

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:16,020

2  
00:00:16,020 --> 00:00:16,650  
OK.

3  
00:00:16,650 --> 00:00:19,860  
And you have to back up to  
the beginning of that story.

4  
00:00:19,860 --> 00:00:22,190  
OK.

5  
00:00:22,190 --> 00:00:26,840  
As they got us congregated,  
it took us all out

6  
00:00:26,840 --> 00:00:31,040  
for the bunkers, all the  
people they could find.

7  
00:00:31,040 --> 00:00:35,600  
And tried to  
accumulate a transport

8  
00:00:35,600 --> 00:00:38,600  
for the last transport to ghetto  
because afterwards everything

9  
00:00:38,600 --> 00:00:41,180  
was burned down.

10  
00:00:41,180 --> 00:00:41,930  
I saw.

11  
00:00:41,930 --> 00:00:44,980

12  
00:00:44,980 --> 00:00:46,090  
I felt miserable.

13  
00:00:46,090 --> 00:00:47,680  
I felt miserable.

14  
00:00:47,680 --> 00:00:49,030  
They pressed.

15  
00:00:49,030 --> 00:00:52,680  
I didn't know at all what's  
going to happen next.

16  
00:00:52,680 --> 00:00:55,600  
I felt like--

17  
00:00:55,600 --> 00:00:57,260  
I saw a cat all of a sudden.

18  
00:00:57,260 --> 00:00:59,080  
I felt like a cat.

19  
00:00:59,080 --> 00:01:01,780  
The Germans also saw the cat.

20  
00:01:01,780 --> 00:01:06,330  
And she kicked the German  
dog to get the cat.

21  
00:01:06,330 --> 00:01:09,970  
The poor cat couldn't move.

22  
00:01:09,970 --> 00:01:15,220  
The cat was in the hand, in the  
throat of that German shepherd.

23  
00:01:15,220 --> 00:01:17,110  
And she started backing up.

24  
00:01:17,110 --> 00:01:20,500  
And when she backed up, she  
was against the fence, was all

25  
00:01:20,500 --> 00:01:23,290

buckled up, she didn't  
know what to do.

26  
00:01:23,290 --> 00:01:27,190  
And all of a sudden the  
German told the dog to attack.

27  
00:01:27,190 --> 00:01:29,260  
He attacked and killed the cat.

28  
00:01:29,260 --> 00:01:33,775  
I felt the same way, like I was  
in the hands of the Germans.

29  
00:01:33,775 --> 00:01:36,520  
And any moment,  
they can kill me,

30  
00:01:36,520 --> 00:01:38,670  
they can do anything  
for my life the way

31  
00:01:38,670 --> 00:01:40,870  
the dog had done to the cat.

32  
00:01:40,870 --> 00:01:44,200  
We were nothing, we  
were worse than a cat,

33  
00:01:44,200 --> 00:01:46,330  
we were worse than  
anything else.

34  
00:01:46,330 --> 00:01:49,300  
We had no future,  
we had no life.

35  
00:01:49,300 --> 00:01:52,535  
We were, for Germans,  
we were next to nothing.

36  
00:01:52,535 --> 00:01:55,510  
A Jew was next to nothing.

37  
00:01:55,510 --> 00:01:59,350  
Then next day, they  
put us on a transport,

38  
00:01:59,350 --> 00:02:05,160  
put us in cattle cars, and they  
shipped us through on the way

39  
00:02:05,160 --> 00:02:06,100  
to Germany.

40  
00:02:06,100 --> 00:02:09,759  
We still did not know  
where we are going to.

41  
00:02:09,759 --> 00:02:15,160  
I tried to escape with a few  
more young guys from the cattle

42  
00:02:15,160 --> 00:02:16,360  
car.

43  
00:02:16,360 --> 00:02:19,270  
And I succeeded  
in cutting a hole

44  
00:02:19,270 --> 00:02:22,390  
and cutting the seal off up.

45  
00:02:22,390 --> 00:02:24,640  
And I opened slightly the door.

46  
00:02:24,640 --> 00:02:27,160  
But I couldn't jump  
out because there

47  
00:02:27,160 --> 00:02:31,450  
was other truck around a  
parallel with the train.

48  
00:02:31,450 --> 00:02:33,520

So it was suicide either way.

49

00:02:33,520 --> 00:02:36,190

If you jump, you  
can kill yourself

50

00:02:36,190 --> 00:02:38,150

or wherever you were going.

51

00:02:38,150 --> 00:02:45,220

So on the way to Germany,  
we stopped for some water.

