

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:22,680

2

00:00:22,680 --> 00:00:27,120

Can you talk about the things
you remember from your senses,

3

00:00:27,120 --> 00:00:29,790

like smells, like sounds?

4

00:00:29,790 --> 00:00:33,810

Are there things vivid in
your memory from those years?

5

00:00:33,810 --> 00:00:35,460

Certain, a few.

6

00:00:35,460 --> 00:00:39,960

7

00:00:39,960 --> 00:00:46,000

When we arrived in Auschwitz,
it was always damp.

8

00:00:46,000 --> 00:00:48,810

9

00:00:48,810 --> 00:00:53,010

The sun never shone there.

10

00:00:53,010 --> 00:00:56,620

It was never shining.

11

00:00:56,620 --> 00:00:59,940

If I saw it, maybe
two, three times

12

00:00:59,940 --> 00:01:03,900

was the most in all
the months I was there.

13

00:01:03,900 --> 00:01:08,550

It was always muddy and damp.

14

00:01:08,550 --> 00:01:13,710

And the grounds were
always covered full of mud.

15

00:01:13,710 --> 00:01:18,870

We smelled a terrible
smell because of the ovens

16

00:01:18,870 --> 00:01:21,780

from the crematoire.

17

00:01:21,780 --> 00:01:24,540

And at certain times,
depending the weather,

18

00:01:24,540 --> 00:01:29,220

the climate, the
winds, we also would

19

00:01:29,220 --> 00:01:33,480

have ashes falling down on us.

20

00:01:33,480 --> 00:01:38,520

And when-- tell you the truth,
when Polish people say who

21

00:01:38,520 --> 00:01:42,480

lived around Auschwitz
that they did not know--

22

00:01:42,480 --> 00:01:44,610

when they deny and
they say they did not

23

00:01:44,610 --> 00:01:49,840

know what went on in Auschwitz,
I know they're lying.

24

00:01:49,840 --> 00:01:54,550

Because if we smelled it, I know
they smelled the terrible flesh

25
00:01:54,550 --> 00:01:57,160
of the people being burned.

26
00:01:57,160 --> 00:02:00,640
And this is what I
remember in Auschwitz.

27
00:02:00,640 --> 00:02:05,170
And that's why I say it was
a living hell over there.

28
00:02:05,170 --> 00:02:11,290
I remember as a young girl one
time seeing a terrible movie.

29
00:02:11,290 --> 00:02:14,200
And it looked like
cave people living.

30
00:02:14,200 --> 00:02:16,250
And there were slaves.

31
00:02:16,250 --> 00:02:19,390
And they were living in caves.

32
00:02:19,390 --> 00:02:24,370
And for some reason, I compared
Auschwitz with that movie

33
00:02:24,370 --> 00:02:25,690
because we lived--

34
00:02:25,690 --> 00:02:30,100
instead of caves,
it was Auschwitz.

35
00:02:30,100 --> 00:02:35,740
But we lived in the
mud, like they did.

36

00:02:35,740 --> 00:02:42,160

And the fire and the ashes
and the gray color of the sky

37

00:02:42,160 --> 00:02:43,490

was down on us.

38

00:02:43,490 --> 00:02:44,890

They never saw the daylight.

39

00:02:44,890 --> 00:02:46,540

And neither did we.

40

00:02:46,540 --> 00:02:50,470

And I thought I was
part of that movie.

41

00:02:50,470 --> 00:02:53,270

And that was hell to me.

42

00:02:53,270 --> 00:02:56,470

And I used to think,
if I ever die,

43

00:02:56,470 --> 00:02:58,960

no matter how bad of
a person I will be,

44

00:02:58,960 --> 00:03:00,670

which I don't think I am--

45

00:03:00,670 --> 00:03:04,120

but if ever I am going
to be a bad person

46

00:03:04,120 --> 00:03:06,490

and if there is a God, if
he's going to punish me,

47

00:03:06,490 --> 00:03:09,850

I will never go to hell
because I'm living it already.

48
00:03:09,850 --> 00:03:11,290
I've been in hell.

