

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:10,760

2  
00:00:10,760 --> 00:00:13,550  
This is the United States  
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3  
00:00:13,550 --> 00:00:17,330  
Volunteer Collection interview  
with Barbara Goldberg,

4  
00:00:17,330 --> 00:00:24,230  
conducted by Gail Schwartz  
on August 22nd, 2012

5  
00:00:24,230 --> 00:00:26,540  
in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

6  
00:00:26,540 --> 00:00:29,270  
This is track number one.

7  
00:00:29,270 --> 00:00:31,830  
What is your full name?

8  
00:00:31,830 --> 00:00:35,750  
My full name is  
Barbara June Goldberg.

9  
00:00:35,750 --> 00:00:39,038  
And Heymann was my maiden name.

10  
00:00:39,038 --> 00:00:40,580  
Now, since you're  
going to be telling

11  
00:00:40,580 --> 00:00:44,000  
the story of your  
parents' journey,

12  
00:00:44,000 --> 00:00:45,350  
let's talk about your parents.

13  
00:00:45,350 --> 00:00:46,840  
Their names?

14  
00:00:46,840 --> 00:00:49,520  
Erich-- "Er-isch"-- Heymann--

15  
00:00:49,520 --> 00:00:55,670  
H-E-Y-M-A-N-N. And  
my mother, Emma,

16  
00:00:55,670 --> 00:01:00,020  
which changed to Emily  
when she got here.

17  
00:01:00,020 --> 00:01:02,720  
Where were they born  
and when were they born?

18  
00:01:02,720 --> 00:01:08,300  
My mother was born in  
Olomouc, in what was then

19  
00:01:08,300 --> 00:01:14,270  
Czechoslovakia in 1912 or '13.

20  
00:01:14,270 --> 00:01:19,610  
And my father was born in  
the early 1900s in Thorn--

21  
00:01:19,610 --> 00:01:24,440  
T-H-O-R-N. That was the part  
that kept going back and forth

22  
00:01:24,440 --> 00:01:29,270  
between Poland and Germany,  
the corridor up there.

23  
00:01:29,270 --> 00:01:30,700  
But he lived in Berlin.

24  
00:01:30,700 --> 00:01:36,390

And my mother in Prague--

25

00:01:36,390 --> 00:01:39,140

Teplice, a kind of  
suburb of Prague.

26

00:01:39,140 --> 00:01:41,720

Did they come-- well, let's  
take them one at a time.

27

00:01:41,720 --> 00:01:44,390

Did your father come from  
a religious background?

28

00:01:44,390 --> 00:01:45,890

He was totally secular.

29

00:01:45,890 --> 00:01:47,060

He was German.

30

00:01:47,060 --> 00:01:50,660

However, his mother  
was quite religious.

31

00:01:50,660 --> 00:01:54,080

And his father, I remember  
him saying, or at least

32

00:01:54,080 --> 00:01:56,810

my grandmother, who  
lived with us, that he

33

00:01:56,810 --> 00:01:58,880

studied Torah in the back room.

34

00:01:58,880 --> 00:02:02,000

And I guess they had  
some kind of store.

35

00:02:02,000 --> 00:02:07,250

And my mother's family  
was also secular.

36

00:02:07,250 --> 00:02:09,320

It was the Sudetenland  
where she grew up,

37

00:02:09,320 --> 00:02:12,170

and her father was,  
as she said, a Notar,

38

00:02:12,170 --> 00:02:17,390

which was a notary, which is  
very unusual for a Jewish man.

39

00:02:17,390 --> 00:02:20,490

And they were secular too.

40

00:02:20,490 --> 00:02:26,590

And what kind of education  
did they have, your parents?

41

00:02:26,590 --> 00:02:29,650

Well, gymnasium for my mother.

42

00:02:29,650 --> 00:02:33,090

I'm not quite sure if  
there was something after.

43

00:02:33,090 --> 00:02:38,260

She probably went to some  
school in Switzerland after.

44

00:02:38,260 --> 00:02:41,080

And my father probably went--

45

00:02:41,080 --> 00:02:43,730

I'm saying probably--  
university in London,

46

00:02:43,730 --> 00:02:45,760

because he was in  
London for some time.

47

00:02:45,760 --> 00:02:48,230

I think he wanted  
to be a lawyer,

48  
00:02:48,230 --> 00:02:53,500  
but that all changed when his  
father died of the Swine Flu.