52

00:02:45,220 --> 00:02:47,930

And from the German  
Wehrmacht, for the soldiers

53

00:02:47,930 --> 00:02:50,450

showed us from the  
guards an article

54

00:02:50,450 --> 00:02:55,700

with the big headlines that  
Hitler's assassination did not

55

00:02:55,700 --> 00:02:56,960

succeeded.

56

00:02:56,960 --> 00:03:00,320

He said, you're very  
unfortunate because you could

57

00:03:00,320 --> 00:03:03,390

have been liberated right now.

58

00:03:03,390 --> 00:03:07,650

Is this kind of things,  
these kind of phrases

59

00:03:07,650 --> 00:03:09,510

still sticks in my head.

60

00:03:09,510 --> 00:03:12,660  
If he'd be assassinated,  
thousands, maybe millions

61  
00:03:12,660 --> 00:03:18,070  
of people would have survived  
the war and other things.

62  
00:03:18,070 --> 00:03:20,610  
But it was not to happened.

63  
00:03:20,610 --> 00:03:27,660  
As we came further in Germany,  
we have landed in a place,

64  
00:03:27,660 --> 00:03:31,470  
a concentration camp  
called Stutthof.

65  
00:03:31,470 --> 00:03:34,920  
I was still, at that  
time, with my parents.

66  
00:03:34,920 --> 00:03:41,680  
They took us in trucks and threw  
us in that concentration camp.

67  
00:03:41,680 --> 00:03:45,860  
When I looked out, I  
thought I was dreaming.

68  
00:03:45,860 --> 00:03:50,840  
I saw lakes with swans  
swimming in that.

69  
00:03:50,840 --> 00:03:54,890  
But little did I know  
that behind my dream,

70  
00:03:54,890 --> 00:04:00,140  
a crematorium's over  
there with smoke and fire.

71

00:04:00,140 --> 00:04:04,880

This was the last time  
I have saw my mother.

72

00:04:04,880 --> 00:04:07,410

They have separated us.

73

00:04:07,410 --> 00:04:11,970

And my father always  
kept me under his guard,

74

00:04:11,970 --> 00:04:14,190

under his wing.

75

00:04:14,190 --> 00:04:17,459

A whole night they  
were unclothing us,

76

00:04:17,459 --> 00:04:19,829

they were shaving us,  
they were checking us

77

00:04:19,829 --> 00:04:21,720

to see if you're hiding gold.

78

00:04:21,720 --> 00:04:28,090

In all the places, they gave  
us other prisons clothes.

79

00:04:28,090 --> 00:04:32,150

And the whole life in ghetto  
to the concentration camp

80

00:04:32,150 --> 00:04:33,860

was, again, like day and night.

81

00:04:33,860 --> 00:04:36,800

We were going really in hell.

82

00:04:36,800 --> 00:04:38,720

In ghetto, we're still  
with our families

83

00:04:38,720 --> 00:04:41,810  
and we can still  
survive day by day.

84

00:04:41,810 --> 00:04:44,800  
Here, we survived hour by hour.

85

00:04:44,800 --> 00:04:46,400  
We had no food.

86

00:04:46,400 --> 00:04:50,830  
And if you said something wrong,  
they beat you, they killed you,

87

00:04:50,830 --> 00:04:51,580  
they didn't care.

88

00:04:51,580 --> 00:04:55,780  
You were a real nothing  
in the concentration camp.

89

00:04:55,780 --> 00:04:58,190  
But I was slim and tall.

90

00:04:58,190 --> 00:05:01,210  
And when they sorted  
me out with my father,

91

00:05:01,210 --> 00:05:03,610  
they let me stay with my father.

92

00:05:03,610 --> 00:05:08,560  
After being in Stutthof and  
being separated from my mother,

93

00:05:08,560 --> 00:05:16,370  
they moved us also with  
cattle cars to Dachau.

94

00:05:16,370 --> 00:05:19,680  
In Dachau, I worked very hard.



95

00:05:19,680 --> 00:05:22,730

I worked extremely hard.

96

00:05:22,730 --> 00:05:27,320

And my father, being a barber,  
got a job in the ghetto,

97

00:05:27,320 --> 00:05:29,630

in the concentration  
camp itself,

98

00:05:29,630 --> 00:05:33,350

without going outside  
the concentration camp.

99

00:05:33,350 --> 00:05:36,800

And he asked one of  
the Germans if they

100

00:05:36,800 --> 00:05:41,900

can give me a job to work  
also in the compound itself.

101

00:05:41,900 --> 00:05:47,180

After a few months, and after he  
was cutting the Germans' hair,

102

00:05:47,180 --> 00:05:50,690

he made sure that I  
should work in compound.

