

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,940

2

00:00:02,940 --> 00:00:05,760

This is the United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3

00:00:05,760 --> 00:00:08,820

interview with Dolly
Bestandig conducted

4

00:00:08,820 --> 00:00:15,090

by Gail Schwartz
on July 27, 1997

5

00:00:15,090 --> 00:00:17,970

at the United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum.

6

00:00:17,970 --> 00:00:21,630

This is tape number two, side A.

7

00:00:21,630 --> 00:00:24,884

And you were talking about
your arrival in Sweden.

8

00:00:24,884 --> 00:00:26,190

Yeah, we arrived.

9

00:00:26,190 --> 00:00:30,690

And the Swedish government
was expecting us.

10

00:00:30,690 --> 00:00:34,960

We were 100 women.

11

00:00:34,960 --> 00:00:39,710

The youngest 17,
20, 20-something.

12

00:00:39,710 --> 00:00:42,560

The oldest, I would say,
were my mother's age--

13
00:00:42,560 --> 00:00:45,350
like 28, 29.

14
00:00:45,350 --> 00:00:48,145
They didn't let us
in the country 'til

15
00:00:48,145 --> 00:00:50,540
we went to a special hospital.

16
00:00:50,540 --> 00:00:54,140
And that was the first time I
was separated from my mother,

17
00:00:54,140 --> 00:00:57,980
because they took her to
one hospital of women.

18
00:00:57,980 --> 00:01:02,800
They took me to another
hospital for children.

19
00:01:02,800 --> 00:01:05,620

20
00:01:05,620 --> 00:01:07,000
I remember the name.

21
00:01:07,000 --> 00:01:08,810
It was called [NON-ENGLISH].

22
00:01:08,810 --> 00:01:13,100
I think that means in Swedish
hospital for children.

23
00:01:13,100 --> 00:01:15,320
I'm not sure.

24
00:01:15,320 --> 00:01:21,060

And my mother got
really hysterical.

25
00:01:21,060 --> 00:01:23,660
That's what she tells me.

26
00:01:23,660 --> 00:01:27,380
They took us in because
we had a lot of diseases.

27
00:01:27,380 --> 00:01:31,010
And the king was very
afraid that our diseases

28
00:01:31,010 --> 00:01:33,770
should spread in his land.

29
00:01:33,770 --> 00:01:37,060
So there were a lot of
other children your age?

30
00:01:37,060 --> 00:01:40,340
I was the only one
with one hundred women

31
00:01:40,340 --> 00:01:42,700
in a castle in Goteborg.

32
00:01:42,700 --> 00:01:45,330
But that was later,
after the hospital.

33
00:01:45,330 --> 00:01:48,440
And they took us
to the hospital.

34
00:01:48,440 --> 00:01:50,780
But when you say us,
you mean children?

35
00:01:50,780 --> 00:01:53,070
So there were other children?

36

00:01:53,070 --> 00:01:53,570

No.

37

00:01:53,570 --> 00:01:54,830

No, no, no, no, no.

38

00:01:54,830 --> 00:01:57,350

I mean, us, this woman and me.

39

00:01:57,350 --> 00:02:00,290

I mean, all these women and me.

40

00:02:00,290 --> 00:02:01,550

I'm a young girl.

41

00:02:01,550 --> 00:02:07,280

They put me on one ward of the hospital with all the women.

42

00:02:07,280 --> 00:02:10,940

The youngest is 16, 17, 18.

43

00:02:10,940 --> 00:02:14,480

And I was the only small child that looked like a child,

44

00:02:14,480 --> 00:02:15,090

you know.

45

00:02:15,090 --> 00:02:18,150

Everybody else looked like big grown-up woman,

46

00:02:18,150 --> 00:02:20,670

even though they were 18 and 20.

47

00:02:20,670 --> 00:02:24,680

And they put my mother, like, in the other wing of the hospital.

48

00:02:24,680 --> 00:02:26,480

Maybe it was the same hospital.

49

00:02:26,480 --> 00:02:27,650

Maybe it was another wing.

50

00:02:27,650 --> 00:02:31,100

Maybe it was another building.

51

00:02:31,100 --> 00:02:35,920

We had to be started to cure and
disinfect all the contagious--

52

00:02:35,920 --> 00:02:39,510

53

00:02:39,510 --> 00:02:40,010

Diseases?

54

00:02:40,010 --> 00:02:40,510

Diseases.

55

00:02:40,510 --> 00:02:41,310

I'm sorry.

56

00:02:41,310 --> 00:02:43,730

All the contagious
diseases that we had.

57

00:02:43,730 --> 00:02:47,270

And I had two very big ones.

58

00:02:47,270 --> 00:02:49,880

Very frightening for them.

59

00:02:49,880 --> 00:02:52,070

My mother was not that sick--

60

00:02:52,070 --> 00:02:54,150

not as I was.

61

00:02:54,150 --> 00:02:59,280

So they put her in one, and
they put me in another one.

62
00:02:59,280 --> 00:03:03,150
And here I am in a
white bed, all alone.

63
00:03:03,150 --> 00:03:09,510
And suddenly I have a bed
and a mattress and sheet.

64
00:03:09,510 --> 00:03:11,400
And everything is white.

65
00:03:11,400 --> 00:03:14,730
And every nurse
is smiling at me.

66
00:03:14,730 --> 00:03:18,270
And they tried to give me
food, and I cannot eat.

67
00:03:18,270 --> 00:03:23,498
Everything goes out
through my nose.

68
00:03:23,498 --> 00:03:26,020
So that's when they
realized that I

69
00:03:26,020 --> 00:03:30,520
needed a special
operation in Stockholm.

70
00:03:30,520 --> 00:03:32,010
Because I had a [NON-ENGLISH].

71
00:03:32,010 --> 00:03:34,380
That's how they call it.

72
00:03:34,380 --> 00:03:40,440
So they started to feed me with
a tube that should go down.

73
00:03:40,440 --> 00:03:45,530
They started to cure me first
my problem of tuberculosis.

74
00:03:45,530 --> 00:03:49,420
And it was in a very, very
bad unhappy [INAUDIBLE]..

75
00:03:49,420 --> 00:03:53,750
Then they started
to try to feed me.

76
00:03:53,750 --> 00:03:56,140
And I wouldn't accept food.

77
00:03:56,140 --> 00:03:57,110
I don't know.

78
00:03:57,110 --> 00:03:58,340
Somehow I couldn't eat.

79
00:03:58,340 --> 00:04:00,410
I couldn't accept food.

80
00:04:00,410 --> 00:04:03,380
Then they said I have
a problem of my heart.

81
00:04:03,380 --> 00:04:07,590
Today I don't know what was
that problem of the heart.

82
00:04:07,590 --> 00:04:09,220
They called the
heart specialist.

83
00:04:09,220 --> 00:04:14,250
Then they said I had
a starting of typhus,

84
00:04:14,250 --> 00:04:18,600

but it was not real typhus yet.

85

00:04:18,600 --> 00:04:20,670

So they put me in that ward.

86

00:04:20,670 --> 00:04:24,040

Those were like two, three
months that I lived alone.

87

00:04:24,040 --> 00:04:27,340

And nobody to speaking,
even though the nurses

88

00:04:27,340 --> 00:04:32,580

come and smile, took pictures--

89

00:04:32,580 --> 00:04:35,340

Could your mother
come and visit you?

90

00:04:35,340 --> 00:04:36,810

She didn't find me.

91

00:04:36,810 --> 00:04:39,510

That's what she told me.

92

00:04:39,510 --> 00:04:42,060

For her, it was terrible--

93

00:04:42,060 --> 00:04:44,400

I think much worse than for me.

94

00:04:44,400 --> 00:04:46,360

That's what I was
supposed to do.

95

00:04:46,360 --> 00:04:48,460

And I was doing what
I was supposed to do.

96

00:04:48,460 --> 00:04:54,700

And I was very obedient

of what I had to do.

97

00:04:54,700 --> 00:04:57,535

But since she knew
that I was alive

98

00:04:57,535 --> 00:04:59,670

and I was separated by her.

99

00:04:59,670 --> 00:05:06,750

So one night, she told the
other woman in the long room

100

00:05:06,750 --> 00:05:08,250

with beds--

101

00:05:08,250 --> 00:05:14,580

she had no clothing to
wear, just the clinic robe.

102

00:05:14,580 --> 00:05:23,070

So she took a curtain
and somehow she found a--

103

00:05:23,070 --> 00:05:23,760

Needle?

104

00:05:23,760 --> 00:05:27,100

A needle, yes, and a thread.

105

00:05:27,100 --> 00:05:32,760

And she found one shoe
from one color and one shoe

106

00:05:32,760 --> 00:05:34,590

besides from another color.

107

00:05:34,590 --> 00:05:38,520

And she made from those
heavy curtains a dress.

108

00:05:38,520 --> 00:05:39,720

She put those shoes.

109
00:05:39,720 --> 00:05:44,290
And somebody found
her some stockings.

110
00:05:44,290 --> 00:05:48,680
And she went, running, to
look for me where I was.

111
00:05:48,680 --> 00:05:51,790
She ran and ran, and somehow
she got to the hospital

112
00:05:51,790 --> 00:05:54,150
where I was.

113
00:05:54,150 --> 00:05:57,960
So she begged and begged
to let her stay with me.

114
00:05:57,960 --> 00:06:01,530
So they let her stay with me.

115
00:06:01,530 --> 00:06:03,720
Gave her a bed near me.

116
00:06:03,720 --> 00:06:07,440
And she had to work cleaning
the bathrooms of the hospital.

117
00:06:07,440 --> 00:06:11,230

118
00:06:11,230 --> 00:06:13,960
To do a job so they
could allow her to stay

119
00:06:13,960 --> 00:06:16,960
like a worker in the hospital.

120
00:06:16,960 --> 00:06:19,030

That's what she said--
that was nothing

121
00:06:19,030 --> 00:06:22,120
compared to what she did.

122
00:06:22,120 --> 00:06:28,160
To just wash nice,
beautiful, white bathrooms.

123
00:06:28,160 --> 00:06:33,510
And probably I was
happier seeing her.

124
00:06:33,510 --> 00:06:36,300
Probably I ate a
little bit more.

125
00:06:36,300 --> 00:06:42,990
But many months passed
'til I was allowed

126
00:06:42,990 --> 00:06:45,090
to go out from the hospital.

127
00:06:45,090 --> 00:06:47,850
The TB didn't want to go away.

128
00:06:47,850 --> 00:06:51,210
The beginning of the
typhoid was already there.

129
00:06:51,210 --> 00:06:51,960
The heart disease.

130
00:06:51,960 --> 00:06:53,880
I don't know what
kind of heart disease

131
00:06:53,880 --> 00:06:57,300
because thanks to
Hashem, till today, I

132

00:06:57,300 --> 00:07:01,380

think I have nothing in
my heart, only high blood

133

00:07:01,380 --> 00:07:03,336

pressure, but that's normal.

134

00:07:03,336 --> 00:07:07,770

135

00:07:07,770 --> 00:07:13,650

And for us, by the end of
1946, I think, like a year

136

00:07:13,650 --> 00:07:21,520

after, I was, before a
year, six, seven months,

137

00:07:21,520 --> 00:07:25,180

I was given permission
to go to this palace

138

00:07:25,180 --> 00:07:31,000

and get them for all those girls
that were there [INAUDIBLE]..

139

00:07:31,000 --> 00:07:36,824

We were there 100 women
inmates, one child.

140

00:07:36,824 --> 00:07:39,530

141

00:07:39,530 --> 00:07:41,140

You were with your mother.

142

00:07:41,140 --> 00:07:41,640

Yes.

143

00:07:41,640 --> 00:07:44,550

144

00:07:44,550 --> 00:07:48,150

There the king gave
us where to live

145

00:07:48,150 --> 00:07:51,990

and food that they used to
make in that kitchen for us.

146

00:07:51,990 --> 00:07:54,190

That's all.

147

00:07:54,190 --> 00:07:57,150

No money, no clothing, nothing.

148

00:07:57,150 --> 00:07:59,070

I think they gave
my mother a dress

149

00:07:59,070 --> 00:08:01,500

and me a dress, a pair of shoes.

150

00:08:01,500 --> 00:08:04,620

Maybe they gave us two so
we could change or wash

151

00:08:04,620 --> 00:08:06,018

or something.

152

00:08:06,018 --> 00:08:09,280

153

00:08:09,280 --> 00:08:14,260

We came to that place, and
my experience in that place

154

00:08:14,260 --> 00:08:18,750

was, I would say
it was terrible.

155

00:08:18,750 --> 00:08:21,450

I was not being
happy and my mother

156
00:08:21,450 --> 00:08:24,360
was also not being happy.

157
00:08:24,360 --> 00:08:27,510
Every night somebody
else begged her I

158
00:08:27,510 --> 00:08:31,030
could go and sleep
in their room.

159
00:08:31,030 --> 00:08:33,190
They lost their
children, so I have

160
00:08:33,190 --> 00:08:36,502
to spend every night in
somebody else's room.

161
00:08:36,502 --> 00:08:39,150

162
00:08:39,150 --> 00:08:41,870
My mother couldn't say no.

163
00:08:41,870 --> 00:08:44,100
I don't know.

164
00:08:44,100 --> 00:08:48,120
Maybe they started to be
hysterical and cry so she had

165
00:08:48,120 --> 00:08:50,510
no [NON-ENGLISH], like we say.

166
00:08:50,510 --> 00:08:53,910
She had to give me I should go
and sleep one hour here and one

167
00:08:53,910 --> 00:08:55,105
hour there.

168
00:08:55,105 --> 00:08:59,980
It was very difficult for her
and very difficult for me.

169
00:08:59,980 --> 00:09:05,690
My mother, besides being
a brilliant piano player,

170
00:09:05,690 --> 00:09:09,980
she used to know how to
write a few languages.

171
00:09:09,980 --> 00:09:12,770
But very, very nice.

172
00:09:12,770 --> 00:09:22,520
I will send you one letter
that she sent to the Jewish

173
00:09:22,520 --> 00:09:28,070
in Bern, in Switzerland,
the Jewish Congress.

174
00:09:28,070 --> 00:09:31,070
How was it called?

175
00:09:31,070 --> 00:09:33,450
Jewish Appeal.

176
00:09:33,450 --> 00:09:36,720
That's where they put all
the names of the survivors

177
00:09:36,720 --> 00:09:39,460
and that's where
the survivors try

178
00:09:39,460 --> 00:09:42,060
to look if there was
another survivor somewhere

179

00:09:42,060 --> 00:09:43,890
in the world.

180
00:09:43,890 --> 00:09:48,630
So my mother wrote a
letter of five, six pages.

181
00:09:48,630 --> 00:09:49,545
I have it.

182
00:09:49,545 --> 00:09:53,880
It's in Polish and
it's in Yiddish,

183
00:09:53,880 --> 00:09:58,490
and it's a brave letter.