49  
00:02:53,500 --> 00:02:55,728  
I think it was 1918, is  
that when-- yeah, so.

50  
00:02:55,728 --> 00:02:57,020  
Yes, that was the flu epidemic.

51  
00:02:57,020 --> 00:02:58,780  
Yeah, and he had to  
come back to Berlin

52  
00:02:58,780 --> 00:03:02,200  
and support his  
mother and himself.

53  
00:03:02,200 --> 00:03:03,430  
Yeah.

54  
00:03:03,430 --> 00:03:06,850  
So how did your parents meet?

55  
00:03:06,850 --> 00:03:13,300  
I think they met at Karlovy  
Vary, Karlsbad, in German.

56  
00:03:13,300 --> 00:03:16,870  
And it was a place where  
people went to summer.

57  
00:03:16,870 --> 00:03:22,540  
And as a matter of fact, I  
found the actual ballroom

58  
00:03:22,540 --> 00:03:24,880  
where they met and first  
danced with each other.

59

00:03:24,880 --> 00:03:26,950

And as my mother said--

60

00:03:26,950 --> 00:03:30,150

I mean, he was quite  
short and quite fat,

61

00:03:30,150 --> 00:03:33,920

but my mother said he  
could dance a mean tango.

62

00:03:33,920 --> 00:03:38,560

And he was very  
kind of Prussian.

63

00:03:38,560 --> 00:03:40,450

He was not known for  
his charm, although he

64

00:03:40,450 --> 00:03:42,400

could be very funny.

65

00:03:42,400 --> 00:03:47,590

And my mother was very  
beautiful and very charming.

66

00:03:47,590 --> 00:03:51,910

And after they met,  
they were both invited

67

00:03:51,910 --> 00:03:57,070

to a dinner party, where the  
subject of Hitler came up.

68

00:03:57,070 --> 00:03:59,560

And the Czechs in the  
Sudetenland we're saying,

69

00:03:59,560 --> 00:04:02,260

oh, it's nothing, don't worry.

70

00:04:02,260 --> 00:04:05,050  
And my father got-- he  
had a big, bad temper,

71  
00:04:05,050 --> 00:04:10,860  
and he got outraged, and  
called them all chicken-headed.

72  
00:04:10,860 --> 00:04:12,280  
But no one believed him.

73  
00:04:12,280 --> 00:04:13,930  
And so he stormed out.

74  
00:04:13,930 --> 00:04:17,079  
But the next day, he was  
at my mother's apartment.

75  
00:04:17,079 --> 00:04:19,450  
At that time, she  
was probably working

76  
00:04:19,450 --> 00:04:21,610  
in some kind of  
dress shop, boutique,

77  
00:04:21,610 --> 00:04:26,050  
in Prague, with a dozen  
long-stemmed roses.

78  
00:04:26,050 --> 00:04:29,830  
And I think-- she later said  
that why she married him--

79  
00:04:29,830 --> 00:04:30,940  
she had many suitors--

80  
00:04:30,940 --> 00:04:34,090  
was because she felt like  
he was rock solid, that she

81  
00:04:34,090 --> 00:04:36,730  
could rely on him.

82  
00:04:36,730 --> 00:04:41,320  
And indeed, his  
paranoia saved her.

83  
00:04:41,320 --> 00:04:47,110  
And her own parents  
wouldn't leave.

84  
00:04:47,110 --> 00:04:50,170  
Her father said,  
since he didn't speak

85  
00:04:50,170 --> 00:04:55,600  
English, "What would I do, sell  
sausages in a foreign land?"

86  
00:04:55,600 --> 00:04:59,620  
And her brother, my uncle Paul  
Brennan-- that's a story--

87  
00:04:59,620 --> 00:05:03,460  
stayed behind to  
take care of them.

88  
00:05:03,460 --> 00:05:04,790  
And that's how they met.

89  
00:05:04,790 --> 00:05:06,790  
When did they get married?

90  
00:05:06,790 --> 00:05:08,930  
Do you know what year?

91  
00:05:08,930 --> 00:05:09,680  
No, I don't.

92  
00:05:09,680 --> 00:05:12,730  
Because I know that--

93  
00:05:12,730 --> 00:05:14,840  
when was Kristallnacht?



94  
00:05:14,840 --> 00:05:15,770  
November.

95  
00:05:15,770 --> 00:05:16,580  
Of what year?