103

00:05:50,690 --> 00:05:54,290

And this was my lucky  
break because I could never

104

00:05:54,290 --> 00:05:56,630

survive working outside.

105

00:05:56,630 --> 00:06:01,400

My job in the compound  
was a privileged job.

106

00:06:01,400 --> 00:06:05,420  
Was what I do every  
morning, me and other boy

107  
00:06:05,420 --> 00:06:08,240  
would take a wagon,  
like a rickshaw wagon,

108  
00:06:08,240 --> 00:06:11,570  
and go from barrack  
to barrack and pull up

109  
00:06:11,570 --> 00:06:15,650  
all the dead people  
who died, who starved,

110  
00:06:15,650 --> 00:06:19,010  
who was beaten to death,  
who were full of lice,

111  
00:06:19,010 --> 00:06:21,980  
and put them in, stack  
them up, and take them out,

112  
00:06:21,980 --> 00:06:23,780  
and dump them in ravine.

113  
00:06:23,780 --> 00:06:28,580  
We were doing it every  
morning but twice a day.

114  
00:06:28,580 --> 00:06:33,130  
Then in the evening,  
I was helping

115  
00:06:33,130 --> 00:06:34,900  
the work in the kitchen.

116  
00:06:34,900 --> 00:06:37,400  
And this made my life easier.

117  
00:06:37,400 --> 00:06:40,210  
I used to stay

next to my father.

118  
00:06:40,210 --> 00:06:41,950  
He kind of protected me.

119  
00:06:41,950 --> 00:06:47,380  
And this is one of the parts,  
one of the reason I did not

120  
00:06:47,380 --> 00:06:49,240  
waste too much energy.

121  
00:06:49,240 --> 00:06:52,390  
I did not waste too  
much of my youth

122  
00:06:52,390 --> 00:06:56,610  
in that particular concentration  
camp until my luck ran out.

123  
00:06:56,610 --> 00:07:00,880

124  
00:07:00,880 --> 00:07:04,120  
They liquidated that  
particular concentration camp

125  
00:07:04,120 --> 00:07:06,080  
in Dachau, that part of it.

126  
00:07:06,080 --> 00:07:10,760  
And they wanted to  
separate my father and me.

127  
00:07:10,760 --> 00:07:13,490  
They wanted to send my  
father in a better place

128  
00:07:13,490 --> 00:07:17,340  
and me send someplace,  
I didn't know where.

129

00:07:17,340 --> 00:07:22,100  
My father said, no, he  
won't leave me alone.

130  
00:07:22,100 --> 00:07:26,940  
Wherever I go, that's going  
to be his destination.

131  
00:07:26,940 --> 00:07:30,840  
Fortunately for  
me, he was with me.

132  
00:07:30,840 --> 00:07:36,660  
And they sent us to Flossenbürg,  
a concentration camp,

133  
00:07:36,660 --> 00:07:39,660  
and from there to Leitmeritz.

134  
00:07:39,660 --> 00:07:44,790  
Leitmeritz was a real hell.

135  
00:07:44,790 --> 00:07:48,090  
I heard from the other  
people, from my wife

136  
00:07:48,090 --> 00:07:51,150  
about Auschwitz, Birkenau.

137  
00:07:51,150 --> 00:07:57,420  
But nobody heard that  
much from Leitmeritz.

138  
00:07:57,420 --> 00:08:01,570  
When we came in there, we  
were around 500 people.

139  
00:08:01,570 --> 00:08:03,790  
When they were finished,  
we were 10 left.

140  
00:08:03,790 --> 00:08:07,990

141  
00:08:07,990 --> 00:08:13,330  
This was old camp already, and  
we were just new cannon fodder.

142  
00:08:13,330 --> 00:08:18,090  
They have put us  
in brigades, where

143  
00:08:18,090 --> 00:08:20,710  
nobody want to go over there.

144  
00:08:20,710 --> 00:08:23,910  
We got the worst  
jobs, the worst work.

145  
00:08:23,910 --> 00:08:27,210  
And we worked in mines.

146  
00:08:27,210 --> 00:08:31,910  
Not coal mines,  
but cement mines.

147  
00:08:31,910 --> 00:08:34,530  
But they were the  
same as coal mines.

148  
00:08:34,530 --> 00:08:41,580  
Was miserable, was foggy,  
was wet, was very little

149  
00:08:41,580 --> 00:08:44,169  
food, a slice of food.

150  
00:08:44,169 --> 00:08:48,250  
And every morning, they grabbed  
us in different brigades

151  
00:08:48,250 --> 00:08:50,920  
where to go.