184
00:09:58,490 --> 00:10:03,030
It's so impressive, you know.

185
00:10:03,030 --> 00:10:05,950

186
00:10:05,950 --> 00:10:12,130
She asked for a few cents to
be able to buy a few stamps

187
00:10:12,130 --> 00:10:15,190
and try to send some
letters to some families

188
00:10:15,190 --> 00:10:20,740
that she thinks, some
cousins, that are in America.

189
00:10:20,740 --> 00:10:23,350
They went to Cuba,
but she remembers

190
00:10:23,350 --> 00:10:27,520
that the last letter
we got in 1939

191

00:10:27,520 --> 00:10:29,770
was from Managua, Nicaragua.

192

00:10:29,770 --> 00:10:32,450

193

00:10:32,450 --> 00:10:38,460
That letter she writes who she
is, from whom she descends,

194

00:10:38,460 --> 00:10:42,120
how she survived with
one little child,

195

00:10:42,120 --> 00:10:46,410
that she has never begged
for money in her life

196

00:10:46,410 --> 00:10:53,720
but she would like some money to
buy some stamps and some money

197

00:10:53,720 --> 00:10:58,730
to go in a train
to Stockholm, where

198

00:10:58,730 --> 00:11:01,940
I need an operation to be done.

199

00:11:01,940 --> 00:11:04,790
And she knows that the
operation will be free

200

00:11:04,790 --> 00:11:06,320
but that's the only
place where they

201

00:11:06,320 --> 00:11:09,700
told her there was a possibility
that we should close this up.

202

00:11:09,700 --> 00:11:12,720

203

00:11:12,720 --> 00:11:18,330

And she tells the history of
her family and how she survived,

204

00:11:18,330 --> 00:11:23,580

and she wants to be a Jew again.

205

00:11:23,580 --> 00:11:28,740

She doesn't talk bad about
God or why did He punish her

206

00:11:28,740 --> 00:11:32,910

or why did He take
all her family away.

207

00:11:32,910 --> 00:11:35,310

She doesn't complain.

208

00:11:35,310 --> 00:11:40,680

She says she was born a Jew,
she wants to go on being at Jew.

209

00:11:40,680 --> 00:11:44,310

She was between a lot
of Christian people.

210

00:11:44,310 --> 00:11:48,510

In that place, I would say
that not the 100 women were all

211

00:11:48,510 --> 00:11:49,660

Jewish.

212

00:11:49,660 --> 00:11:51,740

They were like these three
girls Czechoslovakia.

213

00:11:51,740 --> 00:11:54,360

And probably there
were let's say

214

00:11:54,360 --> 00:11:56,850
like 20 Jews and 80 non-Jews.

215

00:11:56,850 --> 00:11:59,950

216

00:11:59,950 --> 00:12:03,790
So she wanted to go
to a Jewish place.

217

00:12:03,790 --> 00:12:08,200
She wanted to try to
get me this operation,

218

00:12:08,200 --> 00:12:11,530
and then she wanted
a few pennies

219

00:12:11,530 --> 00:12:18,980
to buy some stamps to try to
locate somebody in America, not

220

00:12:18,980 --> 00:12:23,030
in Poland, that were survivors.

221

00:12:23,030 --> 00:12:28,240
Her family that went out
from Europe before the war.

222

00:12:28,240 --> 00:12:31,130
We got a beautiful
letter of response.

223

00:12:31,130 --> 00:12:36,200
And of course some
Swedish money.

224

00:12:36,200 --> 00:12:40,670
My mother bought herself a watch
because she says she couldn't

225

00:12:40,670 --> 00:12:43,070

live without knowing the time.

226

00:12:43,070 --> 00:12:45,800

She just won't
stand it any more.

227

00:12:45,800 --> 00:12:48,260

At that time she
already remembered

228

00:12:48,260 --> 00:12:53,680

that she was a pianist and she
could make some money in Sweden

229

00:12:53,680 --> 00:12:56,800

giving concerts.

230

00:12:56,800 --> 00:13:00,340

Everybody said she
was absolutely crazy.

231

00:13:00,340 --> 00:13:03,640

How would she
attempt to play piano

232

00:13:03,640 --> 00:13:06,100

after these five
terrible years with what

233

00:13:06,100 --> 00:13:08,570

she did with her hands?

234

00:13:08,570 --> 00:13:11,800

And she probably wouldn't
remember anything.

235

00:13:11,800 --> 00:13:18,140

And today I remember that
she used to play the piano.

236

00:13:18,140 --> 00:13:23,540

Everybody told her that
she lost her memory.

237

00:13:23,540 --> 00:13:25,220
She grew even in more concerts.

238

00:13:25,220 --> 00:13:31,140
She gave just one in Mexico
with big, big palace in Mexico.

239

00:13:31,140 --> 00:13:34,890
Because her memory failed
her, she started with one,

240

00:13:34,890 --> 00:13:39,450
with Rachmaninoff concert number
two, and five minutes after she

241

00:13:39,450 --> 00:13:43,950
was already in Chopin, where
she was already in Beethoven.

242

00:13:43,950 --> 00:13:50,550
Her mind with her
skill and technique

243

00:13:50,550 --> 00:13:52,710
was absolutely unbelievable.

244

00:13:52,710 --> 00:13:56,460
People just couldn't believe
how her hands looked.

245

00:13:56,460 --> 00:13:59,820
So when she got that
money she bought a watch,

246

00:13:59,820 --> 00:14:01,650
she bought me a
dress, she bought

247

00:14:01,650 --> 00:14:04,275
herself a dress and a coat.

248

00:14:04,275 --> 00:14:07,468

249

00:14:07,468 --> 00:14:09,990

And we went to Sweden.

250

00:14:09,990 --> 00:14:15,550

We said goodbye to these
hundreds of residents.

251

00:14:15,550 --> 00:14:16,838

We went to Sweden.

252

00:14:16,838 --> 00:14:17,755

You went to Stockholm?

253

00:14:17,755 --> 00:14:19,360

We went to Sweden.

254

00:14:19,360 --> 00:14:21,790

We went to Stockholm,
that's right.

255

00:14:21,790 --> 00:14:26,450

And there I was put
in a special hospital.

256

00:14:26,450 --> 00:14:29,300

That was a hospital
where I saw that there

257

00:14:29,300 --> 00:14:32,000

were all the children.

258

00:14:32,000 --> 00:14:34,310

Other small people.

259

00:14:34,310 --> 00:14:36,380

Never talk to nobody of them.

260

00:14:36,380 --> 00:14:45,500

What impressed me was that

those children had people

261

00:14:45,500 --> 00:14:48,410

to come every day
and visit them and I

262

00:14:48,410 --> 00:14:50,540

had nobody to come and see me.

263

00:14:50,540 --> 00:14:55,250

My mother wanted to do
something to earn some money.

264

00:14:55,250 --> 00:14:57,530

They let her stay
in the hospital

265

00:14:57,530 --> 00:14:59,150

and gave her a bed to sleep.

266

00:14:59,150 --> 00:15:03,320

I don't know if near the
hospital, in the hospital.

267

00:15:03,320 --> 00:15:05,120

And she worked there.

268

00:15:05,120 --> 00:15:09,800

She worked there again like
cleaning bathrooms or cleaning

269

00:15:09,800 --> 00:15:12,680

dishes, things like that.

270

00:15:12,680 --> 00:15:15,000

Then she remembered
what she was.

271

00:15:15,000 --> 00:15:18,050

She remembered
she was a pianist.

272

00:15:18,050 --> 00:15:24,350

So they offered her
to give some concerts

273

00:15:24,350 --> 00:15:28,460

and they said they will
pay her for the concert.

274

00:15:28,460 --> 00:15:35,100

And one night, I think it
was the first week that I

275

00:15:35,100 --> 00:15:37,410

was in the hospital, I
wasn't in that operation

276

00:15:37,410 --> 00:15:42,630

yet because they had to
first feed me and everything

277

00:15:42,630 --> 00:15:45,960

so I should be able to
stand the operation.

278

00:15:45,960 --> 00:15:50,190

And they put you
in a tongue, so you

279

00:15:50,190 --> 00:15:53,700

shouldn't touch your
operation with your tongue.

280

00:15:53,700 --> 00:15:56,780

And I remember that very well.

281

00:15:56,780 --> 00:16:02,920

They put you like
a tongue, and you

282

00:16:02,920 --> 00:16:05,770

have like feeling
off a plastic thing

283

00:16:05,770 --> 00:16:11,110
and suddenly the food does not
go through your nose anymore.

284
00:16:11,110 --> 00:16:13,400
Suddenly you eat it and
everything goes down.

285
00:16:13,400 --> 00:16:18,340
It was like also the
taste of food they never

286
00:16:18,340 --> 00:16:19,970
had the taste of food.

287
00:16:19,970 --> 00:16:23,710
So I couldn't have it
even if I was given food

288
00:16:23,710 --> 00:16:29,150
before already another hospital,
I had no taste of food.

289
00:16:29,150 --> 00:16:32,500
My mother went to
give this concert.

290
00:16:32,500 --> 00:16:37,270
She was so happy because
they paid her and she was

291
00:16:37,270 --> 00:16:39,790
coming at night in Stockholm.

292
00:16:39,790 --> 00:16:41,900
She was walking to
the other hospital.

293
00:16:41,900 --> 00:16:44,020
It was the same
city, not far away

294
00:16:44,020 --> 00:16:45,490

the place where
she gave a concert.

295
00:16:45,490 --> 00:16:49,140
I think she was very
successful in the concert

296
00:16:49,140 --> 00:16:53,200
and she remembered to
play without music,

297
00:16:53,200 --> 00:16:55,190
without notes, without nothing.

298
00:16:55,190 --> 00:16:56,620
Maybe she know already notes.

299
00:16:56,620 --> 00:17:03,170

300
00:17:03,170 --> 00:17:07,440
She was walking to
the hospital, so happy

301
00:17:07,440 --> 00:17:16,990
that she had earned a few
dollars worth of Swedish money.

302
00:17:16,990 --> 00:17:24,399
And a car went by, and
she had a car accident.

303
00:17:24,399 --> 00:17:27,199

304
00:17:27,199 --> 00:17:29,000
It rolled over her.

305
00:17:29,000 --> 00:17:31,770
She didn't see how
to cross the street.

306

00:17:31,770 --> 00:17:34,340
She was not used to cars.

307
00:17:34,340 --> 00:17:36,580
Those were the first
cars in Sweden.

308
00:17:36,580 --> 00:17:38,450
Probably people weren't
used to driving.

309
00:17:38,450 --> 00:17:41,870
So when she crosses
like crazy person.

310
00:17:41,870 --> 00:17:45,140
So she was taken to
one hospital to be

311
00:17:45,140 --> 00:17:48,050
put in casts at both legs.

312
00:17:48,050 --> 00:17:53,540
So two, three months, two months
I imagine I couldn't see her.

313
00:17:53,540 --> 00:17:58,610
And I remember very
well there were

314
00:17:58,610 --> 00:18:03,180
children in the other beds
quite far away from me.

315
00:18:03,180 --> 00:18:05,760
And I remember that
used to have visitors

316
00:18:05,760 --> 00:18:10,680
that brought them
toys, chocolates,

317
00:18:10,680 --> 00:18:12,750

things I've never seen.

318
00:18:12,750 --> 00:18:14,190
Came in smiling.

319
00:18:14,190 --> 00:18:18,390
So the nurses there
used to tell the people,

320
00:18:18,390 --> 00:18:21,350
go and say hello because
I had nobody to visit.

321
00:18:21,350 --> 00:18:25,420
So people used to come
and say some words that I

322
00:18:25,420 --> 00:18:28,020
didn't understand at all.

323
00:18:28,020 --> 00:18:32,250
And sometimes would maybe
bring me a flower and candy.

324
00:18:32,250 --> 00:18:33,530
I don't know if a toy.

325
00:18:33,530 --> 00:18:36,430
I don't remember seeing a toy.

326
00:18:36,430 --> 00:18:39,540
Never a doll.

327
00:18:39,540 --> 00:18:44,470
Then after a few months, my
mother, a few weeks probably,

328
00:18:44,470 --> 00:18:48,350
maybe two months,
my mother came back.

329
00:18:48,350 --> 00:18:52,010

And in the meantime
at that time she

330
00:18:52,010 --> 00:18:56,540
wrote letters and letters
trying to find my uncles.

331
00:18:56,540 --> 00:19:00,410
And they would try to find
survivors from the family

332
00:19:00,410 --> 00:19:04,305
through the Jewish
agency in Switzerland.

333
00:19:04,305 --> 00:19:07,420

334
00:19:07,420 --> 00:19:11,780
National Jewish Congress it
was I think at that time.

335
00:19:11,780 --> 00:19:18,680
And my mother wrote a letter
that I would say somebody

336
00:19:18,680 --> 00:19:22,230
was taking care of
us I would say again

337
00:19:22,230 --> 00:19:25,030
that I believe that the
Hashem just guides us,

338
00:19:25,030 --> 00:19:29,390
and so it made us survive
and find our family.

339
00:19:29,390 --> 00:19:35,090
Because that time
she wrote a letter

340
00:19:35,090 --> 00:19:40,710

with the only advice she could remember, Managua, Nicaragua.

341

00:19:40,710 --> 00:19:46,640
Sholem [? Gesundheit ?] was one of the five brothers.

342

00:19:46,640 --> 00:19:48,450
And that's it.

343

00:19:48,450 --> 00:19:50,610
America.

344

00:19:50,610 --> 00:19:54,180
That's when I came to Nicaragua.

345

00:19:54,180 --> 00:19:58,183
All my uncles left Nicaragua because they were single.

346

00:19:58,183 --> 00:19:59,100
They were not married.

347

00:19:59,100 --> 00:20:03,780
So a few years, let's say, like during the war time,

348

00:20:03,780 --> 00:20:06,240
in the '40s, in the beginning of the '40s,

349

00:20:06,240 --> 00:20:11,310
they moved one to New York, one to Miami, one to Salvador,

350

00:20:11,310 --> 00:20:15,600
one to Mexico-- two to Mexico, to get married,

351

00:20:15,600 --> 00:20:18,840
to find Jewish girls.

352

00:20:18,840 --> 00:20:24,880

So that letter arrived
in Nicaragua, Managua.

353

00:20:24,880 --> 00:20:29,890

And the person who received that
letter knew the Gesundheits.

354

00:20:29,890 --> 00:20:33,690

And knew that they left
for America and for Mexico.

355

00:20:33,690 --> 00:20:39,720

So believe it or not, they
sent to Mexico and to New York

356

00:20:39,720 --> 00:20:42,010

those letters.

357

00:20:42,010 --> 00:20:45,140

And that's how my uncles
new we had survived.

358

00:20:45,140 --> 00:20:47,420

Right away they sent us money.