96  
00:05:16,580 --> 00:05:18,110  
In November '38.

97  
00:05:18,110 --> 00:05:20,540  
I know that they--

98  
00:05:20,540 --> 00:05:23,300  
he was in Czechoslovakia  
in the first place

99  
00:05:23,300 --> 00:05:27,080  
because he had  
developed a reputation

100  
00:05:27,080 --> 00:05:29,710  
for taking failing companies and  
making them profitable again.

101  
00:05:29,710 --> 00:05:30,543  
This is your father?

102  
00:05:30,543 --> 00:05:31,490  
My father.

103  
00:05:31,490 --> 00:05:34,190  
And pretty soon  
after they met, I

104  
00:05:34,190 --> 00:05:41,420  
think he took my mother and  
his mother to Paris to live.

105  
00:05:41,420 --> 00:05:46,250  
And they made their  
getaway the minute

106  
00:05:46,250 --> 00:05:50,030  
the Germans crossed  
over into France,

107  
00:05:50,030 --> 00:05:51,390  
maybe a little before that.

108  
00:05:51,390 --> 00:05:52,400  
But they were married by then?

109  
00:05:52,400 --> 00:05:53,360  
They were married by then.

110  
00:05:53,360 --> 00:05:53,860  
Oh, OK, so--

111  
00:05:53,860 --> 00:05:54,620  
Yeah, sure.

112  
00:05:54,620 --> 00:05:54,860  
--they were married before--

113  
00:05:54,860 --> 00:05:56,360  
They were married  
in Czechoslovakia,

114  
00:05:56,360 --> 00:05:58,820  
and then pretty soon  
after went to Paris.

115  
00:05:58,820 --> 00:05:59,506  
I see.

116  
00:05:59,506 --> 00:06:02,070  
OK, so now they're in Paris.

117  
00:06:02,070 --> 00:06:03,350  
Now they're in Paris.

118  
00:06:03,350 --> 00:06:08,540

And my father, when  
he got paid, had asked

119  
00:06:08,540 --> 00:06:10,340  
to be paid in Swiss francs.

120  
00:06:10,340 --> 00:06:13,190  
He didn't want Czech  
money or German money.

121  
00:06:13,190 --> 00:06:16,340  
So he had resources.

122  
00:06:16,340 --> 00:06:22,310  
And when they came to Paris,  
well, I'm sure he didn't work,

123  
00:06:22,310 --> 00:06:23,060  
or maybe--

124  
00:06:23,060 --> 00:06:24,750  
I don't know if  
he worked or not.

125  
00:06:24,750 --> 00:06:26,960  
But anyway, they lived  
there a couple of years.

126  
00:06:26,960 --> 00:06:34,030  
And my sister was born,  
I think, in 1940, or '41,

127  
00:06:34,030 --> 00:06:38,780  
near Aix-les-Bains, which  
was kind of a resort town.

128  
00:06:38,780 --> 00:06:41,030  
And then they came  
back to Paris.

129  
00:06:41,030 --> 00:06:49,610  
And then when they left Paris,  
along with all the others,

130  
00:06:49,610 --> 00:06:52,830  
you had to wait in line for a  
visa and everything like that.

131  
00:06:52,830 --> 00:06:55,640  
So that took a while,  
even to get out of Paris.

132  
00:06:55,640 --> 00:07:00,230  
But then, I think  
I wrote you that--

133  
00:07:00,230 --> 00:07:06,190

134  
00:07:06,190 --> 00:07:10,780  
so I think is that they followed  
a lot of people who were there,

135  
00:07:10,780 --> 00:07:15,430  
who were driving south  
and trying to get

136  
00:07:15,430 --> 00:07:18,430  
to Spain and then Portugal.

137  
00:07:18,430 --> 00:07:21,790  
And in, I believe,  
it was Bordeaux,

138  
00:07:21,790 --> 00:07:24,320  
there was Aristides de Sousa--

139  
00:07:24,320 --> 00:07:25,420  
Mendes.

140  
00:07:25,420 --> 00:07:30,940  
--Mendes, who arranged for them,  
I think along with something

141  
00:07:30,940 --> 00:07:34,770

like 30-33,000 other  
people to get--

142  
00:07:34,770 --> 00:07:35,840  
Possibly 10,000.

143  
00:07:35,840 --> 00:07:36,340  
Oh, really?