152  
00:08:50,920 --> 00:08:56,230

When I came first, my father  
also kept me next to him.

153  
00:08:56,230 --> 00:09:01,240  
I still looked pretty  
good because of my job

154  
00:09:01,240 --> 00:09:03,730  
in Dachau concentration camp.

155  
00:09:03,730 --> 00:09:07,330  
And as we stayed and  
we working in the coal

156  
00:09:07,330 --> 00:09:12,160  
mine-- in the cement mines,  
and we drilling, and we loading

157  
00:09:12,160 --> 00:09:19,230  
everything on the wagons to  
get the piece of stone out,

158  
00:09:19,230 --> 00:09:23,340  
I see a German in  
civilian clothes

159  
00:09:23,340 --> 00:09:26,940  
is walking past one time  
by us, a second time.

160  
00:09:26,940 --> 00:09:29,416  
I didn't notice him.

161  
00:09:29,416 --> 00:09:31,700  
In that particular  
concentration camp,

162  
00:09:31,700 --> 00:09:33,320  
there were all kinds of people.

163  
00:09:33,320 --> 00:09:36,460  
There were Pollacks,  
there were Germans,

164  
00:09:36,460 --> 00:09:39,550  
there were Russian  
prisoners, and some Jews.

165  
00:09:39,550 --> 00:09:41,260  
Not that many Jews.

166  
00:09:41,260 --> 00:09:42,490  
Maybe we were the--

167  
00:09:42,490 --> 00:09:45,040  
maybe a thousand, 500 plus.

168  
00:09:45,040 --> 00:09:47,340  
Maybe 1,000 Jews.

169  
00:09:47,340 --> 00:09:50,640  
And we were less transport.

170  
00:09:50,640 --> 00:09:53,190  
And there were  
different insignias.

171  
00:09:53,190 --> 00:09:58,050  
We wore a yellow star  
of David plus a number.

172  
00:09:58,050 --> 00:10:02,250  
Mine was 84,532.

173  
00:10:02,250 --> 00:10:07,210  
I had to remember  
it for the Appel.

174  
00:10:07,210 --> 00:10:10,840  
For the counting every morning  
in German and in Polish,

175  
00:10:10,840 --> 00:10:13,100  
I had to learn that.

176

00:10:13,100 --> 00:10:17,330  
And some had already insignias--  
criminals, green, homosexual,

177

00:10:17,330 --> 00:10:19,110  
or whatever.

178

00:10:19,110 --> 00:10:23,420  
I didn't know about that because  
in Dachau, where we were,

179

00:10:23,420 --> 00:10:27,080  
they didn't have all that  
particular insignias.

180

00:10:27,080 --> 00:10:29,960  
So as I was working  
with my father,

181

00:10:29,960 --> 00:10:33,890  
that German keeps on looking  
at me, going back and forth.

182

00:10:33,890 --> 00:10:35,750  
Then he comes to me.

183

00:10:35,750 --> 00:10:41,880  
He says, [GERMAN],, meaning  
young boy or something,

184

00:10:41,880 --> 00:10:44,560  
I should follow him.

185

00:10:44,560 --> 00:10:48,610  
I looked at my father, but  
after all, he's a German.

186

00:10:48,610 --> 00:10:51,160  
And he tells me--

187

00:10:51,160 --> 00:10:53,260  
You know, we're going



to run out, I think,

188  
00:10:53,260 --> 00:10:54,390  
during this story.

189  
00:10:54,390 --> 00:10:56,380  
We should wait and reload.

190  
00:10:56,380 --> 00:11:13,360

191  
00:11:13,360 --> 00:11:21,040  
When we came, we had transport  
with 500 people or more people.

192  
00:11:21,040 --> 00:11:24,213  
They assigned us  
different places.

193  
00:11:24,213 --> 00:11:24,880  
They grabbed us.

194  
00:11:24,880 --> 00:11:30,100  
And we wind up, my father  
working in the cement mines.

195  
00:11:30,100 --> 00:11:36,160  
And as I was working  
there, we noticed a German

196  
00:11:36,160 --> 00:11:41,560  
in civilian clothes  
walking and looking at us.

197  
00:11:41,560 --> 00:11:47,410  
When passed by one time, where  
I was, then a second time.

198  
00:11:47,410 --> 00:11:49,138  
I was very naive.

199  
00:11:49,138 --> 00:11:50,680

I didn't understand  
what's happening.

200  
00:11:50,680 --> 00:11:55,780  
I was only at that time  
15 and 1/2 years old.

201  
00:11:55,780 --> 00:12:01,220  
And I did not know what he meant  
when he said to me, [GERMAN],,

202  
00:12:01,220 --> 00:12:02,470  
come here.