359

00:20:47,420 --> 00:20:51,290

They sent us tickets
for the ship to America.

360

00:20:51,290 --> 00:20:52,670

They sent my mother money.

361

00:20:52,670 --> 00:20:56,300

She bought a dress for
herself and a dress for me.

362

00:20:56,300 --> 00:21:01,190

And then she wanted a watch
that really should work.

363

00:21:01,190 --> 00:21:05,240

And still today, I have her

[INAUDIBLE] that she wore,

364

00:21:05,240 --> 00:21:08,800
that she bought in Sweden.

365

00:21:08,800 --> 00:21:10,100
And they called.

366

00:21:10,100 --> 00:21:14,030
And she said that
when I'll be cured,

367

00:21:14,030 --> 00:21:18,020
she was going to take this
ship to go to America.

368

00:21:18,020 --> 00:21:24,050

369

00:21:24,050 --> 00:21:27,020
She found some Jewish
people in Sweden.

370

00:21:27,020 --> 00:21:29,120
Very difficult,
but she found them.

371

00:21:29,120 --> 00:21:32,920
Because in the letter that she
wrote to the Jewish Congress,

372

00:21:32,920 --> 00:21:38,580
she said, I survived to be a Jew
and I want to be a Jew again.

373

00:21:38,580 --> 00:21:41,550
I don't want to live
between non-Jews.

374

00:21:41,550 --> 00:21:43,380
I have suffered a lot.

375

00:21:43,380 --> 00:21:47,670
And if I survive, I want to
go on being Jewish somewhere.

376
00:21:47,670 --> 00:21:51,210
We found some Jews,
very little in Sweden.

377
00:21:51,210 --> 00:21:54,380

378
00:21:54,380 --> 00:21:57,100
One of the ladies was
very, very nice to me.

379
00:21:57,100 --> 00:22:00,310
And she used to come
and see me later on.

380
00:22:00,310 --> 00:22:03,400
I had to be in the hospital
for a few months more

381
00:22:03,400 --> 00:22:09,520
because this palate that they
put me had to be taken off

382
00:22:09,520 --> 00:22:13,280
and see if the operation
was good enough.

383
00:22:13,280 --> 00:22:16,280
Because they said to my
mother, the first time

384
00:22:16,280 --> 00:22:19,350
we're making this operation.

385
00:22:19,350 --> 00:22:21,845
We don't know, maybe
it will open up.

386
00:22:21,845 --> 00:22:24,740

And in a few years,
you need another one.

387
00:22:24,740 --> 00:22:28,130
But this can be solved.

388
00:22:28,130 --> 00:22:31,940
And she'll be able to
speak perfectly normal.

389
00:22:31,940 --> 00:22:33,770
And she'll learn how to speak.

390
00:22:33,770 --> 00:22:35,990
And I'm sure that
when she gets big--

391
00:22:35,990 --> 00:22:41,480
what happened is that
during the war, having this,

392
00:22:41,480 --> 00:22:44,840
and not being able to
speak, even if she wants to,

393
00:22:44,840 --> 00:22:46,760
that's what made here not.

394
00:22:46,760 --> 00:22:50,000
It's not that she cannot speak.

395
00:22:50,000 --> 00:22:54,680
The truth is that after
they took that palate still

396
00:22:54,680 --> 00:22:58,900
in hospital, they made me
say a few words in Swedish.

397
00:22:58,900 --> 00:22:59,730
And I said them.

398

00:22:59,730 --> 00:23:02,110

And my mother started to
speak to me in Russian.

399

00:23:02,110 --> 00:23:03,580

And I answered her in Russian.

400

00:23:03,580 --> 00:23:05,830

Sometimes she'd speak
to me in Yiddish,

401

00:23:05,830 --> 00:23:07,780

and I started to
answer her in Yiddish.

402

00:23:07,780 --> 00:23:10,180

[INAUDIBLE] in Polish,
because at that time

403

00:23:10,180 --> 00:23:12,335

she already spoke three
languages with me.

404

00:23:12,335 --> 00:23:16,150

She was, as I told you
before, she came out

405

00:23:16,150 --> 00:23:18,270

very sick from [? her head ?].

406

00:23:18,270 --> 00:23:21,720

So she would change from
language to language.

407

00:23:21,720 --> 00:23:27,000

She would change from one
mood to another, like this.

408

00:23:27,000 --> 00:23:29,870

409

00:23:29,870 --> 00:23:32,930

She thought sometimes she

was in some place else.

410
00:23:32,930 --> 00:23:40,130
She had a tic, a nervous
tic, that never stopped,

411
00:23:40,130 --> 00:23:43,950
to the left or right
side of her head.

412
00:23:43,950 --> 00:23:46,660
And she used to
put up her shoulder

413
00:23:46,660 --> 00:23:48,700
and touch her head
with the shoulder.

414
00:23:48,700 --> 00:23:53,370

415
00:23:53,370 --> 00:23:59,180
But she tried to live
again as best as she could.

416
00:23:59,180 --> 00:24:04,260
She tried to be a good mother,
even though I will never

417
00:24:04,260 --> 00:24:07,650
remember her doing a meal
for me, not in Mexico.

418
00:24:07,650 --> 00:24:10,680

419
00:24:10,680 --> 00:24:14,910
I will never remember that
she would come and say,

420
00:24:14,910 --> 00:24:19,560
can I do-- can I help
you with your homework?

421
00:24:19,560 --> 00:24:21,990
Shall I go and buy
you a pair of shoes?

422
00:24:21,990 --> 00:24:23,590
When she saw that
my shoes finished,

423
00:24:23,590 --> 00:24:25,710
she would go and buy
me a pair of shoes.

424
00:24:25,710 --> 00:24:30,130
When she saw that my
uniform was almost used,

425
00:24:30,130 --> 00:24:32,260
then she would go and
buy me another uniform.

426
00:24:32,260 --> 00:24:38,800
But after the war, she gave
no importance for whatever

427
00:24:38,800 --> 00:24:41,830
she used to have before.

428
00:24:41,830 --> 00:24:43,180
She didn't care about clothing.

429
00:24:43,180 --> 00:24:45,130
She didn't care about food.

430
00:24:45,130 --> 00:24:47,680
She didn't care about--

431
00:24:47,680 --> 00:24:49,915
she was very pretty,
but she didn't

432
00:24:49,915 --> 00:24:52,850

care about looking pretty.

433

00:24:52,850 --> 00:24:57,980

She gave the family, the
first day in Mexico--

434

00:24:57,980 --> 00:25:00,500

How long did you stay in Sweden?

435

00:25:00,500 --> 00:25:03,090

I would say like
a year and a half.

436

00:25:03,090 --> 00:25:06,380

And then you left Sweden when?

437

00:25:06,380 --> 00:25:09,460

In the beginning the 1947.

438

00:25:09,460 --> 00:25:11,350

And you went directly to--

439

00:25:11,350 --> 00:25:12,760

New York.

440

00:25:12,760 --> 00:25:17,220

And that's the
biggest impression

441

00:25:17,220 --> 00:25:20,430

that I remember all
the days of my life.

442

00:25:20,430 --> 00:25:24,090

Coming to New York
and seeing cars.

443

00:25:24,090 --> 00:25:26,610

444

00:25:26,610 --> 00:25:29,640

My uncle went to

receive us at the ship.

445

00:25:29,640 --> 00:25:32,130

The ship was so-so.

446

00:25:32,130 --> 00:25:36,940

I remember the whole time, my
mother and I were throwing up.

447

00:25:36,940 --> 00:25:39,090

Maybe we were not
used to a ship.

448

00:25:39,090 --> 00:25:42,210

And it was many weeks it
took us to come to New York.

449

00:25:42,210 --> 00:25:43,210

I can't remember.

450

00:25:43,210 --> 00:25:46,850

It was a very good ship,
a first-class ship.

451

00:25:46,850 --> 00:25:49,920

We didn't went to a
very, poor-class ship.

452

00:25:49,920 --> 00:25:52,320

No, no, no, no, my
uncle sent us money

453

00:25:52,320 --> 00:25:55,950

we should go on a
first-class ship.

454

00:25:55,950 --> 00:25:59,190

But somehow, it didn't--

455

00:25:59,190 --> 00:26:02,640

it didn't work for us
very good, that trip.

456

00:26:02,640 --> 00:26:03,870

And then he would come.

457

00:26:03,870 --> 00:26:07,690

And my uncle comes
and embraced us.

458

00:26:07,690 --> 00:26:12,040

And here we go in New
York, in Manhattan.

459

00:26:12,040 --> 00:26:17,120

And I get so scared, and started
to cry, and tried to hide.

460

00:26:17,120 --> 00:26:19,940

These cars were like animals.

461

00:26:19,940 --> 00:26:22,160

And so many people, people,
people, people, people.

462

00:26:22,160 --> 00:26:26,220

And then suddenly,
I see children.

463

00:26:26,220 --> 00:26:29,400

That's when I asked my
mother, for the first time,

464

00:26:29,400 --> 00:26:31,860

look, I said, other children.

465

00:26:31,860 --> 00:26:35,530

Somehow, in the hospital,
I didn't realize

466

00:26:35,530 --> 00:26:37,020

that there were children.

467

00:26:37,020 --> 00:26:40,530

I saw the big beds.

468
00:26:40,530 --> 00:26:46,470
It was a real shock to see
that other children existed.

469
00:26:46,470 --> 00:26:48,935
And when my uncle
took me to a store,

470
00:26:48,935 --> 00:26:52,790
probably Macy's, Gimbel's,
I don't remember,

471
00:26:52,790 --> 00:26:59,310
and bought me a doll, I'm
just elated, in heaven.

472
00:26:59,310 --> 00:27:05,620
Milkshake or a chocolate milk
for the first time in my life.

473
00:27:05,620 --> 00:27:12,550
And I ate an egg, a scrambled or
fried egg, and the white bread.

474
00:27:12,550 --> 00:27:16,500

475
00:27:16,500 --> 00:27:20,360
I thought this was another--

476
00:27:20,360 --> 00:27:21,870
a complete other world.

477
00:27:21,870 --> 00:27:25,110

478
00:27:25,110 --> 00:27:30,500
I thought that New York
was one kind of the world,

479
00:27:30,500 --> 00:27:34,940

and the world I came was
not on the same Earth,

480
00:27:34,940 --> 00:27:36,830
not in the same space.

481
00:27:36,830 --> 00:27:40,820
It wasn't occupying
the same space.

482
00:27:40,820 --> 00:27:44,220
And till today,
I've never asked,

483
00:27:44,220 --> 00:27:47,910
God, why was I born there?

484
00:27:47,910 --> 00:27:51,360
Why were other people born here?

485
00:27:51,360 --> 00:27:53,340
Why was my fate to be there?

486
00:27:53,340 --> 00:27:55,740
And why other
people [? didn't ?]??

487
00:27:55,740 --> 00:27:59,160
But I will be always
thankful for my family

488
00:27:59,160 --> 00:28:01,530
to bring me over to America.

489
00:28:01,530 --> 00:28:06,900
Like my mother used to say,
to walk in the park in Mexico,

490
00:28:06,900 --> 00:28:10,740
and breathe the fresh air,
and see the flowers grow,

491

00:28:10,740 --> 00:28:14,350
she doesn't need anything more.

492
00:28:14,350 --> 00:28:19,790
She gave thanks for everything
that people take for granted.

493
00:28:19,790 --> 00:28:23,060
That people take for granted to
go and work, Chapultepec park,

494
00:28:23,060 --> 00:28:25,370
and write beautiful poems.

495
00:28:25,370 --> 00:28:27,180
I have one--

496
00:28:27,180 --> 00:28:28,595
I'll send you a copy--

497
00:28:28,595 --> 00:28:31,990
in Jewish that
she made for them.

498
00:28:31,990 --> 00:28:36,650
There was a book of
music made out of it,

499
00:28:36,650 --> 00:28:38,290
not only of the partisans.

500
00:28:38,290 --> 00:28:41,630
It was made in
the Warsaw ghetto.

501
00:28:41,630 --> 00:28:43,880
She brought it to Mexico.

502
00:28:43,880 --> 00:28:47,900
She got it in Sweden, I think.

503
00:28:47,900 --> 00:28:50,670

Or it was passed to
have from the ghettos.

504
00:28:50,670 --> 00:28:53,235
I really don't know
how it was sent to her.

505
00:28:53,235 --> 00:28:56,780
But she has the letter
from those famous songs

506
00:28:56,780 --> 00:29:00,590
that, "Zog nit keynmol az
du geyst dem letstn vet."

507
00:29:00,590 --> 00:29:04,070
And she has the notes and the
letter of all those songs.

508
00:29:04,070 --> 00:29:07,800
And she used to play
them later in Mexico.

509
00:29:07,800 --> 00:29:10,860
And she wrote a poem.

510
00:29:10,860 --> 00:29:15,060
I think they published
it in Mexico in a review.

511
00:29:15,060 --> 00:29:17,500
And I'll send it to you.

512
00:29:17,500 --> 00:29:19,540
When did you get to Mexico?

513
00:29:19,540 --> 00:29:21,060
We got to Mexico--

514
00:29:21,060 --> 00:29:24,060
we stayed in New
York for a week.

515

00:29:24,060 --> 00:29:25,740

And then we took a train.

516

00:29:25,740 --> 00:29:28,110

We traveled by train.

517

00:29:28,110 --> 00:29:32,760

And my other two uncles were
waiting for us in Mexico City.

518

00:29:32,760 --> 00:29:35,475

We had to stop in
the border in Laredo.

519

00:29:35,475 --> 00:29:39,550

We went through Texas,
to Laredo, Texas.

520

00:29:39,550 --> 00:29:43,430

And it was a very funny
thing happened to us,

521

00:29:43,430 --> 00:29:45,140

which was we had no passport.

522

00:29:45,140 --> 00:29:47,692

We were [NON-ENGLISH].

523

00:29:47,692 --> 00:29:49,120

How do you say?

524

00:29:49,120 --> 00:29:50,800

With no passport.

525

00:29:50,800 --> 00:29:54,460

Still today, I don't
have a birth certificate.

526

00:29:54,460 --> 00:29:58,640

My mother also lost
her birth certificate.

527

00:29:58,640 --> 00:30:01,720

So we came with a
Swedish passport

528

00:30:01,720 --> 00:30:07,780

that said that we had no
country that we belonged to.

529

00:30:07,780 --> 00:30:11,740

Because going into
Sweden-- in Bergen-Belson,

530

00:30:11,740 --> 00:30:14,520

we had to say what nationality.

531

00:30:14,520 --> 00:30:19,910

We said we were born in Vilna,
but we had no nationality.

532

00:30:19,910 --> 00:30:22,280

We didn't want the passport.

533

00:30:22,280 --> 00:30:27,410

So we went to Sweden
with no passport.