144  
00:07:36,340 --> 00:07:38,710  
Because I heard from them  
and that's what they said.

145  
00:07:38,710 --> 00:07:39,668  
Well, you may be right.

146  
00:07:39,668 --> 00:07:43,750  
Anyway, so they got  
an exit visa from him.

147  
00:07:43,750 --> 00:07:45,430  
Did they meet him directly?

148  
00:07:45,430 --> 00:07:49,600  
Well, I don't know, but  
the manifest exists.

149  
00:07:49,600 --> 00:07:53,710  
Their names exist on a--

150  
00:07:53,710 --> 00:07:54,730  
I don't know.

151  
00:07:54,730 --> 00:07:59,220  
Because I never heard his  
name until very recently.

152  
00:07:59,220 --> 00:08:01,720  
I just didn't know whether they  
had direct contact with him.

153  
00:08:01,720 --> 00:08:03,490

I don't know.

154  
00:08:03,490 --> 00:08:06,463  
But the people who  
he gave visas to,

155  
00:08:06,463 --> 00:08:08,380  
they were like on the  
first three lines of God

156  
00:08:08,380 --> 00:08:13,900  
knows how many pages, was my  
grandmother, Gusha Agusta,

157  
00:08:13,900 --> 00:08:18,160  
and Erich, and Emma,  
and then my sister.

158  
00:08:18,160 --> 00:08:22,370  
Monique Marguerite was her  
name before it was changed to--

159  
00:08:22,370 --> 00:08:25,580  
How old was she at that point?

160  
00:08:25,580 --> 00:08:28,510  
I think this was '40-'41.

161  
00:08:28,510 --> 00:08:32,260  
So she was-- I remember  
that she was very young.

162  
00:08:32,260 --> 00:08:32,840  
Yeah.

163  
00:08:32,840 --> 00:08:33,700  
I mean, a baby.

164  
00:08:33,700 --> 00:08:34,450  
She was an infant.

165  
00:08:34,450 --> 00:08:35,360

She was an infant.

166  
00:08:35,360 --> 00:08:37,270  
And my grandmother in  
the backseat of the car

167  
00:08:37,270 --> 00:08:40,900  
was feeding and feeding  
her to keep her quiet.

168  
00:08:40,900 --> 00:08:43,429  
So they get the papers from  
Aristides de Sousa Mendes.

169  
00:08:43,429 --> 00:08:44,800  
Yes.

170  
00:08:44,800 --> 00:08:48,400  
And I remember  
them saying that it

171  
00:08:48,400 --> 00:08:54,070  
was this long, long ride over  
the Pyrenees or something

172  
00:08:54,070 --> 00:08:55,570  
to get to Spain.

173  
00:08:55,570 --> 00:08:58,540  
I don't know how long  
they spent in Spain.

174  
00:08:58,540 --> 00:09:01,750  
Eventually, they  
got to Portugal.

175  
00:09:01,750 --> 00:09:06,130  
And then, where was  
their visa from?

176  
00:09:06,130 --> 00:09:06,910  
Because--

177

00:09:06,910 --> 00:09:09,261

Did they talk about any  
of the other people who

178

00:09:09,261 --> 00:09:10,386

were during the same thing?

179

00:09:10,386 --> 00:09:12,318

Did they tell you about that?

180

00:09:12,318 --> 00:09:13,860

The other refugees  
who were leaving--

181

00:09:13,860 --> 00:09:14,402

Yeah, I know.

182

00:09:14,402 --> 00:09:15,270

--with them?

183

00:09:15,270 --> 00:09:16,230

I'm not really sure.

184

00:09:16,230 --> 00:09:17,970

I have this one  
photograph, which

185

00:09:17,970 --> 00:09:23,490

seems to me so strange,  
which was on this obviously

186

00:09:23,490 --> 00:09:26,610

cross-Atlantic trip.

187

00:09:26,610 --> 00:09:29,160

And they were partying.

188

00:09:29,160 --> 00:09:31,500

They were dressed  
up in party clothes.

189



00:09:31,500 --> 00:09:33,210  
OK, so they get to  
Portugal, you said.

190  
00:09:33,210 --> 00:09:33,925  
They get to Portugal.

191  
00:09:33,925 --> 00:09:34,560  
And they get on a boat.

192  
00:09:34,560 --> 00:09:35,727  
They have a three-day visa--

193  
00:09:35,727 --> 00:09:36,690  
Oh.

