01:11:20,750 --> 01:11:21,560  
Yes.

1446  
01:11:21,560 --> 01:11:22,100  
OK.

1447  
01:11:22,100 --> 01:11:28,960  
This is where the mood in  
the train changes entirely.

1448  
01:11:28,960 --> 01:11:31,460  
This is where  
everybody's silent--

1449  
01:11:31,460 --> 01:11:37,970  
totally silent-- because now  
we're going across the border,

1450  
01:11:37,970 --> 01:11:41,000  
and we will be  
machine-gunned, all of us.

1451  
01:11:41,000 --> 01:11:43,210  
And nobody's talking.

1452  
01:11:43,210 --> 01:11:46,750  
But this is what is understood.

1453  
01:11:46,750 --> 01:11:51,070  
And so, there is no more hope.

1454  
01:11:51,070 --> 01:11:54,260  
We can't say that we're  
still in our neighborhood

1455  
01:11:54,260 --> 01:11:56,590  
and probably [INAUDIBLE]  
can turn around.

1456  
01:11:56,590 --> 01:11:57,460

Yeah.

1457

01:11:57,460 --> 01:12:04,130

So, it's a very terrible thing,  
what happens in the train.

1458

01:12:04,130 --> 01:12:07,490

But silence-- really-- grief.

1459

01:12:07,490 --> 01:12:09,440

grief-stricken silence.

1460

01:12:09,440 --> 01:12:15,090

You know, the women looking  
at their children, and so on.

1461

01:12:15,090 --> 01:12:20,100

And so, that's what  
we're expecting now.

1462

01:12:20,100 --> 01:12:23,530

So, when the door opens  
finally, in Auschwitz,

1463

01:12:23,530 --> 01:12:25,490

and the screaming and yelling--

1464

01:12:25,490 --> 01:12:27,790

get out, get out, get out--

1465

01:12:27,790 --> 01:12:29,875

and-- leave everything behind--

1466

01:12:29,875 --> 01:12:32,600

1467

01:12:32,600 --> 01:12:34,310

and my father says, I--

1468

01:12:34,310 --> 01:12:39,740

I see barracks here, and I see  
prisoners in striped uniform.

1469  
01:12:39,740 --> 01:12:42,900  
This is not the  
forest of Auschwitz.

1470  
01:12:42,900 --> 01:12:44,576  
This is a labor--

1471  
01:12:44,576 --> 01:12:46,980  
a work camp, a labor camp--

1472  
01:12:46,980 --> 01:12:50,140  
everybody's happier--  
much happier.

1473  
01:12:50,140 --> 01:12:53,670  
Oh, we're not going  
to be mown down.

1474  
01:12:53,670 --> 01:12:54,960  
This is a labor camp.

1475  
01:12:54,960 --> 01:12:59,110  
Everybody says, well, it  
could be worse, right?

1476  
01:12:59,110 --> 01:13:00,980  
We're saved.

1477  
01:13:00,980 --> 01:13:02,120  
This is the mood.

1478  
01:13:02,120 --> 01:13:05,300  
Everybody jumps out--  
leaves everything behind.

1479  
01:13:05,300 --> 01:13:09,590  
And thousands of people  
now on the platform.

1480  
01:13:09,590 --> 01:13:10,460  
The crowd is--

1481  
01:13:10,460 --> 01:13:12,790  
Then, orders, orders-- shouted--

1482  
01:13:12,790 --> 01:13:14,990  
orders-- almost  
immediately, have

1483  
01:13:14,990 --> 01:13:17,160  
to leave everything behind.

1484  
01:13:17,160 --> 01:13:21,080  
And so now we have nothing  
but what we are wearing.

1485  
01:13:21,080 --> 01:13:26,390  
And so my mother quickly says  
to the kids, put on layers.

1486  
01:13:26,390 --> 01:13:28,263  
Put on more stuff-- clothes.

1487  
01:13:28,263 --> 01:13:29,430  
Because it's cold out there.

1488  
01:13:29,430 --> 01:13:31,190  
This is early-- it's May.

1489  
01:13:31,190 --> 01:13:34,550  
It's cold-- cold, just like now.

1490  
01:13:34,550 --> 01:13:40,250  
And so, we all put on  
something big-- a coat.

1491  
01:13:40,250 --> 01:13:44,820  
And I had a very big coat,  
which I hated desperately.

1492  
01:13:44,820 --> 01:13:47,550  
But that was my coat.

1493

01:13:47,550 --> 01:13:53,860

That was made for  
me by a tailor,

1494

01:13:53,860 --> 01:14:03,600

out of a coat that belonged  
to my grandfather who died--

1495

01:14:03,600 --> 01:14:04,100

a man's--

1496

01:14:04,100 --> 01:14:06,165

Your father's father.

1497

01:14:06,165 --> 01:14:09,790

[INAUDIBLE] It was  
hanging there for years.

1498

01:14:09,790 --> 01:14:14,020

And my mother could no  
longer buy wool cloth,

1499

01:14:14,020 --> 01:14:16,820

like she did in  
better days, and have

1500

01:14:16,820 --> 01:14:19,720

me made-- a tailor made it.

1501

01:14:19,720 --> 01:14:22,660

She didn't have the  
winter-type cloth--

1502

01:14:22,660 --> 01:14:25,000

wool, particularly.

1503

01:14:25,000 --> 01:14:28,150

And she took me to  
MunkÁcs, with that coat,

1504

01:14:28,150 --> 01:14:30,340

because that's where

the tailors were.

1505

01:14:30,340 --> 01:14:32,950

And she sat there and said--

1506

01:14:32,950 --> 01:14:35,860

and always said those things, when the seamstress

1507

01:14:35,860 --> 01:14:37,630

made anything for us--

1508

01:14:37,630 --> 01:14:42,490

it has to be long, it has to be big, it has to--

1509

01:14:42,490 --> 01:14:44,110

she has to grow into it.

1510

01:14:44,110 --> 01:14:49,550

[LAUGH] And when she's finished, her sister will get it.

1511

01:14:49,550 --> 01:14:52,440

1512

01:14:52,440 --> 01:14:58,720

And so that coat came practically down to my ankle.

1513

01:14:58,720 --> 01:15:02,430

It was-- I'm--

1514

01:15:02,430 --> 01:15:04,480

excuse me, I'm having a robocall.

1515

01:15:04,480 --> 01:15:04,980

OK.

1516

01:15:04,980 --> 01:15:05,480

I'll--



1517

01:15:05,480 --> 01:15:07,470

I'll-- I'll stop.

1518

01:15:07,470 --> 01:15:08,500

[INAUDIBLE]

1519

01:15:08,500 --> 01:15:09,000