534

00:30:27,410 --> 00:30:29,210

We came to New York.

535

00:30:29,210 --> 00:30:34,910

And my uncle gave a-- paid a fee
for us, a few thousand dollars.

536

00:30:34,910 --> 00:30:37,400

But we were not staying
in the United States.

537

00:30:37,400 --> 00:30:39,710

We could have tried
if we wanted to.

538

00:30:39,710 --> 00:30:44,500

But they thought that Mexico,
the climate was better.

539
00:30:44,500 --> 00:30:46,370
And my uncle, who
married in Mexico,

540
00:30:46,370 --> 00:30:49,370
had a very nice
house, white house.

541
00:30:49,370 --> 00:30:53,120
He was just married
and had one baby.

542
00:30:53,120 --> 00:30:55,703
And they thought that the
climate, and the weather,

543
00:30:55,703 --> 00:30:57,370
and everything would
be better in Mexico

544
00:30:57,370 --> 00:31:01,790
than New York or Miami for us.

545
00:31:01,790 --> 00:31:04,405
So we crossed the
border in Laredo.

546
00:31:04,405 --> 00:31:07,010
We came into Mexico.

547
00:31:07,010 --> 00:31:09,355
And the typical
Mexicans, they don't

548
00:31:09,355 --> 00:31:13,060
understand not our first
name, not our last name.

549
00:31:13,060 --> 00:31:14,660
They don't understand nothing.

550
00:31:14,660 --> 00:31:17,000
We don't know one
word of Spanish.

551
00:31:17,000 --> 00:31:20,010
My uncle didn't-- they
didn't let him cross

552
00:31:20,010 --> 00:31:22,255
to the immigration to
tell them our names.

553
00:31:22,255 --> 00:31:24,890

554
00:31:24,890 --> 00:31:29,000
My mother could explain to
them my name, and her name,

555
00:31:29,000 --> 00:31:30,620
and our last name.

556
00:31:30,620 --> 00:31:33,500
It took, like, I'd say,
four or five hours.

557
00:31:33,500 --> 00:31:37,320
And 15 different
guys, they came over.

558
00:31:37,320 --> 00:31:44,280
She wrote them down
on a paper, our names.

559
00:31:44,280 --> 00:31:45,960
So we crossed the border.

560
00:31:45,960 --> 00:31:49,110
And we met our uncle there.

561
00:31:49,110 --> 00:31:52,110

We had one stop in Monterrey,
because one of them

562
00:31:52,110 --> 00:31:54,810
was living in Monterrey,
on the border near Texas.

563
00:31:54,810 --> 00:31:57,330
And the other one was
living in Mexico City.

564
00:31:57,330 --> 00:32:00,450
We were going to go to
Mexico City to live.

565
00:32:00,450 --> 00:32:03,420

566
00:32:03,420 --> 00:32:06,060
And there, the
first day, when we

567
00:32:06,060 --> 00:32:12,290
came into that beautiful
house of my uncle,

568
00:32:12,290 --> 00:32:16,100
my mother got such
a big surprise.

569
00:32:16,100 --> 00:32:21,026
A big piano, I would say,
pianola, the big one.

570
00:32:21,026 --> 00:32:22,850
It's called a pianola.

571
00:32:22,850 --> 00:32:25,820
There was a beautiful
Steinway piano,

572
00:32:25,820 --> 00:32:30,680
but a beautiful one

waiting for her.

573

00:32:30,680 --> 00:32:35,860

Our first day in Mexico, I
don't know how to tell you,

574

00:32:35,860 --> 00:32:38,450

I was very frightened.

575

00:32:38,450 --> 00:32:43,310

I wanted to sleep under the
bed and not on top of the bed.

576

00:32:43,310 --> 00:32:46,700

My mother thought that
tomorrow she won't have food.

577

00:32:46,700 --> 00:32:51,500

So my aunt told her, look,
here's the refrigerator.

578

00:32:51,500 --> 00:32:53,970

And here is the
fruit and vegetables.

579

00:32:53,970 --> 00:32:56,600

And you can come as
many times as you want

580

00:32:56,600 --> 00:32:58,190

and open and eat anything.

581

00:32:58,190 --> 00:33:04,450

Every morning, my aunt
had to go to her bedroom.

582

00:33:04,450 --> 00:33:08,850

It was a special,
beautiful bedroom.

583

00:33:08,850 --> 00:33:13,470

My mother had under
her cushion one mango,

584
00:33:13,470 --> 00:33:19,050
two bananas, a cup of milk.

585
00:33:19,050 --> 00:33:20,910
Every morning.

586
00:33:20,910 --> 00:33:23,190
And my aunt said to her--

587
00:33:23,190 --> 00:33:27,500
the avocados, because she
had never tasted avacados.

588
00:33:27,500 --> 00:33:31,130
So everything was squashed.

589
00:33:31,130 --> 00:33:35,800
She had to do it for
months and months.

590
00:33:35,800 --> 00:33:38,530
And then she starts to
do something that would

591
00:33:38,530 --> 00:33:41,990
last till the end of her days.

592
00:33:41,990 --> 00:33:44,996
And that was she couldn't sleep.

593
00:33:44,996 --> 00:33:47,580
She couldn't sleep.

594
00:33:47,580 --> 00:33:50,400
She used to sleep from 8
o'clock in the morning,

595
00:33:50,400 --> 00:33:53,390
let's say, till
around 12, at lunch.

596

00:33:53,390 --> 00:33:55,660

And that was her sleeping--

597

00:33:55,660 --> 00:34:00,330

1:00 or 2:00 in the
morning, at night.

598

00:34:00,330 --> 00:34:01,660

I went to school.

599

00:34:01,660 --> 00:34:05,220

I had a terrible
experience with a teacher

600

00:34:05,220 --> 00:34:07,850

in school, a
terrible experience.

601

00:34:07,850 --> 00:34:12,370

Maybe that's why after I went
to the university in Mexico

602

00:34:12,370 --> 00:34:14,520

I decided to take--

603

00:34:14,520 --> 00:34:18,679

went into a special
school to be a teacher.

604

00:34:18,679 --> 00:34:20,630

That's what I had been
a [HEBREW],, a Hebrew

605

00:34:20,630 --> 00:34:25,520

teacher, the Bible, in
Hebrew, for 26 years.

606

00:34:25,520 --> 00:34:28,909

But first I went
to a university.

607

00:34:28,909 --> 00:34:32,230

I wanted it to be
something else.

608
00:34:32,230 --> 00:34:34,420
When I went that first
day and second day

609
00:34:34,420 --> 00:34:39,659
to the Jewish school in
Mexico, in the first grade--

610
00:34:39,659 --> 00:34:43,181
I was seven years old,
in the first grade--

611
00:34:43,181 --> 00:34:44,270
we had a Yiddish teacher.

612
00:34:44,270 --> 00:34:46,280
We had a Hebrew teacher,
a Spanish teacher,

613
00:34:46,280 --> 00:34:48,110
and a Yiddish teacher.

614
00:34:48,110 --> 00:34:51,020
He was our Yiddish teacher.

615
00:34:51,020 --> 00:34:55,389
We took three languages
in that school.

616
00:34:55,389 --> 00:34:57,640
The girls used to pass--

617
00:34:57,640 --> 00:35:02,110
at that time it was
on style to collect

618
00:35:02,110 --> 00:35:07,750
the wrappers of the chocolate,
that came in silver paper.

619

00:35:07,750 --> 00:35:12,340
And the used to collect them and
change them, interchange them.

620

00:35:12,340 --> 00:35:17,290
So here I come from
a concentration camp.

621

00:35:17,290 --> 00:35:18,370
I have been beaten.

622

00:35:18,370 --> 00:35:20,740
I have been starved.

623

00:35:20,740 --> 00:35:24,690
I have been through so
many terrible things.

624

00:35:24,690 --> 00:35:28,890
And this teacher is
supposed to be a teacher

625

00:35:28,890 --> 00:35:34,840
and know how to comport
himself to behave with children

626

00:35:34,840 --> 00:35:38,200
or to educate children.

627

00:35:38,200 --> 00:35:41,410
The girl from the right
passes the little paper

628

00:35:41,410 --> 00:35:44,060
to the girl to the
left of my seat.

629

00:35:44,060 --> 00:35:45,860
I'm in the middle.

630

00:35:45,860 --> 00:35:49,010
When she passes one to

the other, in the middle,

631

00:35:49,010 --> 00:35:55,730

in my bench, the silver paper
stops there in my bench.

632

00:35:55,730 --> 00:35:59,645

What the teacher sees is
that I have here on my bench

633

00:35:59,645 --> 00:36:02,280

this little silver paper.

634

00:36:02,280 --> 00:36:07,110

He takes me from one
ear out of the class,

635

00:36:07,110 --> 00:36:09,790

hanging on my one ear.

636

00:36:09,790 --> 00:36:11,350

And I start to bleed.

637

00:36:11,350 --> 00:36:14,490

638

00:36:14,490 --> 00:36:18,750

And no human being could make me
go back the next day to school,

639

00:36:18,750 --> 00:36:22,150

but I didn't want to say why.

640

00:36:22,150 --> 00:36:24,860

Since the bleeding
stopped in school,

641

00:36:24,860 --> 00:36:26,710

I didn't want to say why.

642

00:36:26,710 --> 00:36:28,150

Because I was used to--

643

00:36:28,150 --> 00:36:33,070

well, that's the way people
behave and I have to shut up.

644

00:36:33,070 --> 00:36:36,030

So my aunt comes under
the bed the next morning--

645

00:36:36,030 --> 00:36:37,420

Dolly, you can't be here.

646

00:36:37,420 --> 00:36:40,470

Please tell me, why don't
you want to go to school?

647

00:36:40,470 --> 00:36:43,910

Please, please, tell me.

648

00:36:43,910 --> 00:36:45,400

And my mother got annoyed.

649

00:36:45,400 --> 00:36:47,710

And she says, What do you mean?

650

00:36:47,710 --> 00:36:49,870

You were so happy
the first few days.

651

00:36:49,870 --> 00:36:52,150

And what do you mean you
don't want to go to school?

652

00:36:52,150 --> 00:36:53,050

You are lazy.

653

00:36:53,050 --> 00:36:53,800

You are bad.

654

00:36:53,800 --> 00:36:56,620

655

00:36:56,620 --> 00:37:01,700

I couldn't-- I couldn't get
the nerve to say what happened

656

00:37:01,700 --> 00:37:02,690

to me.

657

00:37:02,690 --> 00:37:04,412

I just couldn't say it.

658

00:37:04,412 --> 00:37:08,100

659

00:37:08,100 --> 00:37:12,000

So my aunt, after a week
that I don't want to go,

660

00:37:12,000 --> 00:37:13,820

and I'm under the bed.

661

00:37:13,820 --> 00:37:18,110

No, she cannot take me out.

662

00:37:18,110 --> 00:37:23,302

So she buys me
another new dress.

663

00:37:23,302 --> 00:37:24,780

And she takes me to school.

664

00:37:24,780 --> 00:37:27,410

She puts me in my
beautiful starched uniform

665

00:37:27,410 --> 00:37:28,490

and she takes me.

666

00:37:28,490 --> 00:37:32,060

667

00:37:32,060 --> 00:37:34,220

So I go with her
hand to the class.

668
00:37:34,220 --> 00:37:36,140
And I see this teacher.

669
00:37:36,140 --> 00:37:39,710
And I start hysterical to cry.

670
00:37:39,710 --> 00:37:40,880
Never cried before.

671
00:37:40,880 --> 00:37:43,180
They could do me
anything, I never--

672
00:37:43,180 --> 00:37:44,540
I start to cry.

673
00:37:44,540 --> 00:37:48,740
So she understood that something
happened in that classroom.

674
00:37:48,740 --> 00:37:50,350
And then one of the
children probably

675
00:37:50,350 --> 00:37:52,810
told her what happened.

676
00:37:52,810 --> 00:37:54,960
So they changed me
to another school.

677
00:37:54,960 --> 00:37:57,650
There I was happy till
I finished high school.

678
00:37:57,650 --> 00:38:00,310
And that school was also
a Jewish religious school.

679

00:38:00,310 --> 00:38:03,460
And I would say that was
much better for my education

680
00:38:03,460 --> 00:38:05,930
than the first school,
that was a Jewish school,

681
00:38:05,930 --> 00:38:09,700
but a Zionist school and
this was a religious school.

682
00:38:09,700 --> 00:38:14,350
My mother did want to give
me a religious education.

683
00:38:14,350 --> 00:38:28,460

684
00:38:28,460 --> 00:38:31,610
This is tape two,
side B. Before we

685
00:38:31,610 --> 00:38:34,280
go on about your
life in Mexico, you

686
00:38:34,280 --> 00:38:39,800
had said previously that you
were beaten when you were in--

687
00:38:39,800 --> 00:38:41,240
during the war.

688
00:38:41,240 --> 00:38:42,325
When did that happen?

689
00:38:42,325 --> 00:38:43,650
And what happened?

690
00:38:43,650 --> 00:38:46,650
What were the
conditions of that?

691
00:38:46,650 --> 00:38:51,450
I was terribly beaten
one day in Bergen-Belsen.

692
00:38:51,450 --> 00:38:53,786
I don't know why.

693
00:38:53,786 --> 00:38:58,935
I really can't remember why,
but it was not a German officer.

694
00:38:58,935 --> 00:39:05,480
It was one of those kapo
women, those women that were

695
00:39:05,480 --> 00:39:09,050
in charge of the other women.

696
00:39:09,050 --> 00:39:11,540
Probably, I did something what--

697
00:39:11,540 --> 00:39:16,290
I will never remember, but
terrible terrible beating.

698
00:39:16,290 --> 00:39:18,570
My mother thought
that I would die.

699
00:39:18,570 --> 00:39:20,950
But I didn't.

700
00:39:20,950 --> 00:39:23,240
Maybe that's why
it happened, that's

701
00:39:23,240 --> 00:39:26,550
when it happened
that this opened up.

702
00:39:26,550 --> 00:39:28,640

Because in Sweden,
they never understood

703
00:39:28,640 --> 00:39:34,960
how did it happen, if I had a
bone or something in my mouth

704
00:39:34,960 --> 00:39:38,560
that was stronger
than my palate.

705
00:39:38,560 --> 00:39:40,930
So your mother had told
you that you were beaten?

706
00:39:40,930 --> 00:39:43,500
Yes.

707
00:39:43,500 --> 00:39:46,590
OK, let's go back to Mexico.

708
00:39:46,590 --> 00:39:48,060
So you changed schools.

709
00:39:48,060 --> 00:39:49,010
I did.

710
00:39:49,010 --> 00:39:52,150
Did you continue to live
with your aunt and uncle?

711
00:39:52,150 --> 00:39:58,630
I continued to live with my
aunt and uncle for like a year.