194  
00:09:36,690 --> 00:09:37,620  
--for the States.

195  
00:09:37,620 --> 00:09:41,220  
When they get to the  
States, Ellis Island,

196  
00:09:41,220 --> 00:09:44,405  
the customs person  
looks at my mother--

197  
00:09:44,405 --> 00:09:46,857  
Oh, they went directly  
to the United States.

198  
00:09:46,857 --> 00:09:47,440  
From Portugal.

199  
00:09:47,440 --> 00:09:49,590  
From Portugal.

200  
00:09:49,590 --> 00:09:53,110  
Do you know what  
boat they were on?

201  
00:09:53,110 --> 00:09:57,530

My son, my younger  
son, has a suitcase,

202  
00:09:57,530 --> 00:10:00,040  
which has Rio de Janeiro on it.

203  
00:10:00,040 --> 00:10:01,550  
And I'll tell you  
how that happened.

204  
00:10:01,550 --> 00:10:04,820  
So they have a three-day  
visa and the customs person--

205  
00:10:04,820 --> 00:10:06,050  
this is how the story went--

206  
00:10:06,050 --> 00:10:08,110  
looked at my mother, and  
the baby, and the older

207  
00:10:08,110 --> 00:10:11,390  
grandmother, and all that, and  
he extended it to three months.

208  
00:10:11,390 --> 00:10:16,060  
And in that time, they  
got a visa to Brazil.

209  
00:10:16,060 --> 00:10:19,130  
They had been  
considering Argentina,

210  
00:10:19,130 --> 00:10:21,880  
but his mother had  
high blood pressure

211  
00:10:21,880 --> 00:10:24,490  
and I think Brazil  
was better for that.

212  
00:10:24,490 --> 00:10:27,280  
They spent a year in Brazil.

213  
00:10:27,280 --> 00:10:29,310  
My sister was in a crib.

214  
00:10:29,310 --> 00:10:31,060  
And my mother said  
the cockroaches were

215  
00:10:31,060 --> 00:10:33,620  
like nothing you could imagine.

216  
00:10:33,620 --> 00:10:36,820  
And then I think--

217  
00:10:36,820 --> 00:10:39,580  
I don't know whether they  
came in on a Brazilian visa

218  
00:10:39,580 --> 00:10:42,940  
or whether that visa finally--

219  
00:10:42,940 --> 00:10:43,450  
I'm very--

220  
00:10:43,450 --> 00:10:45,010  
Where did they stay  
in the United States

221  
00:10:45,010 --> 00:10:46,510  
for that month or  
that three months?

222  
00:10:46,510 --> 00:10:48,610  
I think they were in  
Delaware, Wilmington.

223  
00:10:48,610 --> 00:10:49,390  
Because?

224  
00:10:49,390 --> 00:10:55,090  
Because the next  
job for my father

225

00:10:55,090 --> 00:11:00,660  
was going to be in a brewery  
to make it profitable.

226

00:11:00,660 --> 00:11:04,070  
And so the first  
year of my life--

227

00:11:04,070 --> 00:11:06,010  
I was born in '43--

228

00:11:06,010 --> 00:11:08,020  
was spent in Wilmington.

229

00:11:08,020 --> 00:11:10,410  
I was born there.

230

00:11:10,410 --> 00:11:13,540  
I'm a little--  
let's clarify this.

231

00:11:13,540 --> 00:11:15,670  
They came to the United States.

232

00:11:15,670 --> 00:11:17,140  
They stayed for how long?

233

00:11:17,140 --> 00:11:17,810  
Three months.

234

00:11:17,810 --> 00:11:18,460  
Three months.

235

00:11:18,460 --> 00:11:19,720  
And then went to Brazil.

236

00:11:19,720 --> 00:11:21,490  
Went to Brazil for about a year.

237

00:11:21,490 --> 00:11:24,220

OK, what did they say  
about their life in Brazil,

238  
00:11:24,220 --> 00:11:28,210  
besides the cockroaches?

239  
00:11:28,210 --> 00:11:28,900  
Not much.

240  
00:11:28,900 --> 00:11:30,270  
Yeah.

241  
00:11:30,270 --> 00:11:31,770  
I don't think they  
were alone there.

242  
00:11:31,770 --> 00:11:32,478  
There were many--

243  
00:11:32,478 --> 00:11:33,350  
Many other refugees.