203  
00:12:02,470 --> 00:12:06,400  
I thought I should follow  
only German guards.

204  
00:12:06,400 --> 00:12:09,010  
But my father said,  
he's a German,

205  
00:12:09,010 --> 00:12:11,180  
you'd better do what he says.

206  
00:12:11,180 --> 00:12:17,920  
So I followed him deeper  
and deeper in the mines.

207  
00:12:17,920 --> 00:12:22,720  
And it was very hazy that,  
small little lights burning.

208  
00:12:22,720 --> 00:12:29,110  
And he was telling me he's  
a officer for the German Air

209  
00:12:29,110 --> 00:12:31,780  
Force.

210  
00:12:31,780 --> 00:12:34,945  
And I still did not  
have any inclination

211  
00:12:34,945 --> 00:12:37,000  
in what his mind is.

212  
00:12:37,000 --> 00:12:39,700  
All of a sudden, he  
comes close to me,

213  
00:12:39,700 --> 00:12:43,610  
and he starts hugging me.

214  
00:12:43,610 --> 00:12:49,370  
And I felt very awkward, and  
I start pushing him away.

215  
00:12:49,370 --> 00:12:54,960  
He started pulling his pants  
down and he wanted to kiss me.

216  
00:12:54,960 --> 00:12:57,020  
So I start screaming.

217  
00:12:57,020 --> 00:13:02,420  
And in the mines, usually  
the echo is so tremendous,

218  
00:13:02,420 --> 00:13:06,590  
and people start running  
with Germans, with guns.

219  
00:13:06,590 --> 00:13:12,200  
And the Polish Kapos start  
running after all the sights.

220  
00:13:12,200 --> 00:13:14,600  
And I start tell  
him, complaining

221  
00:13:14,600 --> 00:13:17,000  
that what he was trying to do.

222  
00:13:17,000 --> 00:13:19,490

And they arrest us both.

223

00:13:19,490 --> 00:13:25,400

The Germans with the  
guns, with the rifles.

224

00:13:25,400 --> 00:13:28,290

And they passed by, took  
me down, passed my father.

225

00:13:28,290 --> 00:13:30,290

My father looked at  
me, I looked at him.

226

00:13:30,290 --> 00:13:33,600

I couldn't answer him nothing.

227

00:13:33,600 --> 00:13:37,110

And they took us down  
in the general staff

228

00:13:37,110 --> 00:13:40,370

from the concentration camp.

229

00:13:40,370 --> 00:13:43,770

And there, hell work hard.

230

00:13:43,770 --> 00:13:45,830

They put me down  
in the chair, and I

231

00:13:45,830 --> 00:13:48,860

said, tell him the whole  
story, and I told him.

232

00:13:48,860 --> 00:13:52,100

I told him he tried  
to hug me and kiss me.

233

00:13:52,100 --> 00:13:55,720

And they were out of their mind.

234

00:13:55,720 --> 00:14:01,150  
How a German officer has  
tried to kiss a Jude, a Jew?

235  
00:14:01,150 --> 00:14:04,330  
And this is beyond  
their belief, I mean,

236  
00:14:04,330 --> 00:14:08,380  
he'll die if he'll kiss a Jew.

237  
00:14:08,380 --> 00:14:13,330  
And they sent  
telegrams to Berlin.

238  
00:14:13,330 --> 00:14:16,300  
And they took the  
position maybe 50 times

239  
00:14:16,300 --> 00:14:20,560  
and asked us questions  
day and night.

240  
00:14:20,560 --> 00:14:24,790  
And then they said,  
they tell me, you know,

241  
00:14:24,790 --> 00:14:26,430  
sorry to tell him  
that the German--

242  
00:14:26,430 --> 00:14:27,430  
I shouldn't say nothing.

243  
00:14:27,430 --> 00:14:30,310  
But I want to say  
the whole thing what

244  
00:14:30,310 --> 00:14:33,800  
happened because otherwise  
I'll be in trouble.

245  
00:14:33,800 --> 00:14:38,110

So in middle of night, 12  
o'clock at middle of the night,

246  
00:14:38,110 --> 00:14:41,800  
they dragged me  
out from my bunk.

247  
00:14:41,800 --> 00:14:42,730  
They kept me separate.

248  
00:14:42,730 --> 00:14:44,830  
They didn't let me go  
no more with my father.

249  
00:14:44,830 --> 00:14:46,288  
I thought they're  
going to kill me.

250  
00:14:46,288 --> 00:14:48,560  
They're going to shoot  
me, whatever it was.