712
00:39:58,630 --> 00:40:03,030
And then my mother married.

713
00:40:03,030 --> 00:40:07,310
She remarried to a man,
to a Mexican man who

714

00:40:07,310 --> 00:40:10,334
had lost his wife from cancer.

715
00:40:10,334 --> 00:40:13,701

716
00:40:13,701 --> 00:40:17,410
And my mother died afterwards,
a few years afterwards,

717
00:40:17,410 --> 00:40:19,810
from the same
disease, from cancer.

718
00:40:19,810 --> 00:40:25,140
He had two married children
and one 16-year-old girl

719
00:40:25,140 --> 00:40:30,228
that married two years
after my mother got married.

720
00:40:30,228 --> 00:40:38,540
And he was a nice person,
but my uncle knew about him.

721
00:40:38,540 --> 00:40:43,630
And my uncle got very sad.

722
00:40:43,630 --> 00:40:48,160
And I will say that the
rest of my mother's life,

723
00:40:48,160 --> 00:40:52,820
he was quite mad at my mother.

724
00:40:52,820 --> 00:40:55,600
Since she thought that she--

725
00:40:55,600 --> 00:40:57,860
everything was good, you see.

726

00:40:57,860 --> 00:41:03,520

And whatever she got, she
thought it was a prize to her.

727

00:41:03,520 --> 00:41:07,510

And he told her, this
man that you're marrying,

728

00:41:07,510 --> 00:41:10,070

it's not a very good person.

729

00:41:10,070 --> 00:41:13,120

He won't give you a good life.

730

00:41:13,120 --> 00:41:16,450

Why do you want to remarry him.

731

00:41:16,450 --> 00:41:19,770

Look for somebody else
if you want company

732

00:41:19,770 --> 00:41:21,170

or look a little bit more.

733

00:41:21,170 --> 00:41:23,920

734

00:41:23,920 --> 00:41:25,270

You have everything with us.

735

00:41:25,270 --> 00:41:28,100

And the truth is, what
we had with my uncle,

736

00:41:28,100 --> 00:41:31,870

we never had in that house.

737

00:41:31,870 --> 00:41:37,626

We later had a little bit
more because my mother started

738

00:41:37,626 --> 00:41:44,270

to receive money
from the Germans.

739
00:41:44,270 --> 00:41:48,220
That's how I got later
dresses and [? that treat ?]

740
00:41:48,220 --> 00:41:51,170
when she invited her
husband to a trip

741
00:41:51,170 --> 00:41:54,770
to Israel, to Canada,
to the United States.

742
00:41:54,770 --> 00:41:59,660
He was a very stingy
person, not a bad person.

743
00:41:59,660 --> 00:42:03,330
He never adopted me, never
liked me like a daughter,

744
00:42:03,330 --> 00:42:05,390
never treated me
like a daughter.

745
00:42:05,390 --> 00:42:10,310
I was like some type
of furniture there.

746
00:42:10,310 --> 00:42:16,360
She couldn't realize it because
she was so sick mentally.

747
00:42:16,360 --> 00:42:17,980
What year did your mother die?

748
00:42:17,980 --> 00:42:22,890

749
00:42:22,890 --> 00:42:27,178
'58-- '57.

750
00:42:27,178 --> 00:42:28,160
'57.

751
00:42:28,160 --> 00:42:30,660
So you were 19.

752
00:42:30,660 --> 00:42:31,490
18, 17-18.

753
00:42:31,490 --> 00:42:34,040

754
00:42:34,040 --> 00:42:38,430
And so you continued to go
to school, to high school.

755
00:42:38,430 --> 00:42:43,940
I went to-- yes I went to
junior high and to high school.

756
00:42:43,940 --> 00:42:45,470
And then I went to work.

757
00:42:45,470 --> 00:42:48,780
And he said-- had
this sweater company.

758
00:42:48,780 --> 00:42:52,070
So in the morning I used
to work in his store.

759
00:42:52,070 --> 00:42:57,920
And from 4 till 9 I went
to the university to study.

760
00:42:57,920 --> 00:42:59,120
Then I met my husband.

761
00:42:59,120 --> 00:43:02,170

762

00:43:02,170 --> 00:43:06,450

He was born in Berlin and
had also a terrible life.

763

00:43:06,450 --> 00:43:12,590

But they were the lucky ones
who went out early, in 1936.

764

00:43:12,590 --> 00:43:13,830

They went to Belgium.

765

00:43:13,830 --> 00:43:15,190

And from Belgium to Paris.

766

00:43:15,190 --> 00:43:17,410

And from Paris to Portugal.

767

00:43:17,410 --> 00:43:20,360

And from Portugal to
Spain, then back to Paris.

768

00:43:20,360 --> 00:43:25,100

And then to Cuba in one of
those boats in 1942 that did

769

00:43:25,100 --> 00:43:25,850

receive Jews.

770

00:43:25,850 --> 00:43:28,850

And from Cuba to Mexico.

771

00:43:28,850 --> 00:43:29,940

And that's another story.

772

00:43:29,940 --> 00:43:33,230

But I was very
lucky to find him.

773

00:43:33,230 --> 00:43:34,970

And when did you get married?

774

00:43:34,970 --> 00:43:36,649
I got married in 1960.

775
00:43:36,649 --> 00:43:40,641
I was 19 years old.

776
00:43:40,641 --> 00:43:42,640
No?

777
00:43:42,640 --> 00:43:43,420
20-21.

778
00:43:43,420 --> 00:43:46,510

779
00:43:46,510 --> 00:43:49,880
And then what happened?

780
00:43:49,880 --> 00:43:58,230
Then I suffered in my youth
with my mother still living.

781
00:43:58,230 --> 00:44:02,900
Something that I
would say is terrible

782
00:44:02,900 --> 00:44:08,390
because we should have been
so attached to one another.

783
00:44:08,390 --> 00:44:11,530
We were, but we were not.

784
00:44:11,530 --> 00:44:15,936
Because every day, I
had exams the next day,

785
00:44:15,936 --> 00:44:20,600
in junior high and high school.

786
00:44:20,600 --> 00:44:23,350
2 o'clock, 1 o'clock

in the morning--

787

00:44:23,350 --> 00:44:27,150

I had to be up at 7:00, because
at 8:00 I went to school--

788

00:44:27,150 --> 00:44:29,650

7:30 I went to school--

789

00:44:29,650 --> 00:44:32,912

my mother started
to give a concert.

790

00:44:32,912 --> 00:44:34,660

And she would play.

791

00:44:34,660 --> 00:44:38,560

I would wake up 1 o'clock in the
morning with a [? pathetic ?]

792

00:44:38,560 --> 00:44:40,510

[SINGING].

793

00:44:40,510 --> 00:44:45,430

[INAUDIBLE] Tchaikovsky,
Rachmaninoff,

794

00:44:45,430 --> 00:44:49,180

for hours, from 1 o'clock in
the morning, till 7 o'clock,

795

00:44:49,180 --> 00:44:51,750

she wouldn't stop playing.

796

00:44:51,750 --> 00:44:54,276

One piece of this, and one
piece of that, then one piece

797

00:44:54,276 --> 00:44:55,420

of that, and one piece of--

798

00:44:55,420 --> 00:44:58,455

She never went into the
kitchen to make a meal for me.

799
00:44:58,455 --> 00:45:01,250

800
00:45:01,250 --> 00:45:04,010
She worked with this
man in his factory.

801
00:45:04,010 --> 00:45:06,314
And she used to teach.

802
00:45:06,314 --> 00:45:11,130
She used to teach music lessons.

803
00:45:11,130 --> 00:45:13,200
She gave one big
concert in Mexico

804
00:45:13,200 --> 00:45:17,048
and wouldn't go on because
her memory wasn't OK.

805
00:45:17,048 --> 00:45:21,230

806
00:45:21,230 --> 00:45:29,200
She really never took
care of me, never.

807
00:45:29,200 --> 00:45:33,160
It's like very small
things, like girls

808
00:45:33,160 --> 00:45:36,520
should be told that she's
going to get her period.

809
00:45:36,520 --> 00:45:41,650
I was like almost 16.

810

00:45:41,650 --> 00:45:45,580
Very, very small and very tiny.

811
00:45:45,580 --> 00:45:47,980
And I thought that
I was not normal

812
00:45:47,980 --> 00:45:52,810
because my girlfriends
from the same class

813
00:45:52,810 --> 00:45:58,330
had already had their period
since three-four years,

814
00:45:58,330 --> 00:46:00,270
at least.

815
00:46:00,270 --> 00:46:02,970
She never stopped to
tell me that maybe

816
00:46:02,970 --> 00:46:05,580
because of what I went through.

817
00:46:05,580 --> 00:46:06,990
Maybe the doctor told me.

818
00:46:06,990 --> 00:46:09,180
Maybe that's why I got late.

819
00:46:09,180 --> 00:46:14,420
Because I went one day, when
I was 16 to sleep, one size.

820
00:46:14,420 --> 00:46:17,050
And it's unbelievable.

821
00:46:17,050 --> 00:46:22,240
I tried to put on my skirt,
and my jumper, and my blouse.

822

00:46:22,240 --> 00:46:26,110

And everything is short,
like 40-50 centimeters,

823

00:46:26,110 --> 00:46:29,930

I grew in a week, what
four years I didn't.

824

00:46:29,930 --> 00:46:32,140

And suddenly, I get my period.

825

00:46:32,140 --> 00:46:35,400

And I really get scared.

826

00:46:35,400 --> 00:46:40,870

But we were not living
in the same world.

827

00:46:40,870 --> 00:46:44,490

She used to say the name of
my father, of her friends,

828

00:46:44,490 --> 00:46:46,870

of her cousins, of
the dead people.

829

00:46:46,870 --> 00:46:48,050

Used to play music.

830

00:46:48,050 --> 00:46:50,040

She never used to
go to the kitchen.

831

00:46:50,040 --> 00:46:52,635

832

00:46:52,635 --> 00:46:54,510

To do something-- I went
to the refrigerator,

833

00:46:54,510 --> 00:46:57,420

and there was some food,
because in Mexico, we're

834
00:46:57,420 --> 00:46:58,380
used to have maids.

835
00:46:58,380 --> 00:47:01,755
So she was lucky, she
had a very good maid

836
00:47:01,755 --> 00:47:04,080
that served many years with us.

837
00:47:04,080 --> 00:47:07,770
So she used to-- my mother just
bought the kosher meat and had

838
00:47:07,770 --> 00:47:08,594
it--

839
00:47:08,594 --> 00:47:13,390
and she told her, this is for
her to have things of challah,

840
00:47:13,390 --> 00:47:17,980
of milk, and this is for
[NON-ENGLISH],, for food,

841
00:47:17,980 --> 00:47:20,380
for meat.

842
00:47:20,380 --> 00:47:21,960
And so if the maid
made a meal, I

843
00:47:21,960 --> 00:47:24,680
had a meal when I
came from school.

844
00:47:24,680 --> 00:47:30,465
OK, you're now a young married
woman and going to university.

845
00:47:30,465 --> 00:47:32,720

And then you said you
felt you had the need

846
00:47:32,720 --> 00:47:35,720
to go to some kind
of counseling.

847
00:47:35,720 --> 00:47:42,260
Yes, at 22, or 23, I had a
need to go to counseling.

848
00:47:42,260 --> 00:47:45,890
I needed to make
some [? roshes ?]..

849
00:47:45,890 --> 00:47:52,030
And at that time, suddenly
I'm speaking about something

850
00:47:52,030 --> 00:47:54,610
absolutely different.

851
00:47:54,610 --> 00:47:58,530
And I see the barracks and
the concentration camp.

852
00:47:58,530 --> 00:48:03,060
And everything comes
like alive again.

853
00:48:03,060 --> 00:48:06,480
Why did you feel you had the
need to go to counseling?

854
00:48:06,480 --> 00:48:10,390
I was very depressed.

855
00:48:10,390 --> 00:48:13,020
I was a few years married
and I had no children.

856
00:48:13,020 --> 00:48:16,500
And everybody-- every doctor

said that I was nervous.

857

00:48:16,500 --> 00:48:19,430

And for me, it was
very important.

858

00:48:19,430 --> 00:48:22,770

I had no mother, no father,
no sister, no uncles.

859

00:48:22,770 --> 00:48:28,360

My uncle passed away also, very
young, from a heart attack.

860

00:48:28,360 --> 00:48:30,250

I wanted to have a family.

861

00:48:30,250 --> 00:48:33,670

I really needed-- I
have to have a family.

862

00:48:33,670 --> 00:48:39,110

They wouldn't [? won ?]
this battle with me.

863

00:48:39,110 --> 00:48:41,630

864

00:48:41,630 --> 00:48:45,210

And every doctor said
that I was nervous.

865

00:48:45,210 --> 00:48:46,850

They made me test.

866

00:48:46,850 --> 00:48:49,390

Every test came
fine, every test.

867

00:48:49,390 --> 00:48:52,280

I went to Houston, I
went here, I went there.

868

00:48:52,280 --> 00:48:58,630

And I found the Margaret Sanger
research in New York in 1967,

869

00:48:58,630 --> 00:49:02,470

and that's where they found
out that I had TB again.

870

00:49:02,470 --> 00:49:04,090

They couldn't believe
in Mexico, they

871

00:49:04,090 --> 00:49:05,642

were so [INAUDIBLE] doctors.

872

00:49:05,642 --> 00:49:09,850

Why didn't nobody took me
an X-ray on my whole body.

873

00:49:09,850 --> 00:49:11,770

They found the TB
all over my body.

874

00:49:11,770 --> 00:49:14,020

I would have died in
another year or two

875

00:49:14,020 --> 00:49:16,000

without knowing of what.

876

00:49:16,000 --> 00:49:19,500

This was in New
York City, you said?

877

00:49:19,500 --> 00:49:22,260

In 1967, I decided--

878

00:49:22,260 --> 00:49:26,100

one thing was that I went
to a psychiatrist, yes--

879

00:49:26,100 --> 00:49:27,480

psychologist.

880

00:49:27,480 --> 00:49:31,560

And I was very depressed
that I couldn't get pregnant.

881

00:49:31,560 --> 00:49:35,970

And that's how I became aware
of all my past and remembered--

882

00:49:35,970 --> 00:49:37,680

How did that happen?

883

00:49:37,680 --> 00:49:41,500

Sitting and speaking, like
I'm speaking with you.

884

00:49:41,500 --> 00:49:46,050

I saw everything, like
I was seeing a film.

885

00:49:46,050 --> 00:49:49,740

Everything, everything--
the bodies in the--

886

00:49:49,740 --> 00:49:53,160

in the concentration camps,
and the walking in the storms,

887

00:49:53,160 --> 00:49:56,340

in the rain, in the cold.

888

00:49:56,340 --> 00:50:01,180

And the barracks, everything.