49
00:03:11,290 --> 00:03:14,050
So I know I will go
straight to heaven.

50
00:03:14,050 --> 00:03:16,150
I always used to think that.

51
00:03:16,150 --> 00:03:18,580
And to this day, I
really think that still

52
00:03:18,580 --> 00:03:21,070
because I've been there already.

53
00:03:21,070 --> 00:03:24,610
That's one of the
feelings that I have.

54
00:03:24,610 --> 00:03:32,230
Now, in Bergen-Belsen,
the decay and the dirt

55
00:03:32,230 --> 00:03:35,710
and the dead people we
lived with because there we

56
00:03:35,710 --> 00:03:38,030
lived with the dead people.

57
00:03:38,030 --> 00:03:43,550
And the terrible odor we
lived with because there

58
00:03:43,550 --> 00:03:45,690
was no toilets there.

59
00:03:45,690 --> 00:03:47,390
They had made ditches.

60
00:03:47,390 --> 00:03:52,840
And we had to go in the
ditches to urinate there

61
00:03:52,840 --> 00:03:55,240
and to do our bowel movements.

62
00:03:55,240 --> 00:03:56,770
And it was never covered.

63
00:03:56,770 --> 00:03:59,560
And it stayed like
this for months.

64
00:03:59,560 --> 00:04:03,430
And this is why people
were dying like flies.

65
00:04:03,430 --> 00:04:06,820
And every day there's not
a day that doesn't go by--

66
00:04:06,820 --> 00:04:09,370
even now to this
day, there isn't

67
00:04:09,370 --> 00:04:14,190
something that reminds
me of concentration camp.

68
00:04:14,190 --> 00:04:18,120
And if I go on a train
and if I go on a trip

69
00:04:18,120 --> 00:04:21,000
and I hear the
doors being slammed,

70
00:04:21,000 --> 00:04:24,270
I am back in the
cattle wagons because I

71

00:04:24,270 --> 00:04:30,040

hear the motion of the trains
and I hear the doors being

72

00:04:30,040 --> 00:04:32,230

slammed together.

73

00:04:32,230 --> 00:04:37,540

And if I go for a joyful trip to
New York for a wedding or a bar

74

00:04:37,540 --> 00:04:42,920

mitzvah or a show in the theater
and before we get into New York

75

00:04:42,920 --> 00:04:48,010

and we get into New Jersey
and I see the factories

76

00:04:48,010 --> 00:04:55,770

with the tall chimneys with the
fires, I see the crematoires.

77

00:04:55,770 --> 00:04:57,480

I will never forget that.

78

00:04:57,480 --> 00:05:00,480

I lived with the dead
people all the time.

79

00:05:00,480 --> 00:05:04,320

I might laugh in the outside,
and I might have a good time.

80

00:05:04,320 --> 00:05:07,530

And people don't know
what goes on in my heart

81

00:05:07,530 --> 00:05:12,810

because I came from hell.

82

00:05:12,810 --> 00:05:16,170

And if I hear a siren,
I'm back in Belgium

83
00:05:16,170 --> 00:05:20,250
and I'm back in the basement,
trying to protect ourselves

84
00:05:20,250 --> 00:05:21,733
from the bombs.

85
00:05:21,733 --> 00:05:25,520

86
00:05:25,520 --> 00:05:27,590
But your same heart
kept you alive.

87
00:05:27,590 --> 00:05:29,390
And that held, didn't it?

88
00:05:29,390 --> 00:05:36,190
That same-- because of my
youth, I feel, the will to live.

89
00:05:36,190 --> 00:05:38,400
I was not ready to die.

90
00:05:38,400 --> 00:05:40,370
And I am the only
one who survived

91
00:05:40,370 --> 00:05:44,700
from my whole family who
went into concentration camp.

92
00:05:44,700 --> 00:05:46,320
I was the youngest.

93
00:05:46,320 --> 00:05:49,270
And I was the youngest
that came out.