251  
00:14:48,560 --> 00:14:52,230  
And he then bring  
me in an enclosing.

252  
00:14:52,230 --> 00:14:57,280  
Here, there's a German,  
completely undressed, staying

253  
00:14:57,280 --> 00:15:00,580  
under the shower, the  
shower coming down on him.

254  
00:15:00,580 --> 00:15:02,380  
Cold, ice cold water.

255  
00:15:02,380 --> 00:15:04,180  
It was winter.

256  
00:15:04,180 --> 00:15:09,482  
And a Kapo, a Polish  
Kapo with a hose,

257

00:15:09,482 --> 00:15:11,190

tried to put water in  
his mouth and tried

258

00:15:11,190 --> 00:15:14,220

to put water in and with  
other hose he's beating him.

259

00:15:14,220 --> 00:15:18,540

And they made me watch it, to  
see how they punishing him.

260

00:15:18,540 --> 00:15:22,380

And he was yelling, [GERMAN],,  
mother, help me, help me.

261

00:15:22,380 --> 00:15:24,270

And looked at me,  
and looked at them,

262

00:15:24,270 --> 00:15:26,490

and they were beating him.

263

00:15:26,490 --> 00:15:29,290

And I had to look.

264

00:15:29,290 --> 00:15:33,890

And this is really a child,  
he was only 15 and 1/2,

265

00:15:33,890 --> 00:15:35,730

16 years old.

266

00:15:35,730 --> 00:15:38,700

And with all my experience  
in concentration,

267

00:15:38,700 --> 00:15:41,250

in ghetto, I still didn't  
have no experience.

268

00:15:41,250 --> 00:15:44,940  
Still everything new to me.

269  
00:15:44,940 --> 00:15:49,330  
And his head swole  
up twice the size.

270  
00:15:49,330 --> 00:15:53,710  
They told me to go back to  
my father in the barracks.

271  
00:15:53,710 --> 00:16:00,990  
And I understand, I heard, that  
in two days later, he died.

272  
00:16:00,990 --> 00:16:01,710  
And that's all.

273  
00:16:01,710 --> 00:16:04,030  
They didn't do anything to me.

274  
00:16:04,030 --> 00:16:06,780  
And I joined back my father.

275  
00:16:06,780 --> 00:16:11,010  
And we went back to work  
in the concentration

276  
00:16:11,010 --> 00:16:12,280  
camp in the mines over there.

277  
00:16:12,280 --> 00:16:16,520

278  
00:16:16,520 --> 00:16:17,990  
And we get weaker and weaker.

279  
00:16:17,990 --> 00:16:23,730  
Because the portions-- we had  
Polish Kapos, Polish leaders,

280  
00:16:23,730 --> 00:16:24,410



you see.

281

00:16:24,410 --> 00:16:27,890

And the portions, we  
used to go column of 20,

282

00:16:27,890 --> 00:16:29,275

with bumpy loaf of bread.

283

00:16:29,275 --> 00:16:31,400

He used to cut it for 30  
pieces and the rest of it,

284

00:16:31,400 --> 00:16:33,020

take for himself.

285

00:16:33,020 --> 00:16:37,820

So the portions and the soup,  
everything got less and less.

286

00:16:37,820 --> 00:16:43,250

And my father, being a barber,  
after a hard day's work,

287

00:16:43,250 --> 00:16:46,550

he used to steal  
shaved prisoners.

288

00:16:46,550 --> 00:16:50,330

And told me, my son, you're  
young, go in the bunk.

289

00:16:50,330 --> 00:16:50,870

Go ahead.

290

00:16:50,870 --> 00:16:53,810

And don't talk to nobody,  
don't use up your energy.

291

00:16:53,810 --> 00:16:56,720

And he used to bring  
me a bowl of soup,

292

00:16:56,720 --> 00:16:57,950  
a little bit of water soup.

293

00:16:57,950 --> 00:16:59,450  
Soup more than water.

294

00:16:59,450 --> 00:17:01,790  
And he shared with me.

295

00:17:01,790 --> 00:17:03,530  
I said, you eat, pop.

296

00:17:03,530 --> 00:17:05,920  
He said, no, I've eaten already.

297

00:17:05,920 --> 00:17:10,333  
And I knew later, I find  
out that whatever he had,

298

00:17:10,333 --> 00:17:11,079  
he gave it to me.

299

00:17:11,079 --> 00:17:13,205  
Because he said, you  
going to still grow,

300

00:17:13,205 --> 00:17:14,080  
maybe you'll survive.