889

00:50:01,180 --> 00:50:03,400

And this these memories
were not memories

890

00:50:03,400 --> 00:50:04,990

that you had up to that point?

891

00:50:04,990 --> 00:50:06,580
Up to that point.

892
00:50:06,580 --> 00:50:11,720
Up to that point, my
mother told me everything.

893
00:50:11,720 --> 00:50:14,960
And that's what I had in
my mind, what she told me.

894
00:50:14,960 --> 00:50:17,710
But suddenly I see,
like if I'm seeing--

895
00:50:17,710 --> 00:50:19,370
watching a movie.

896
00:50:19,370 --> 00:50:23,210
And what was your
earliest memory?

897
00:50:23,210 --> 00:50:27,800
Sweden, in the
hospital, before that.

898
00:50:27,800 --> 00:50:29,870
And then once you
have this counseling,

899
00:50:29,870 --> 00:50:32,770
what was your earliest memory?

900
00:50:32,770 --> 00:50:37,072
A very, very small, young
child in the concentration

901
00:50:37,072 --> 00:50:38,530
camps, in both
concentration camps.

902
00:50:38,530 --> 00:50:41,344
That's all not before that.

903
00:50:41,344 --> 00:50:42,210
[INAUDIBLE]

904
00:50:42,210 --> 00:50:45,195
That I know because of
my mother telling me that

905
00:50:45,195 --> 00:50:47,930
and because I [? lived ?].

906
00:50:47,930 --> 00:50:50,720
So do you have any
memories of your father?

907
00:50:50,720 --> 00:50:53,470
Not at all.

908
00:50:53,470 --> 00:50:55,430
If I wouldn't have
gotten those pictures

909
00:50:55,430 --> 00:51:02,904
from my uncle in Israel,
I would have never known

910
00:51:02,904 --> 00:51:04,770
who my father is.

911
00:51:04,770 --> 00:51:07,650
And then when you got
this kind of counseling

912
00:51:07,650 --> 00:51:13,090
and you started to remember,
what did that do for you?

913
00:51:13,090 --> 00:51:18,370
After six months,
the psychologist

914
00:51:18,370 --> 00:51:21,706

asked me and begged me
not to come anymore.

915
00:51:21,706 --> 00:51:26,400
Because what happened was
that I didn't know it,

916
00:51:26,400 --> 00:51:29,550
but I was trying to kill myself.

917
00:51:29,550 --> 00:51:32,820
I didn't know it
until he told me.

918
00:51:32,820 --> 00:51:36,450
I had to go every Thursday,
yes, every Thursday afternoon,

919
00:51:36,450 --> 00:51:40,020
after teaching in the morning.

920
00:51:40,020 --> 00:51:42,180
I finished already
the university.

921
00:51:42,180 --> 00:51:44,100
And in the afternoons--
in the morning,

922
00:51:44,100 --> 00:51:47,040
I was teaching in
the high school.

923
00:51:47,040 --> 00:51:51,360
And in the afternoon, I was
taking a course, a masters,

924
00:51:51,360 --> 00:51:54,690
of how to be a Hebrew teacher.

925
00:51:54,690 --> 00:51:56,640
This was a psychologist?

926

00:51:56,640 --> 00:51:57,720

A psychologist.

927

00:51:57,720 --> 00:51:58,710

Not a psychiatrist?

928

00:51:58,710 --> 00:52:02,550

No, no, a psychologist.

929

00:52:02,550 --> 00:52:06,770

A Jewish psychologist.

930

00:52:06,770 --> 00:52:11,100

And one Thursday, I know I
have to be at my appointment,

931

00:52:11,100 --> 00:52:12,037

so I eat.

932

00:52:12,037 --> 00:52:15,900

I go down the steps
from my apartment.

933

00:52:15,900 --> 00:52:22,560

I fall down one little step and
I break my leg, the right leg.

934

00:52:22,560 --> 00:52:24,750

So I called her up,
from the hospital,

935

00:52:24,750 --> 00:52:26,062

from the English hospital.

936

00:52:26,062 --> 00:52:27,270

That's where we go in Mexico.

937

00:52:27,270 --> 00:52:28,927

It's called the
English Hospital.

938

00:52:28,927 --> 00:52:30,630
It's all with Jewish doctors.

939
00:52:30,630 --> 00:52:33,300
And I'm so sorry,
I broke my leg.

940
00:52:33,300 --> 00:52:34,980
I cannot come today.

941
00:52:34,980 --> 00:52:40,320
But next week, I'll
go with my crutches.

942
00:52:40,320 --> 00:52:42,660
So I went like, let's
say, two or three weeks,

943
00:52:42,660 --> 00:52:43,700
with the crutches.

944
00:52:43,700 --> 00:52:46,500
I take off the crutches,
I'm fine again.

945
00:52:46,500 --> 00:52:49,480
I go another month.

946
00:52:49,480 --> 00:52:53,650
I go up to the supermarket
to buy something.

947
00:52:53,650 --> 00:52:57,448
I go down two steps,
I break the other leg.

948
00:52:57,448 --> 00:52:58,841
So here, I call her up--

949
00:52:58,841 --> 00:53:00,510
I'm so sorry.

950

00:53:00,510 --> 00:53:02,422
I fell an hour ago.

951
00:53:02,422 --> 00:53:03,255
I'm at the hospital.

952
00:53:03,255 --> 00:53:05,540
I broke my other leg.

953
00:53:05,540 --> 00:53:06,620
OK, Mrs. Bestandig.

954
00:53:06,620 --> 00:53:08,273
So when will I see you?

955
00:53:08,273 --> 00:53:09,440
I said, well, next Thursday.

956
00:53:09,440 --> 00:53:11,790
They'll put me some cast.

957
00:53:11,790 --> 00:53:16,281
And I'll be in to see
you next Thursday.

958
00:53:16,281 --> 00:53:21,390
So I go with my cast
for six weeks this time.

959
00:53:21,390 --> 00:53:22,490
They take off the cast.

960
00:53:22,490 --> 00:53:25,710

961
00:53:25,710 --> 00:53:29,065
And two Thursdays after
they take off the cast,

962
00:53:29,065 --> 00:53:30,690
here I go again.

963

00:53:30,690 --> 00:53:33,120

I fell from all the steps.

964

00:53:33,120 --> 00:53:36,390

I don't take the elevator
from the fifth floor.

965

00:53:36,390 --> 00:53:38,760

I decided to run because
it's getting late

966

00:53:38,760 --> 00:53:41,610

for my appointment,
[? it's 4 almost 5 ?]..

967

00:53:41,610 --> 00:53:43,810

So I decided to run
the steps and not

968

00:53:43,810 --> 00:53:48,960

wait for the elevator in my
building, to take my car.

969

00:53:48,960 --> 00:53:52,500

And guess what, I fell again.

970

00:53:52,500 --> 00:53:54,425

This time I broke one hand.

971

00:53:54,425 --> 00:54:00,915

And this time, it was very hard,
because I fell from 22 steps.

972

00:54:00,915 --> 00:54:02,640

I had to go to the hospital.

973

00:54:02,640 --> 00:54:05,720

They put me a cast on the arm.

974

00:54:05,720 --> 00:54:08,754

I was getting used to it.

975

00:54:08,754 --> 00:54:11,640

My husband says, I don't
understand you, Dolly?

976

00:54:11,640 --> 00:54:12,470

What is it?

977

00:54:12,470 --> 00:54:14,340

You [INAUDIBLE]?

978

00:54:14,340 --> 00:54:18,404

Everybody was making fun of me.

979

00:54:18,404 --> 00:54:20,740

It was like a joke
around my friends--

980

00:54:20,740 --> 00:54:24,980

she's falling for
the steps every day.

981

00:54:24,980 --> 00:54:29,702

So when they took off this cast,
I still went [? like a man ?]..

982

00:54:29,702 --> 00:54:32,990

And then, one day,
she says, look,

983

00:54:32,990 --> 00:54:38,380

Dolly, I understand it's very
hard for you to remember.

984

00:54:38,380 --> 00:54:41,580

Because I used to go in
those two hours there,

985

00:54:41,580 --> 00:54:42,500

crying and crying.

986

00:54:42,500 --> 00:54:46,750

Not like now, baruch Hashem

now, like unspeakable.

987

00:54:46,750 --> 00:54:51,020

I was ashamed many
years to speak about it.

988

00:54:51,020 --> 00:54:56,870

Because I felt that I had no
right to live, to be alive.

989

00:54:56,870 --> 00:55:00,570

I was ashamed to be alive.

990

00:55:00,570 --> 00:55:03,885

And then a lot of
people made fun of me.

991

00:55:03,885 --> 00:55:09,210

And the teaching university
in front of 100 students,

992

00:55:09,210 --> 00:55:13,410

made me pass to the front
of them, which was my fault.

993

00:55:13,410 --> 00:55:16,360

In the beginning,
it was my fault.

994

00:55:16,360 --> 00:55:20,220

We were in the class
of Spanish literature,

995

00:55:20,220 --> 00:55:22,150

in Latin literature.

996

00:55:22,150 --> 00:55:23,990

And he said if
there was somebody

997

00:55:23,990 --> 00:55:28,140

in the class who wanted to read
this classical poem, and I--

998
00:55:28,140 --> 00:55:31,700
stupid of me, I decided
to raise my hand

999
00:55:31,700 --> 00:55:32,960
and go forward and read it.

1000
00:55:32,960 --> 00:55:35,060
I loved that poem.

1001
00:55:35,060 --> 00:55:40,760
And I thought my Spanish
was good Spanish.

1002
00:55:40,760 --> 00:55:44,551
So I read the poem in
front of a hundred people.

1003
00:55:44,551 --> 00:55:50,175
And then this Spanish-speaking
teacher of Latin

1004
00:55:50,175 --> 00:55:53,740
tells me, thank
you, Miss Hirsch,

1005
00:55:53,740 --> 00:55:56,090
please go and take your seat.

1006
00:55:56,090 --> 00:55:58,460
And then he turns
to all the class

1007
00:55:58,460 --> 00:56:01,520
and he says, what
you have heard now

1008
00:56:01,520 --> 00:56:06,540
is the worst destroying
person of our language

1009

00:56:06,540 --> 00:56:08,000
I have ever heard.

1010
00:56:08,000 --> 00:56:14,240
He says, no intonation,
no language.

1011
00:56:14,240 --> 00:56:18,370
He forgot or he
didn't know, I was--

1012
00:56:18,370 --> 00:56:24,290
I was speaking something
that I learned for six years.

1013
00:56:24,290 --> 00:56:27,730
How could I explain to him
that of course my voice is not

1014
00:56:27,730 --> 00:56:29,980
a beautiful voice?

1015
00:56:29,980 --> 00:56:34,180
But since that day on, I've
never been able to speak.

1016
00:56:34,180 --> 00:56:37,260
I worked in the WIZO the
Women's International Zionist

1017
00:56:37,260 --> 00:56:40,830
organization-- as a president
for many years, to help Israel.

1018
00:56:40,830 --> 00:56:42,750
And I had to give speeches.

1019
00:56:42,750 --> 00:56:45,507
I wrote them down, but I
never could speak them.

1020
00:56:45,507 --> 00:56:52,200

1021
00:56:52,200 --> 00:56:54,640
When you went to
the psychologist

1022
00:56:54,640 --> 00:56:57,700
and all these memories kept
coming back, how many--

1023
00:56:57,700 --> 00:57:00,730
did you go for
session after session?

1024
00:57:00,730 --> 00:57:03,880
Until one day, she told
me, I'm telling the story--

1025
00:57:03,880 --> 00:57:07,610
Dolly, please don't
come back any more.

1026
00:57:07,610 --> 00:57:08,110
Why?

1027
00:57:08,110 --> 00:57:09,370
Have I done something wrong?

1028
00:57:09,370 --> 00:57:11,590
No, you haven't
done nothing wrong.

1029
00:57:11,590 --> 00:57:15,010
I am afraid that
next time is going

1030
00:57:15,010 --> 00:57:17,530
to be your head
or something worse

1031
00:57:17,530 --> 00:57:21,760
and you won't come out from it
so easy, like maybe just today.

1032

00:57:21,760 --> 00:57:25,030

Says, you are doing
this yourself.

1033

00:57:25,030 --> 00:57:27,490

Because probably,
you are blaming,

1034

00:57:27,490 --> 00:57:30,615

and you will blame all your
life, because you are alive,

1035

00:57:30,615 --> 00:57:34,750

and not your father, and
now, not your mother.

1036

00:57:34,750 --> 00:57:37,750

And you are ashamed
because you--

1037

00:57:37,750 --> 00:57:39,040

And that's true.

1038

00:57:39,040 --> 00:57:42,830

I have been ashamed
that I was there.

1039

00:57:42,830 --> 00:57:49,190

I don't know why, till today,
I'm ashamed that I was there.

1040

00:57:49,190 --> 00:57:52,820

Maybe because my Jewish
friends in Mexico

1041

00:57:52,820 --> 00:57:57,470

had such a beautiful
time to remember.

1042

00:57:57,470 --> 00:58:00,080

Maybe because they
didn't understood me.

1043

00:58:00,080 --> 00:58:02,060

Maybe because they
never believed me.

1044

00:58:02,060 --> 00:58:04,050

But I have a book
from the Vilna ghetto

1045

00:58:04,050 --> 00:58:07,924

that was sent to my mother,
the only one that I think--

1046

00:58:07,924 --> 00:58:10,550

I think there are two
or three in the world.

1047

00:58:10,550 --> 00:58:14,960

If I can, I'll make
you a copy, where

1048

00:58:14,960 --> 00:58:19,250

you can see all the atrocities,
the terrible, terrible--

1049

00:58:19,250 --> 00:58:21,200

in some of the pictures
that you have here

1050

00:58:21,200 --> 00:58:24,410

in the museum, the same ones.

1051

00:58:24,410 --> 00:58:30,710

So I have always been ashamed
that why did I survive?

1052

00:58:30,710 --> 00:58:33,530

Why am I alive?

1053

00:58:33,530 --> 00:58:37,040

But then when I ask
myself why Hitler--

1054

00:58:37,040 --> 00:58:39,920
not only did he punish
me at that time,

1055
00:58:39,920 --> 00:58:43,670
he not only took away my
family, and my ancestors,

1056
00:58:43,670 --> 00:58:47,660
and my roots, he
destroyed, they wanted also

1057
00:58:47,660 --> 00:58:49,620
to destroy my future.

1058
00:58:49,620 --> 00:58:51,895
So that's when I went to
the Margaret Research.

1059
00:58:51,895 --> 00:58:54,980

1060
00:58:54,980 --> 00:59:00,340
And I felt the hand
of God again on me.

1061
00:59:00,340 --> 00:59:03,890
Because everybody in Mexico
said and everyone-- oh, you,

1062
00:59:03,890 --> 00:59:04,810
you are nervous.