94

00:05:49,270 --> 00:05:52,800

And the reason that I feel
I am the one who survived

95

00:05:52,800 --> 00:05:57,540

was because of my youth, I
had the strength to go on,

96

00:05:57,540 --> 00:06:02,880

and also because I was taken two
years after my whole family was

97

00:06:02,880 --> 00:06:04,320

taken.

98

00:06:04,320 --> 00:06:07,380

My family was taken in 1942.

99

00:06:07,380 --> 00:06:09,620

I lost them all.

100

00:06:09,620 --> 00:06:12,590

And I was taken in 1944.

101

00:06:12,590 --> 00:06:13,880

My aunt was unlucky.

102

00:06:13,880 --> 00:06:19,190

And she had to go to the
right by Dr. Mengele.

103

00:06:19,190 --> 00:06:24,420

He told her to go to the
right and me to the left.

104

00:06:24,420 --> 00:06:28,730

And this is why she died.

105

00:06:28,730 --> 00:06:32,050

And my uncle never--

106

00:06:32,050 --> 00:06:34,500

he was taken to the men's camp.

107

00:06:34,500 --> 00:06:38,630

And I never heard
of him afterwards.

108

00:06:38,630 --> 00:06:41,900

I had one more
aunt that lived on

109

00:06:41,900 --> 00:06:47,420

in hiding in Belgium,
my mother's sister.

110

00:06:47,420 --> 00:06:49,700

And for some reason
or another, when

111

00:06:49,700 --> 00:06:54,680

word came to me in Auschwitz
when Belgium was liberated,

112

00:06:54,680 --> 00:06:56,000

I had made up my mind.

113

00:06:56,000 --> 00:06:58,940

Right there and then I
knew that my aunt Sarah was

114

00:06:58,940 --> 00:07:01,820

alive with her two children.

115

00:07:01,820 --> 00:07:06,550

And I was so happy for her.

116

00:07:06,550 --> 00:07:11,380

But I cried myself
to sleep in the bunk,

117

00:07:11,380 --> 00:07:16,120

feeling sorry for myself
that I was in Auschwitz.

118

00:07:16,120 --> 00:07:19,900

But I did not stop to think
and realize that, God forbid,

119

00:07:19,900 --> 00:07:22,530

she could have been caught
and sent to another camp.

120

00:07:22,530 --> 00:07:25,250

I didn't even want
to think about that.

121

00:07:25,250 --> 00:07:27,760

And sure enough when
I was liberated,

122

00:07:27,760 --> 00:07:29,485

she found me in Belgium.

123

00:07:29,485 --> 00:07:34,680

124

00:07:34,680 --> 00:07:38,100

Talk about how important
cleanliness was to you

125

00:07:38,100 --> 00:07:41,670

and what kinds of things
you did to try to keep clean

126

00:07:41,670 --> 00:07:44,350

under those awful conditions.

127

00:07:44,350 --> 00:07:50,420

Clean, very much I was not,
to be very honest with you.

128

00:07:50,420 --> 00:07:54,610

In Auschwitz, I kept
clean, very clean

129

00:07:54,610 --> 00:07:57,760

because we were able
to shower as much as we

130
00:07:57,760 --> 00:08:05,540
knew that the same showers
were given gas to the people.

131
00:08:05,540 --> 00:08:07,400
But we were a little
bit privileged

132
00:08:07,400 --> 00:08:09,620
because we worked
in the kitchen.

133
00:08:09,620 --> 00:08:12,770
And the German people
are very clean.

134
00:08:12,770 --> 00:08:17,880
So they would order us to
go every so often and shower

135
00:08:17,880 --> 00:08:19,620
in the showers.

136
00:08:19,620 --> 00:08:22,170
And we knew that we were
going to be showered.

137
00:08:22,170 --> 00:08:24,570
So we were not scared,
although you never

138
00:08:24,570 --> 00:08:29,010
knew what kind of tricks
they had up their sleeve.

139
00:08:29,010 --> 00:08:30,660
But we risked it.

140
00:08:30,660 --> 00:08:35,280
So in Auschwitz, it wasn't too

bad for me to keep cleanliness.

141

00:08:35,280 --> 00:08:36,990

And for a piece
of ration, I would

142

00:08:36,990 --> 00:08:41,580

exchange for a piece of soap
so I could wash and keep clean.