301

00:17:14,080 --> 00:17:16,599

302

00:17:16,599 --> 00:17:21,420  
And one time, we were laying on  
the bunk, we had a lot of love

303

00:17:21,420 --> 00:17:24,359  
for each other, my father  
and I. And we kind of

304

00:17:24,359 --> 00:17:26,369

protect each other.

305

00:17:26,369 --> 00:17:28,460

And we are good for each other.

306

00:17:28,460 --> 00:17:30,570

That's the reason we survived.

307

00:17:30,570 --> 00:17:32,760

We can complement each other.

308

00:17:32,760 --> 00:17:36,740

In misery, you  
still need company.

309

00:17:36,740 --> 00:17:38,180

They say misery needs company.

310

00:17:38,180 --> 00:17:40,400

Believe me, we need  
company, we need each other.

311

00:17:40,400 --> 00:17:43,040

And may times, we used  
to lay in the bunk.

312

00:17:43,040 --> 00:17:44,360

We used to reminisce.

313

00:17:44,360 --> 00:17:52,880

314

00:17:52,880 --> 00:17:53,380

Sorry.

315

00:17:53,380 --> 00:17:56,990

316

00:17:56,990 --> 00:18:05,490

The holidays we used to  
have with the mother,

317  
00:18:05,490 --> 00:18:06,448  
with the family.

318  
00:18:06,448 --> 00:18:09,870

319  
00:18:09,870 --> 00:18:13,020  
And he used to tell me, my son,  
please don't remind, please

320  
00:18:13,020 --> 00:18:15,250  
don't talk.

321  
00:18:15,250 --> 00:18:19,240  
Let's continue our life  
together the way it is.

322  
00:18:19,240 --> 00:18:23,820  
And as we were laying,  
one time, people

323  
00:18:23,820 --> 00:18:26,580  
couldn't hold their  
bladders and couldn't hold.

324  
00:18:26,580 --> 00:18:36,970  
We were four stairs of beds,  
four bunks were on top each

325  
00:18:36,970 --> 00:18:37,470  
other.

326  
00:18:37,470 --> 00:18:40,075  
And people above us  
urinated on top of us.

327  
00:18:40,075 --> 00:18:42,760  
So the German thought,  
the German Kapo there,

328  
00:18:42,760 --> 00:18:45,940  
or Polish Kapo, thought

my father urinated.

329

00:18:45,940 --> 00:18:47,890

So he jumped on him.

330

00:18:47,890 --> 00:18:50,050

And with a stick,  
started beating him.

331

00:18:50,050 --> 00:18:51,550

So I thought he's  
going to kill him.

332

00:18:51,550 --> 00:18:54,010

So I jumped on my  
father, protect him.

333

00:18:54,010 --> 00:18:55,710

And he almost killed me.

334

00:18:55,710 --> 00:18:59,560

And when he broke the stick  
on me, he started beating us.

335

00:18:59,560 --> 00:19:02,410

So as I say, we  
needed each other.

336

00:19:02,410 --> 00:19:05,260

I protect his health, he  
brought some food for me.

337

00:19:05,260 --> 00:19:08,780

And we were clinging  
to each other.

338

00:19:08,780 --> 00:19:13,330

Until one time, we were  
working both in the mines,

339

00:19:13,330 --> 00:19:15,433

and we were  
unloading the cement.

340  
00:19:15,433 --> 00:19:16,600  
And I get weaker and weaker.

341  
00:19:16,600 --> 00:19:19,330  
And the cement was a  
50-pound bag cement.

342  
00:19:19,330 --> 00:19:22,260  
Maybe I weighed at that  
time maybe 75 pounds

343  
00:19:22,260 --> 00:19:23,260  
and I couldn't carry it.

344  
00:19:23,260 --> 00:19:24,760  
I fell down.

345  
00:19:24,760 --> 00:19:28,060  
And that the German came, he  
said, I'm going to kill you.

346  
00:19:28,060 --> 00:19:32,470  
You broke the bag  
cement and you sabotage.

347  
00:19:32,470 --> 00:19:36,880  
So he jumped on top of  
me, and with his heal,

348  
00:19:36,880 --> 00:19:38,760  
he was trying to kill me.

349  
00:19:38,760 --> 00:19:42,720  
Knocked me down and  
hit me, made me a mess.

350  
00:19:42,720 --> 00:19:47,688  
I was laying there, my whole  
bloody mess, my face, my body.

351  
00:19:47,688 --> 00:19:48,480

And he walked away.

352  
00:19:48,480 --> 00:19:50,647  
My father there stayed next  
to me, couldn't help me.

353  
00:19:50,647 --> 00:19:52,890  
He couldn't help with nothing.