1063
00:59:04,810 --> 00:59:07,840
But believe you
me, I went today.

1064
00:59:07,840 --> 00:59:13,280
And I'm a nervous wreck, but
that time, I was never nervous.

1065
00:59:13,280 --> 00:59:16,040
So I asked my husband,

I said, I know

1066
00:59:16,040 --> 00:59:18,800
I went to too many
doctors, too many clinics

1067
00:59:18,800 --> 00:59:22,280
for this last
seven, eight years,

1068
00:59:22,280 --> 00:59:24,800
but give me a chance
to go to one clinic.

1069
00:59:24,800 --> 00:59:29,260
And he said, I don't want
you to suffer [INAUDIBLE]..

1070
00:59:29,260 --> 00:59:32,740
And the test that
they made me, they

1071
00:59:32,740 --> 00:59:38,460
put you some kind of a liquid
that goes up to the shoulders,

1072
00:59:38,460 --> 00:59:39,980
from the uterus
to the shoulders.

1073
00:59:39,980 --> 00:59:42,230
And the pain in the
shoulders was very hard.

1074
00:59:42,230 --> 00:59:45,070
And he didn't want
me to suffer anymore.

1075
00:59:45,070 --> 00:59:46,690
His parents didn't want me--

1076
00:59:46,690 --> 00:59:48,098
they still believed [INAUDIBLE].

1077
00:59:48,098 --> 00:59:50,140
In other words, you were
trying to have children,

1078
00:59:50,140 --> 00:59:51,880
and these were tests
to have children.

1079
00:59:51,880 --> 00:59:52,690
Exactly.

1080
00:59:52,690 --> 00:59:55,300
So then you said you went to
the Margaret Sanger Clinic?

1081
00:59:55,300 --> 00:59:59,450
Somebody recommended
me here in New York.

1082
00:59:59,450 --> 01:00:01,570
They said I had to
stay there seven weeks.

1083
01:00:01,570 --> 01:00:02,800
So we took an apartment.

1084
01:00:02,800 --> 01:00:04,840
My husband went back
and forth, because he

1085
01:00:04,840 --> 01:00:06,730
was-- he's a chemical engineer.

1086
01:00:06,730 --> 01:00:09,280
And he had to do his work.

1087
01:00:09,280 --> 01:00:11,647
But something had
to be done with it.

1088
01:00:11,647 --> 01:00:12,730

So he came back and forth.

1089

01:00:12,730 --> 01:00:16,610

We were six and a half weeks.

1090

01:00:16,610 --> 01:00:20,210

That was how many years
after the concentration camp?

1091

01:00:20,210 --> 01:00:22,040

I went out in 1945.

1092

01:00:22,040 --> 01:00:23,000

And this was '68.

1093

01:00:23,000 --> 01:00:27,230

1094

01:00:27,230 --> 01:00:31,790

And everything was OK.

1095

01:00:31,790 --> 01:00:33,960

And then at the last
moment, the doctor said,

1096

01:00:33,960 --> 01:00:36,960

before your husband
comes back to here again

1097

01:00:36,960 --> 01:00:39,520

to speak with us, you
know what, Mrs. Bestandig,

1098

01:00:39,520 --> 01:00:43,830

you have never done an X-ray
of all your body, have you?

1099

01:00:43,830 --> 01:00:47,840

No, I said, because I have
been a healthy person.

1100

01:00:47,840 --> 01:00:50,265

So now I came to
Mexico, nobody told

1101
01:00:50,265 --> 01:00:53,310
me to go and make an X-ray
and checkup for my body.

1102
01:00:53,310 --> 01:00:57,930
He says, So go upstairs to this
and this floor and ask the girl

1103
01:00:57,930 --> 01:01:01,396
she should make you a--

1104
01:01:01,396 --> 01:01:04,960
a whole X-ray of my whole body.

1105
01:01:04,960 --> 01:01:06,660
So I go there.

1106
01:01:06,660 --> 01:01:11,680
And I'm lying there on that
table, with no clothing.

1107
01:01:11,680 --> 01:01:13,570
And the doctor
comes in the middle

1108
01:01:13,570 --> 01:01:18,280
to tell me I can already
put on my clothing.

1109
01:01:18,280 --> 01:01:19,660
And he sees this film.

1110
01:01:19,660 --> 01:01:22,885
And I hear how he shouts
to that poor nurse.

1111
01:01:22,885 --> 01:01:26,890
Why are these
pictures all white?

1112

01:01:26,890 --> 01:01:29,920

1113

01:01:29,920 --> 01:01:36,320

[INAUDIBLE] but big white--

1114

01:01:36,320 --> 01:01:39,460

white thing all over
the uterus, everything,

1115

01:01:39,460 --> 01:01:43,660

the stomach, almost in
the lungs, the whole body.

1116

01:01:43,660 --> 01:01:48,450

He says, I put clean sheets.

1117

01:01:48,450 --> 01:01:51,200

And please, would
you take them again?

1118

01:01:51,200 --> 01:01:53,120

Because something is wrong here.

1119

01:01:53,120 --> 01:01:54,980

This couldn't be--
this is not possible it

1120

01:01:54,980 --> 01:01:56,950

should be like this.

1121

01:01:56,950 --> 01:01:58,690

So he asked me,
please, forgive us,

1122

01:01:58,690 --> 01:02:01,860

we have to take all
the shots again.

1123

01:02:01,860 --> 01:02:04,730

This time, when he came in
and he saw the same thing,

1124
01:02:04,730 --> 01:02:09,070
he said, you can get
dressed, please Bestandig.

1125
01:02:09,070 --> 01:02:10,580
And come tomorrow
with your husband.

1126
01:02:10,580 --> 01:02:13,300
We have to talk to you.

1127
01:02:13,300 --> 01:02:15,100
And I saw their faces.

1128
01:02:15,100 --> 01:02:18,932

1129
01:02:18,932 --> 01:02:20,140
There were six doctors there.

1130
01:02:20,140 --> 01:02:22,240
And I saw their faces.

1131
01:02:22,240 --> 01:02:25,775
And I said to my husband, I'm
having a cancer and if I die,

1132
01:02:25,775 --> 01:02:27,960
I'm leaving this world-

1133
01:02:27,960 --> 01:02:31,340
[INAUDIBLE] you think, it's
a cancer what you have.

1134
01:02:31,340 --> 01:02:34,520
At least in '68, that's
what everybody thought.

1135
01:02:34,520 --> 01:02:35,650
You know what they said?

1136

01:02:35,650 --> 01:02:40,390

I think it's a miracle that
you decided to come here.

1137

01:02:40,390 --> 01:02:43,390

And I cannot forgive all
the doctors in Mexico.

1138

01:02:43,390 --> 01:02:44,830

I know the names
of your doctors.

1139

01:02:44,830 --> 01:02:47,230

They're very famous,
like Dr. [PERSONAL NAME]..

1140

01:02:47,230 --> 01:02:50,770

Not making you one X-ray.

1141

01:02:50,770 --> 01:02:52,690

You are full of TB.

1142

01:02:52,690 --> 01:02:54,130

It became alive.

1143

01:02:54,130 --> 01:02:58,900

It's probably three, to four,
to five years that it's alive.

1144

01:02:58,900 --> 01:03:02,740

You have been lucky that it
didn't come through your lung.

1145

01:03:02,740 --> 01:03:06,460

You would have lasted,
let's say, one year more.

1146

01:03:06,460 --> 01:03:08,657

And you would have passed away.

1147

01:03:08,657 --> 01:03:10,240

And nobody would

have known from what.

1148
01:03:10,240 --> 01:03:15,280
Because I had no symptoms,
no coughing, no blood.

1149
01:03:15,280 --> 01:03:17,590
I wasn't feeling--
I was very thin.

1150
01:03:17,590 --> 01:03:19,480
But all my life,
I'm thin-- today.

1151
01:03:19,480 --> 01:03:22,120
I was very, very thin.

1152
01:03:22,120 --> 01:03:25,960
Now, because I eat all
these sweet, or my age.

1153
01:03:25,960 --> 01:03:28,650

1154
01:03:28,650 --> 01:03:32,570
So he says, what we have to
worry now is to get you cured.

1155
01:03:32,570 --> 01:03:34,310
It will take you
one or two years.

1156
01:03:34,310 --> 01:03:37,050
But thank God, we
have a new medicine.

1157
01:03:37,050 --> 01:03:40,970
[SPANISH] how it's called.

1158
01:03:40,970 --> 01:03:46,070
And you're going to
take 22, 24 pills a day

1159

01:03:46,070 --> 01:03:47,900
for about two years.

1160

01:03:47,900 --> 01:03:50,600
And that's going to be cured.

1161

01:03:50,600 --> 01:03:53,575
But Mrs. Bestandig,
after this tuberculosis

1162

01:03:53,575 --> 01:03:57,720
is going to be cured, you're
going to be, all of your body,

1163

01:03:57,720 --> 01:03:59,681
full of--

1164

01:03:59,681 --> 01:04:02,230
[SPANISH], as we say in Spanish.

1165

01:04:02,230 --> 01:04:04,950
I don't know how you call them--

1166

01:04:04,950 --> 01:04:08,220
like the TB becomes
like a flesh, like this.

1167

01:04:08,220 --> 01:04:10,870

1168

01:04:10,870 --> 01:04:13,320
And so you cannot
have never children,

1169

01:04:13,320 --> 01:04:17,970
because it's going to be
full of this cured TB.

1170

01:04:17,970 --> 01:04:21,090
But it's going to be
in your body forever.

1171

01:04:21,090 --> 01:04:23,940

And you'll have every 10
years to make a checkup.

1172

01:04:23,940 --> 01:04:26,955

Yes, a few years ago,
I had it bad again.

1173

01:04:26,955 --> 01:04:31,770

And I went to Atlanta,
Georgia, to the best clinic.

1174

01:04:31,770 --> 01:04:34,230

After I went to them
they cured me again.

1175

01:04:34,230 --> 01:04:37,790

But this time, I already knew.

1176

01:04:37,790 --> 01:04:41,276

So then that's when you
decided to adopt children.

1177

01:04:41,276 --> 01:04:47,210

Si, because I decided
that my family would go.

1178

01:04:47,210 --> 01:04:49,700

And thank God, I have
two beautiful children.

1179

01:04:49,700 --> 01:04:51,710

I'm going to show
you their wedding.

1180

01:04:51,710 --> 01:04:53,510

This is my daughter and my son.

1181

01:04:53,510 --> 01:04:58,350

I have a son called Ari,
for the name of my father.

1182

01:04:58,350 --> 01:05:01,500
And I have a daughter
called [PERSONAL NAME],,

1183
01:05:01,500 --> 01:05:05,650
like my mother, because I
think her life was very sad.

1184
01:05:05,650 --> 01:05:07,930
She's called [? Amana ?]
like my grandmother.

1185
01:05:07,930 --> 01:05:12,340
And their wonderful children.

1186
01:05:12,340 --> 01:05:16,600
And we have been, let's
say, a very happy family.

1187
01:05:16,600 --> 01:05:21,400
And I have the idea that
that's why I'm alive,

1188
01:05:21,400 --> 01:05:24,460
just that we Jews should go on.

1189
01:05:24,460 --> 01:05:27,730
We want it more
than Hitler wanted.

1190
01:05:27,730 --> 01:05:33,190
When your children were
very tiny, were very small,

1191
01:05:33,190 --> 01:05:40,230
and were the ages that
you were during the war,

1192
01:05:40,230 --> 01:05:42,420
did that bring back
even more memories

1193
01:05:42,420 --> 01:05:46,530

of what you went through
when you were their age?

1194
01:05:46,530 --> 01:05:49,250
Well, it brought
me sometimes sad.

1195
01:05:49,250 --> 01:05:53,180
And my husband says that
there were some nights when

1196
01:05:53,180 --> 01:05:56,205
I my children were-- they
brought me a lot of happiness,

1197
01:05:56,205 --> 01:05:57,300
I would say.

1198
01:05:57,300 --> 01:06:00,120
When they were very
young, after taking

1199
01:06:00,120 --> 01:06:03,570
care of them the whole
day, and running, and this,

1200
01:06:03,570 --> 01:06:07,030
I would cry in my
sleep very much.

1201
01:06:07,030 --> 01:06:09,770
And he would wake me up.

1202
01:06:09,770 --> 01:06:11,520
Because he said, you
were crying terrible.

1203
01:06:11,520 --> 01:06:14,340
But I didn't remember.

1204
01:06:14,340 --> 01:06:18,450
That happened for me for
a few years, I had that.

1205
01:06:18,450 --> 01:06:22,560
And I'd say, when my
children were very young--

1206
01:06:22,560 --> 01:06:26,342
they are four years apart,
between one and the other.

1207
01:06:26,342 --> 01:06:30,280

1208
01:06:30,280 --> 01:06:34,660
But my question was when
they were two, three, four,

1209
01:06:34,660 --> 01:06:37,060
and five years old,
which was the age that

1210
01:06:37,060 --> 01:06:38,940
was such a difficult
time for you,

1211
01:06:38,940 --> 01:06:40,970
did you think of
yourself at that time?

1212
01:06:40,970 --> 01:06:42,978
Yes, I did.

1213
01:06:42,978 --> 01:06:45,570
Yes, I did.

1214
01:06:45,570 --> 01:06:50,120
And I tried, like every
Jewish parents do,

1215
01:06:50,120 --> 01:06:53,310
to give them everything
I didn't have.

1216

01:06:53,310 --> 01:06:57,550

If it was OK on not,
I will never know.

1217

01:06:57,550 --> 01:07:02,740

At least I tried to give them
as much love as possible.

1218

01:07:02,740 --> 01:07:05,470

Did you did you tell them
about your experiences

1219

01:07:05,470 --> 01:07:07,810

when they were growing up.

1220

01:07:07,810 --> 01:07:09,220

Yes, I did.

1221

01:07:09,220 --> 01:07:12,220

They know everything.

1222

01:07:12,220 --> 01:07:14,500

Both of them have--

1223

01:07:14,500 --> 01:07:16,730

one of them, the other
one couldn't make it.

1224

01:07:16,730 --> 01:07:19,190

He was in Jerusalem,
he couldn't make it.

1225

01:07:19,190 --> 01:07:22,310

One of them, my daughter,
went to the famous trip

1226

01:07:22,310 --> 01:07:28,600

of the March of the Living.

1227

01:07:28,600 --> 01:07:30,590

My daughter went there.

1228

01:07:30,590 --> 01:07:31,810
She was very impressed.

1229
01:07:31,810 --> 01:07:33,570
She worked in a
Jewish organization.

1230
01:07:33,570 --> 01:07:34,870
Then she go married.

1231
01:07:34,870 --> 01:07:36,940
My son too.

1232
01:07:36,940 --> 01:07:40,950
And I was invited
last year to go.