244  
00:11:33,350 --> 00:11:34,450  
Yes.

245  
00:11:34,450 --> 00:11:38,410  
But I don't know much  
about that at all.

246  
00:11:38,410 --> 00:11:40,060  
And maybe the  
party dresses could

247  
00:11:40,060 --> 00:11:44,650  
have been on the boat  
from Rio to the States.

248  
00:11:44,650 --> 00:11:46,940  
That, I don't know either.

249  
00:11:46,940 --> 00:11:50,110  
So then after Brazil they came

back to the United States.

250  
00:11:50,110 --> 00:11:55,640  
And went to Wilmington  
for about a year--

251  
00:11:55,640 --> 00:11:57,007  
a year or two.

252  
00:11:57,007 --> 00:11:58,840  
But my question before,  
when they were first

253  
00:11:58,840 --> 00:12:00,190  
in the United States--

254  
00:12:00,190 --> 00:12:01,720  
I'm not really sure, I assumed--

255  
00:12:01,720 --> 00:12:01,990  
--where were they--

256  
00:12:01,990 --> 00:12:02,490  
--it was--

257  
00:12:02,490 --> 00:12:05,890  
Where were they staying  
then, their first trip?

258  
00:12:05,890 --> 00:12:06,460  
I don't know.

259  
00:12:06,460 --> 00:12:07,540  
You don't know, OK.

260  
00:12:07,540 --> 00:12:09,040  
So now they're back again.

261  
00:12:09,040 --> 00:12:10,660  
They're in Wilmington.

262

00:12:10,660 --> 00:12:12,545  
He's making this brewery.

263  
00:12:12,545 --> 00:12:15,553

264  
00:12:15,553 --> 00:12:17,470  
If only I could remember  
the name of the beer.

265  
00:12:17,470 --> 00:12:20,512  
Because Pabst, of course, is--

266  
00:12:20,512 --> 00:12:21,970  
I'll remember the  
name of the beer.

267  
00:12:21,970 --> 00:12:27,670  
But long story short, he somehow  
became a financial advisor

268  
00:12:27,670 --> 00:12:28,450  
to people.

269  
00:12:28,450 --> 00:12:34,960  
And one of them was Lehman,  
of the famous Lehman

270  
00:12:34,960 --> 00:12:36,820  
that went broke.

271  
00:12:36,820 --> 00:12:40,540  
But anyway, so he  
was doing quite well.

272  
00:12:40,540 --> 00:12:42,310  
And then they moved--

273  
00:12:42,310 --> 00:12:45,790  
and then they moved to  
Forest Hills, New York,

274

00:12:45,790 --> 00:12:48,820  
where there were many,  
many, many refugees.

275  
00:12:48,820 --> 00:12:52,510  
And I believe they may even  
have known a number of them

276  
00:12:52,510 --> 00:12:53,880  
beforehand.

277  
00:12:53,880 --> 00:12:55,090  
In Europe.

278  
00:12:55,090 --> 00:12:57,392  
In Europe, yeah.

279  
00:12:57,392 --> 00:12:58,840  
And how was their English?

280  
00:12:58,840 --> 00:13:02,710  
Did they know English  
before they came?

281  
00:13:02,710 --> 00:13:06,280  
My father spoke English  
well, with a trace

282  
00:13:06,280 --> 00:13:08,410  
of a British accent.

283  
00:13:08,410 --> 00:13:12,370  
And my mother, I'm  
not sure how well

284  
00:13:12,370 --> 00:13:15,080  
she spoke it, but all her--

285  
00:13:15,080 --> 00:13:18,610  
she spoke it fluently,  
but all her life she still

286



00:13:18,610 --> 00:13:21,220  
said welcome with the V.

287  
00:13:21,220 --> 00:13:22,870  
But they kind of--

288  
00:13:22,870 --> 00:13:25,660  
by the time that they  
had lived in America

289  
00:13:25,660 --> 00:13:27,190  
for a while, spoke this--

290  
00:13:27,190 --> 00:13:30,610  
I guess it's called Spanglish,  
if it's Spanish and English.

291  
00:13:30,610 --> 00:13:33,670  
They kept throwing in  
English words and stuff.

292  
00:13:33,670 --> 00:13:36,990  
But I do remember--

293  
00:13:36,990 --> 00:13:41,020  
and I spoke German  
with my grandmother.