143

00:08:41,580 --> 00:08:44,970

But in Bergen-Belsen, it
was a different story.

144

00:08:44,970 --> 00:08:48,120

Back in Belsen
was just terrible.

145

00:08:48,120 --> 00:08:54,390

I say even animal,
a dog is cleaner.

146

00:08:54,390 --> 00:08:57,750

It was just terrible,
the decay and the smell

147

00:08:57,750 --> 00:08:59,760

and the odor that was going on.

148

00:08:59,760 --> 00:09:01,980

And we had no water to bathe.

149

00:09:01,980 --> 00:09:09,630

And there was a sink
there with some spigots

150

00:09:09,630 --> 00:09:11,640

at the barracks, which was--

151

00:09:11,640 --> 00:09:14,610

the water was not
even running fluently.

152

00:09:14,610 --> 00:09:16,950

It was just drip, drip, drip.

153

00:09:16,950 --> 00:09:18,210

And you couldn't do nothing.

154

00:09:18,210 --> 00:09:21,570

You had to hold it like this
to have a little bit of water.

155

00:09:21,570 --> 00:09:22,860

And then it was all red.

156

00:09:22,860 --> 00:09:26,400

It was all rusted because
the pipes were all terrible

157

00:09:26,400 --> 00:09:28,200

and rusted up.

158

00:09:28,200 --> 00:09:30,000

And we couldn't wash.

159

00:09:30,000 --> 00:09:31,350

We couldn't bathe.

160

00:09:31,350 --> 00:09:33,300

And we were covered with lice.

161

00:09:33,300 --> 00:09:35,190

We just couldn't help it.

162

00:09:35,190 --> 00:09:40,140

And from the lice, we got the
terrible typhus and diphtheria.

163

00:09:40,140 --> 00:09:42,510

And this was a
terrible sickness.

164

00:09:42,510 --> 00:09:44,220

We couldn't control it.

165
00:09:44,220 --> 00:09:45,540
And we had accidents.

166
00:09:45,540 --> 00:09:47,590
And we couldn't wash ourselves.

167
00:09:47,590 --> 00:09:52,320
And this is how we lived
in this terrible condition

168
00:09:52,320 --> 00:09:53,580
in Bergen-Belsen.

169
00:09:53,580 --> 00:09:58,040

170
00:09:58,040 --> 00:10:01,681
How do you want the people
you lost to be remembered?

171
00:10:01,681 --> 00:10:06,500

172
00:10:06,500 --> 00:10:08,580
What can I tell you?

173
00:10:08,580 --> 00:10:13,380
How can you describe
a whole family

174
00:10:13,380 --> 00:10:19,520
of 58 people or 60, I don't
know exactly how many we were,

175
00:10:19,520 --> 00:10:23,380
who died in vain for nothing
only because of one reason

176
00:10:23,380 --> 00:10:27,540
because they were Jews,

who were not even--

177

00:10:27,540 --> 00:10:31,830

they did not even belong
to a political party?

178

00:10:31,830 --> 00:10:33,450

They were minding
their own business,

179

00:10:33,450 --> 00:10:35,610

trying to make a living
for their families,

180

00:10:35,610 --> 00:10:41,130

living in peace, a loving
family in Belgium who

181

00:10:41,130 --> 00:10:48,200

worked hard to survive not
to be burdens to the country,

182

00:10:48,200 --> 00:10:52,370

and for no reason to be picked
up in the middle of the night

183

00:10:52,370 --> 00:10:59,840

and to be taken on trucks
and trains and cattle cars

184

00:10:59,840 --> 00:11:06,080

and to be beaten up and
then die in concentration

185

00:11:06,080 --> 00:11:08,030

camps in ovens.

186

00:11:08,030 --> 00:11:11,660

What do I tell my children?

187

00:11:11,660 --> 00:11:15,890

How can I describe my
family that I dearly loved?

188
00:11:15,890 --> 00:11:20,960
And I was taken away from
them at the age of 15,

189
00:11:20,960 --> 00:11:25,380
that young to be left all alone.