354  
00:19:52,890 --> 00:19:54,800  
In the evening, he picked me up.

355  
00:19:54,800 --> 00:19:59,970  
He and somebody else, other  
prisoner, and took me down

356  
00:19:59,970 --> 00:20:02,805  
in the so-called hospital.

357  
00:20:02,805 --> 00:20:05,070  
At that time, I  
had typhoid fever.

358  
00:20:05,070 --> 00:20:12,230  
I was so weak that  
I had typhoid fever.

359  
00:20:12,230 --> 00:20:13,750  
And they took me to hospital.

360  
00:20:13,750 --> 00:20:16,102  
Was hospital was  
no Jews over there.

361  
00:20:16,102 --> 00:20:17,810  
And they want to kill  
me in the hospital.

362  
00:20:17,810 --> 00:20:20,700  
I was delirious.

363  
00:20:20,700 --> 00:20:22,950

They gave me a  
handful of aspirin

364  
00:20:22,950 --> 00:20:28,225  
and told me to swallow that,  
which I did without water.

365  
00:20:28,225 --> 00:20:29,350  
There were plenty of water.

366  
00:20:29,350 --> 00:20:33,130  
But still, they  
tried to torture me.

367  
00:20:33,130 --> 00:20:36,370  
And I had to  
swallow the aspirin.

368  
00:20:36,370 --> 00:20:38,470  
I became completely delirious.

369  
00:20:38,470 --> 00:20:40,510  
And I almost went  
out of my mind.

370  
00:20:40,510 --> 00:20:43,690  
I don't remember that  
I tried to hang myself.

371  
00:20:43,690 --> 00:20:46,090  
And I find a--

372  
00:20:46,090 --> 00:20:48,550  
thinking that I have  
exploded the mines,

373  
00:20:48,550 --> 00:20:51,090  
the Germans are after me.

374  
00:20:51,090 --> 00:20:54,420  
And I found a piece of  
wire, like a hanger,



375

00:20:54,420 --> 00:20:56,720  
and I went in the toilet.

376

00:20:56,720 --> 00:20:59,730  
And the toilets have these  
things in Europe on top,

377

00:20:59,730 --> 00:21:01,190  
you've got to pull down.

378

00:21:01,190 --> 00:21:06,980  
And I hooked at the wire on  
top of my neck and jumped down.

379

00:21:06,980 --> 00:21:08,450  
And I start making noises.

380

00:21:08,450 --> 00:21:10,760  
It wouldn't-- it wasn't a  
rope, was a piece of wire.

381

00:21:10,760 --> 00:21:15,050  
And some prisoner came, saw  
that, and pull the wire off,

382

00:21:15,050 --> 00:21:15,950  
and I ran away.

383

00:21:15,950 --> 00:21:20,450  
Jumped in my bed under the cut.

384

00:21:20,450 --> 00:21:26,430  
And I was laying there, hoping  
something will happen to me.

385

00:21:26,430 --> 00:21:31,730  
They found me and put me in a  
cart with three more prisoners.

386

00:21:31,730 --> 00:21:33,080  
We were four together.

387

00:21:33,080 --> 00:21:35,150

They were Russian prisoners.

388

00:21:35,150 --> 00:21:40,190

They wouldn't give me food,  
so each time somebody died,

389

00:21:40,190 --> 00:21:43,940

I ate his food until  
the third one died.

390

00:21:43,940 --> 00:21:46,290

I kept in a few more days.

391

00:21:46,290 --> 00:21:49,520

And then I ate his food,  
and then he starts smelling,

392

00:21:49,520 --> 00:21:51,690

and I told me he's dead.

393

00:21:51,690 --> 00:21:55,890

And this thing is the way  
we find ways to preserve

394

00:21:55,890 --> 00:21:58,800

ourselves, ways to survive.

395

00:21:58,800 --> 00:22:01,560

Here was an innocent boy  
from 13 and 1/2 years

396

00:22:01,560 --> 00:22:04,510

old going in ghetto  
from a good life.

397

00:22:04,510 --> 00:22:06,210

And here, I am laying  
with dead people,

398

00:22:06,210 --> 00:22:07,560

which doesn't bother me.

399

00:22:07,560 --> 00:22:11,080

I'm laying, eating their food  
in order for me to survive.

400

00:22:11,080 --> 00:22:14,180

My father was out of his  
mind, he couldn't find me.

401

00:22:14,180 --> 00:22:15,796

He didn't know where I was.

402

00:22:15,796 --> 00:22:18,230

We have to reload.

403

00:22:18,230 --> 00:22:19,100

I'm sorry.

404

00:22:19,100 --> 00:22:21,180

That's all right.