294  
00:13:41,020 --> 00:13:45,550  
And when I was in high school  
and I had taken a practice

295  
00:13:45,550 --> 00:13:48,700  
boards, they said that I  
should study English vocabulary

296  
00:13:48,700 --> 00:13:55,130  
because it wasn't as good as it  
should have been and all that.

297  
00:13:55,130 --> 00:13:56,000  
So let's go back.

298

00:13:56,000 --> 00:13:57,250

You were born in '43 you said.

299

00:13:57,250 --> 00:13:58,570

'43 in Wilmington.

300

00:13:58,570 --> 00:13:59,415

In Wilmington, OK.

301

00:13:59,415 --> 00:14:01,000

And Then you moved to New York.

302

00:14:01,000 --> 00:14:01,500

Right.

303

00:14:01,500 --> 00:14:02,453

And stayed in--

304

00:14:02,453 --> 00:14:03,120

In Forest Hills.

305

00:14:03,120 --> 00:14:04,350

In Forest Hills.

306

00:14:04,350 --> 00:14:05,020

Right.

307

00:14:05,020 --> 00:14:06,640

And while you were  
growing up, did

308

00:14:06,640 --> 00:14:09,040

your parents tell  
you or talk about

309

00:14:09,040 --> 00:14:11,770

their previous experiences?

310

00:14:11,770 --> 00:14:16,930

I knew very little.

311  
00:14:16,930 --> 00:14:19,930  
The only thing I  
got about the camps

312  
00:14:19,930 --> 00:14:23,560  
is when I was eavesdropping.

313  
00:14:23,560 --> 00:14:28,450  
And the people they had over in  
their social circle for bridge,

314  
00:14:28,450 --> 00:14:31,390  
or canasta, or whatever--

315  
00:14:31,390 --> 00:14:33,550  
I wrote an article  
about this once.

316  
00:14:33,550 --> 00:14:37,030  
I don't know how I knew, but  
I knew pretty much everything.

317  
00:14:37,030 --> 00:14:38,830  
They never talked about it.

318  
00:14:38,830 --> 00:14:39,670  
Directly to you?

319  
00:14:39,670 --> 00:14:40,840  
Never.

320  
00:14:40,840 --> 00:14:46,090  
And I knew that Mr. Nash had  
lost his wife and children

321  
00:14:46,090 --> 00:14:46,720  
in camp.

322  
00:14:46,720 --> 00:14:47,740  
And he came here.

323

00:14:47,740 --> 00:14:50,800  
And he was starting over again,  
had married someone else.

324  
00:14:50,800 --> 00:14:53,410  
And I know this person  
had relatives that--

325  
00:14:53,410 --> 00:14:56,700  
I somehow knew their stories.

326  
00:14:56,700 --> 00:14:58,240  
And I don't know how it--

327  
00:14:58,240 --> 00:14:59,710  
how I knew it.

328  
00:14:59,710 --> 00:15:02,080  
And the only thing that  
I really knew about them,

329  
00:15:02,080 --> 00:15:04,660  
I knew her parents had died.

330  
00:15:04,660 --> 00:15:06,520  
I don't know when I  
knew that exactly.

331  
00:15:06,520 --> 00:15:09,490  
But I know when I was born  
they named me Barbara.

332  
00:15:09,490 --> 00:15:11,080  
After?

333  
00:15:11,080 --> 00:15:14,080  
So I said, how come  
you named me Barbara?

334  
00:15:14,080 --> 00:15:17,830  
And by that time, my sister's  
name had changed to Monica.

335

00:15:17,830 --> 00:15:19,420

And my mother said,  
well, you know,

336

00:15:19,420 --> 00:15:22,240

Santa Barbara, Santa Monica.

337

00:15:22,240 --> 00:15:24,490

And it really wasn't  
until I was 20

338

00:15:24,490 --> 00:15:28,750

that I knew her mother's  
first name, which was Blanca.

339

00:15:28,750 --> 00:15:31,300

So they didn't talk about it.

340

00:15:31,300 --> 00:15:39,580

And I also found out that  
there was a letter written

341

00:15:39,580 --> 00:15:45,640

to my father's  
uncle in Australia,

342

00:15:45,640 --> 00:15:51,310

that I saw a copy of years later  
through my Australian cousins.

343

00:15:51,310 --> 00:15:55,360

And it went, "Sorry to  
hear of Max's death.