190
00:11:25,380 --> 00:11:28,106
I'll be very honest with
you, in the beginning when--

191
00:11:28,106 --> 00:11:28,642
[BEEP]

192
00:11:28,642 --> 00:11:31,318

193
00:11:31,318 --> 00:11:33,290
Why don't you go
back to where you

194
00:11:33,290 --> 00:11:35,960
said, I have to be
honest with you,

195
00:11:35,960 --> 00:11:39,040
I didn't want to have children.

196
00:11:39,040 --> 00:11:41,710
I didn't want to have
children because I was afraid

197
00:11:41,710 --> 00:11:44,080
that another war
would come one day

198
00:11:44,080 --> 00:11:46,930
and that my children
shouldn't have to live

199
00:11:46,930 --> 00:11:50,260

through the same thing I did.

200

00:11:50,260 --> 00:11:58,790

And then I said, no, I have to
show the terrible people who

201

00:11:58,790 --> 00:12:03,830

wanted to kill us all that
they cannot kill a race.

202

00:12:03,830 --> 00:12:07,980

And I have to build a
new family because they

203

00:12:07,980 --> 00:12:10,080

took my family away.

204

00:12:10,080 --> 00:12:14,160

I have to have another
new family growing.

205

00:12:14,160 --> 00:12:19,110

And our names should
go on in the future.

206

00:12:19,110 --> 00:12:22,580

They cannot finish us.

207

00:12:22,580 --> 00:12:26,420

And I decided to
have children then.

208

00:12:26,420 --> 00:12:29,840

And I have three beautiful sons.

209

00:12:29,840 --> 00:12:32,810

And when my sons were
old enough to know

210

00:12:32,810 --> 00:12:36,240

what went on in the past
and how we lost, and why.

211

00:12:36,240 --> 00:12:39,170

They asked me
questions, where is

212

00:12:39,170 --> 00:12:43,760

my grandma and my grandfather
and aunts and uncles?

213

00:12:43,760 --> 00:12:46,190

They didn't understand
when they were tiny

214

00:12:46,190 --> 00:12:48,140

why they didn't have family.

215

00:12:48,140 --> 00:12:50,540

Little by little I told them.

216

00:12:50,540 --> 00:12:55,490

And I told them the experiences
I had during the war

217

00:12:55,490 --> 00:12:58,210

and why they don't have family.

218

00:12:58,210 --> 00:13:02,450

And I urged them, one day
you will have a family

219

00:13:02,450 --> 00:13:06,140

and you will tell your
children what went on.

220

00:13:06,140 --> 00:13:10,320

And sure enough,
my children know.

221

00:13:10,320 --> 00:13:13,200

And now their little children--
my little granddaughter

222

00:13:13,200 --> 00:13:16,590

wants to know what my
number on my arm is.

223
00:13:16,590 --> 00:13:18,660
And I tell her in
a certain way--

224
00:13:18,660 --> 00:13:20,430
I cannot shock her too much.

225
00:13:20,430 --> 00:13:23,740
But I tell her that
it was from a camp

226
00:13:23,740 --> 00:13:26,750
where I was taken in detention.

227
00:13:26,750 --> 00:13:31,640
And I hope in the near future
that all the schools and all

228
00:13:31,640 --> 00:13:34,040
the children will
know so that they

229
00:13:34,040 --> 00:13:39,200
can fight and to see that
it should never happen again

230
00:13:39,200 --> 00:13:42,800
because it would be doomsday
if it ever, God forbid,

231
00:13:42,800 --> 00:13:45,920
happens again or
another war should

232
00:13:45,920 --> 00:13:51,740
come and try to kill everybody
just because they are a race.

233
00:13:51,740 --> 00:13:55,670
I'm not just saying Jews but

that they are against a race.

234

00:13:55,670 --> 00:13:57,640

It should never
ever happen again.

235

00:13:57,640 --> 00:14:02,460

236

00:14:02,460 --> 00:14:09,220

Now, before you get up, when
she talked to her numbers--

237

00:14:09,220 --> 00:14:10,000