1233
01:07:40,950 --> 01:07:43,310
Let's see, this year, I had--

1234
01:07:43,310 --> 01:07:45,990
my children don't let me go.

1235
01:07:45,990 --> 01:07:50,680
They invited me as a
professor to go, to go there,

1236
01:07:50,680 --> 01:07:53,660
with the March of the Living.

1237
01:07:53,660 --> 01:07:55,720
So you are still teaching?

1238
01:07:55,720 --> 01:07:56,830
Yes.

1239
01:07:56,830 --> 01:07:58,590
Where do you teach?

1240
01:07:58,590 --> 01:08:02,260
I teach in the Yeshiva.

1241

01:08:02,260 --> 01:08:08,232

It's a religious institution
in Mexico City, called Emunah.

1242

01:08:08,232 --> 01:08:13,050

And I work as a
sub-director of Hebrew.

1243

01:08:13,050 --> 01:08:22,540

Are there any sounds, or sights,
or smells today the trigger

1244

01:08:22,540 --> 01:08:25,540

memories of what you have
gone through as a young child?

1245

01:08:25,540 --> 01:08:28,240

Anything today that [INAUDIBLE].

1246

01:08:28,240 --> 01:08:30,790

Yes, I went now to the bathroom.

1247

01:08:30,790 --> 01:08:32,240

And I had a terrible smell.

1248

01:08:32,240 --> 01:08:35,731

I'm sure that the
bathroom has nothing.

1249

01:08:35,731 --> 01:08:37,689

I'm absolutely sure that
that bathroom is clean

1250

01:08:37,689 --> 01:08:40,979

and has nothing.

1251

01:08:40,979 --> 01:08:42,450

Yes.

1252

01:08:42,450 --> 01:08:47,430

Also, I cannot go into
a small elevator alone.

1253
01:08:47,430 --> 01:08:51,000
And [NON-ENGLISH] that
the lights should go off

1254
01:08:51,000 --> 01:08:54,350
in the elevator in my house.

1255
01:08:54,350 --> 01:08:57,410
Because I get hysterical.

1256
01:08:57,410 --> 01:09:01,779
I do think I must have some kind
of claustrophobia, some kind.

1257
01:09:01,779 --> 01:09:09,439
Maybe very light, but somehow
I have something like that.

1258
01:09:09,439 --> 01:09:14,689
Was there any remembrances,
any memories, that you had

1259
01:09:14,689 --> 01:09:18,890
once you opened up, you
said at the age of 23 or 24,

1260
01:09:18,890 --> 01:09:22,520
when you went for counseling,
that was not the same

1261
01:09:22,520 --> 01:09:24,093
that your mother had told you?

1262
01:09:24,093 --> 01:09:26,222
Or did everything fit in?

1263
01:09:26,222 --> 01:09:27,680
No, no.

1264
01:09:27,680 --> 01:09:30,600
No, it didn't fit in.

1265
01:09:30,600 --> 01:09:37,399
I would say that she spoke her
point of view, like a grown up,

1266
01:09:37,399 --> 01:09:40,580
and I saw another point of view.

1267
01:09:40,580 --> 01:09:45,029
That's what this psychiatrist--
psychologist-- excuse me--

1268
01:09:45,029 --> 01:09:47,550
was very impressed,
because she said,

1269
01:09:47,550 --> 01:09:49,290
But that your mother
didn't told you.

1270
01:09:49,290 --> 01:09:51,995
I said, yes.

1271
01:09:51,995 --> 01:09:52,995
Can you give an example?

1272
01:09:52,995 --> 01:09:56,020

1273
01:09:56,020 --> 01:10:00,110
She used to tell me
that the barracks were

1274
01:10:00,110 --> 01:10:03,540
where we used to sleep.

1275
01:10:03,540 --> 01:10:05,070
She slept with me.

1276
01:10:05,070 --> 01:10:08,670
That's all, that
she slept with me.

1277
01:10:08,670 --> 01:10:10,380
And that's not so.

1278
01:10:10,380 --> 01:10:12,730
I see that we were eight people.

1279
01:10:12,730 --> 01:10:14,910
And I remember the
legs of the one

1280
01:10:14,910 --> 01:10:19,050
that came almost to my face
of the person, maybe a man.

1281
01:10:19,050 --> 01:10:23,790
I remember eight people
and all being squashed.

1282
01:10:23,790 --> 01:10:29,700
But are being squished, but I
remember those legs perfectly.

1283
01:10:29,700 --> 01:10:33,000
There are things
that didn't tell me.

1284
01:10:33,000 --> 01:10:38,430
Like the garbage can, she
didn't talked a lot about that.

1285
01:10:38,430 --> 01:10:41,610
And I remember-- I can't
remember seeing bones.

1286
01:10:41,610 --> 01:10:43,610
I remember the darkness.

1287
01:10:43,610 --> 01:10:46,530
I remember the light when
she used to open it up.

1288

01:10:46,530 --> 01:10:50,370
I remember sounds when nobody
was supposed to be there.

1289
01:10:50,370 --> 01:10:55,150
I remember Germans
speaking words.

1290
01:10:55,150 --> 01:10:56,370
[INAUDIBLE]

1291
01:10:56,370 --> 01:10:58,750
Did she ever tell you
about the garbage can?

1292
01:10:58,750 --> 01:10:59,545
Yes.

1293
01:10:59,545 --> 01:11:01,720
Yes, she did.

1294
01:11:01,720 --> 01:11:03,690
But she told me like this.

1295
01:11:03,690 --> 01:11:07,120
She was being more
gentle about it.

1296
01:11:07,120 --> 01:11:14,350
She told me, you were there
in that thing for one day.

1297
01:11:14,350 --> 01:11:15,160
I don't know.

1298
01:11:15,160 --> 01:11:18,100
I think that when I was
like 10 or 11 years,

1299
01:11:18,100 --> 01:11:20,890
I asked her, was that
a garbage can, mommy?

1300

01:11:20,890 --> 01:11:24,660

Says, yes, that was
like a garbage can.

1301

01:11:24,660 --> 01:11:26,160

But at that time,
I didn't remember.

1302

01:11:26,160 --> 01:11:30,240

I just was curious what it was.

1303

01:11:30,240 --> 01:11:33,090

Or maybe because I wanted to
know and I couldn't remember.

1304

01:11:33,090 --> 01:11:37,560

My early years, I just
couldn't remember things.

1305

01:11:37,560 --> 01:11:40,500

I thought that my
life started, let's

1306

01:11:40,500 --> 01:11:47,580

say, the last time in Sweden,
the last few months in Sweden.

1307

01:11:47,580 --> 01:11:49,560

Do you remember the name
of the psychologist?

1308

01:11:49,560 --> 01:11:57,950

1309

01:11:57,950 --> 01:12:01,660

Was she affiliated
with the university?

1310

01:12:01,660 --> 01:12:03,630

Yes, I can't remember.

1311

01:12:03,630 --> 01:12:05,380

That's terrible.

1312

01:12:05,380 --> 01:12:06,769

That's absolutely terrible.

1313

01:12:06,769 --> 01:12:09,090

I'll have to write you.

1314

01:12:09,090 --> 01:12:09,785

That's OK.

1315

01:12:09,785 --> 01:12:12,360

Was she affiliated
with the university?

1316

01:12:12,360 --> 01:12:15,853

Yes, she was a Jewish
girl-- a woman.

1317

01:12:15,853 --> 01:12:17,820

She was already married.

1318

01:12:17,820 --> 01:12:22,100

Very, very nice lady.

1319

01:12:22,100 --> 01:12:24,830

I was recommended
at the beginning

1320

01:12:24,830 --> 01:12:29,000

to go to a non-Jewish
psychologist

1321

01:12:29,000 --> 01:12:33,065

because they said she was very
good and she would help me,

1322

01:12:33,065 --> 01:12:37,880

and to get out, not to be
nervous, and be able to have

1323

01:12:37,880 --> 01:12:38,980

a child, and get pregnant.

1324

01:12:38,980 --> 01:12:41,500

1325

01:12:41,500 --> 01:12:48,420

And the truth is, I had a
feeling that a non-Jew won't

1326

01:12:48,420 --> 01:12:49,890

understand me.

1327

01:12:49,890 --> 01:12:51,310

Maybe I'm wrong.

1328

01:12:51,310 --> 01:12:53,920

Today, I never know.

1329

01:12:53,920 --> 01:12:58,240

But I had a feeling that a
non-Jew won't understand me.

1330

01:12:58,240 --> 01:13:03,220

Because look, dear, I
was Friday in the museum.

1331

01:13:03,220 --> 01:13:07,450

Some people were
walking behind me, yes?

1332

01:13:07,450 --> 01:13:11,740

And that part where there
is then the maqueta.

1333

01:13:11,740 --> 01:13:13,180

How you say the maqueta?

1334

01:13:13,180 --> 01:13:15,290

The model.

1335

01:13:15,290 --> 01:13:17,020

The model.

1336
01:13:17,020 --> 01:13:23,950
Where there is the model of
the gas chambers and all that.

1337
01:13:23,950 --> 01:13:26,090
And there were
Spanish-speaking people.

1338
01:13:26,090 --> 01:13:29,170
They didn't know
that I spoke Spanish.

1339
01:13:29,170 --> 01:13:33,200
So the children were
asking their father,

1340
01:13:33,200 --> 01:13:36,730
why did they do
this to the Jews?

1341
01:13:36,730 --> 01:13:39,200
What had the Jews done?

1342
01:13:39,200 --> 01:13:42,400
So their father
answered, the Jews

1343
01:13:42,400 --> 01:13:45,190
were very wealthy in Germany.

1344
01:13:45,190 --> 01:13:46,050
You see?

1345
01:13:46,050 --> 01:13:51,520
They controlled all the banks
and all the enterprises.

1346
01:13:51,520 --> 01:13:55,420
So the Germans got mad because
they had all the money.

1347

01:13:55,420 --> 01:14:00,220
And they put them in these
terrible places to punish them.

1348
01:14:00,220 --> 01:14:03,970
And, my dear, I turned around.

1349
01:14:03,970 --> 01:14:07,390
Maybe somebody else would have
passed and not say anything.

1350
01:14:07,390 --> 01:14:11,260
But I, I cannot be like that.

1351
01:14:11,260 --> 01:14:14,050
My husband sometimes,
he says I'm crazy.

1352
01:14:14,050 --> 01:14:16,920
You start speaking to
people you don't know.

1353
01:14:16,920 --> 01:14:19,720
You smile, you
comment in the middle.

1354
01:14:19,720 --> 01:14:22,150
Like now, on our trip.

1355
01:14:22,150 --> 01:14:24,670
Well, what did you
say to the people?

1356
01:14:24,670 --> 01:14:30,714
I said, I'm sorry, but I am
a survivor of these places.

1357
01:14:30,714 --> 01:14:33,120
You see?

1358
01:14:33,120 --> 01:14:36,100
My parents were--
my in-laws were

1359

01:14:36,100 --> 01:14:38,600
Germans, [? the whole family ?].

1360

01:14:38,600 --> 01:14:44,150
We were there because they
were crazy beasts that wanted

1361

01:14:44,150 --> 01:14:46,670
to punish the whole humanity.

1362

01:14:46,670 --> 01:14:48,590
They would have come to America.

1363

01:14:48,590 --> 01:14:53,100
They would have taken all the
Indians from Peru, from Mexico,

1364

01:14:53,100 --> 01:14:54,620
from Canada.

1365

01:14:54,620 --> 01:14:57,470
They would have taken all the
Negroes and all the Japanese.

1366

01:14:57,470 --> 01:15:01,280
And they would have
invaded those lands.

1367

01:15:01,280 --> 01:15:04,400
And they would have killed
them just because he

1368

01:15:04,400 --> 01:15:09,000
was a murderer of humankind.

1369

01:15:09,000 --> 01:15:13,430
The man, he said nothing.

1370

01:15:13,430 --> 01:15:18,020
But how can we go through our
life if people think like that?

1371
01:15:18,020 --> 01:15:21,960

1372
01:15:21,960 --> 01:15:26,640
And a child asking a question,
and look what he answers.

1373
01:15:26,640 --> 01:15:29,280
That's why I think it's
so important that I took

1374
01:15:29,280 --> 01:15:31,390
the decision to come in here.

1375
01:15:31,390 --> 01:15:35,220
And I took another decision a
few years ago, two years ago.

1376
01:15:35,220 --> 01:15:38,790
They had a visit of Simon
Wiesenthal down in Mexico.

1377
01:15:38,790 --> 01:15:41,520
And I had an interview with him.

1378
01:15:41,520 --> 01:15:43,410
And I made him a promise.

1379
01:15:43,410 --> 01:15:45,480
And I promised my children too.

1380
01:15:45,480 --> 01:15:48,060
That I was start
to write a book.

1381
01:15:48,060 --> 01:15:53,520
I didn't know where I get the
[NON-ENGLISH], the strength.

1382
01:15:53,520 --> 01:15:56,400
But I will try to

write something.

1383
01:15:56,400 --> 01:16:00,580
Because I do think
it's important.

1384
01:16:00,580 --> 01:16:05,990
In two or three generations,
they will say it was a lie.

1385
01:16:05,990 --> 01:16:07,490
It never happened.

1386
01:16:07,490 --> 01:16:09,470
It's an invention of the Jews.

1387
01:16:09,470 --> 01:16:11,950
The Neo-Nazis already say it.

1388
01:16:11,950 --> 01:16:13,230
And I have read it.

1389
01:16:13,230 --> 01:16:16,580
It's not that somebody told me.

1390
01:16:16,580 --> 01:16:18,110
But here we.

1391
01:16:18,110 --> 01:16:18,920
Are alive.

1392
01:16:18,920 --> 01:16:21,845
And I do thank you very
much for the interview.

1393
01:16:21,845 --> 01:16:23,650
You've been very kind.

1394
01:16:23,650 --> 01:16:26,370

1395

01:16:26,370 --> 01:16:31,965

Is there anything else you
wanted to add before we finish?

1396

01:16:31,965 --> 01:16:40,040

1397

01:16:40,040 --> 01:16:43,970

That we Jews have
to think that we

1398

01:16:43,970 --> 01:16:50,870

are survivors of many wars
and many terrible things.

1399

01:16:50,870 --> 01:16:54,450

We have to know that
we are a unique people.

1400

01:16:54,450 --> 01:16:56,450

We have to be proud to be Jews.

1401

01:16:56,450 --> 01:16:59,970

We have to be proud of
being a unique people.

1402

01:16:59,970 --> 01:17:04,470

And I do hope that all
the generations to come

1403

01:17:04,470 --> 01:17:07,260

will know of our
suffering, but will

1404

01:17:07,260 --> 01:17:11,040

live free, free [INAUDIBLE],,
Free in America.

1405

01:17:11,040 --> 01:17:14,360

I do thank very, very much.

1406

01:17:14,360 --> 01:17:19,000