344

00:15:55,360 --> 00:15:58,600

Agusta--" who was-- they  
were brother and sister--

345

00:15:58,600 --> 00:16:00,135

"is grieving."

346

00:16:00,135 --> 00:16:02,260

I thought, I didn't know  
she was grieving about it.

347  
00:16:02,260 --> 00:16:07,300  
So it turns out there were seven  
brothers and sisters on my--

348  
00:16:07,300 --> 00:16:08,950  
of my grandmother.

349  
00:16:08,950 --> 00:16:10,870  
And there was a  
short period of time

350  
00:16:10,870 --> 00:16:13,690  
where you could buy  
people out of Germany.

351  
00:16:13,690 --> 00:16:19,030  
And so he and a cousin in  
London raised some money

352  
00:16:19,030 --> 00:16:21,130  
and got a lot of them out.

353  
00:16:21,130 --> 00:16:24,700  
So I know-- to South  
Africa, and Israel--

354  
00:16:24,700 --> 00:16:30,410  
Palestine then-- and Australia.

355  
00:16:30,410 --> 00:16:35,130  
But I didn't know about  
that until so much later.

356  
00:16:35,130 --> 00:16:37,180  
And I remember the  
text of the letter

357  
00:16:37,180 --> 00:16:40,150  
because it said, "Monica is so  
smart, et cetera, et cetera."

358  
00:16:40,150 --> 00:16:42,460  
There was hardly  
a word about me.

359  
00:16:42,460 --> 00:16:46,180  
I remember feeling,  
well, why not?

360  
00:16:46,180 --> 00:16:47,260  
Of course, I was younger.

361  
00:16:47,260 --> 00:16:49,470  
So your folks did not  
talk, as you say--

362  
00:16:49,470 --> 00:16:49,970  
No.

363  
00:16:49,970 --> 00:16:50,530  
--about their experience.

364  
00:16:50,530 --> 00:16:52,240  
Or about Aristides  
de Sousa Mendes.

365  
00:16:52,240 --> 00:16:53,120  
Not at all.

366  
00:16:53,120 --> 00:16:53,920  
So do you know--

367  
00:16:53,920 --> 00:16:56,590  
so what you know about him  
is what you read later.

368  
00:16:56,590 --> 00:16:59,750  
Is what I heard within  
the last couple of months.

369  
00:16:59,750 --> 00:17:00,300  
Oh, OK.

370  
00:17:00,300 --> 00:17:01,300  
Not from anything that--

371  
00:17:01,300 --> 00:17:02,320  
We were contacted.

372  
00:17:02,320 --> 00:17:03,580  
Nothing from what they said.

373  
00:17:03,580 --> 00:17:04,480  
Who contacted you?

374  
00:17:04,480 --> 00:17:07,720  
There was a woman who, I  
guess, is with the foundation,

375  
00:17:07,720 --> 00:17:08,950  
or beginning the foundation.

376  
00:17:08,950 --> 00:17:10,420  
It's very bizarre.

377  
00:17:10,420 --> 00:17:11,740  
What foundation?

378  
00:17:11,740 --> 00:17:14,560  
The Sousa Mendes Foundation.

379  
00:17:14,560 --> 00:17:16,650  
They want to start a museum.

380  
00:17:16,650 --> 00:17:17,150  
Oh.

381  
00:17:17,150 --> 00:17:17,650  
Where?

382  
00:17:17,650 --> 00:17:19,360  
I'm not sure whether it--



383  
00:17:19,360 --> 00:17:19,930  
In Portugal?

384  
00:17:19,930 --> 00:17:22,440  
--would be-- or  
Brazil, I don't know.

385  
00:17:22,440 --> 00:17:25,210  
He was a Portuguese diplomat.

386  
00:17:25,210 --> 00:17:27,520  
So where did Brazil come in?

387  
00:17:27,520 --> 00:17:28,640  
Well, it was Portuguese.

388  
00:17:28,640 --> 00:17:30,230  
Brazil was Portuguese.

389  
00:17:30,230 --> 00:17:31,260  
Oh, so it was--

390  
00:17:31,260 --> 00:17:33,690  
OK, so maybe he came  
from Brazil or whatever.

391  
00:17:33,690 --> 00:17:37,180  
But anyway, actually  
got in touch with her

392  
00:17:37,180 --> 00:17:41,230  
through my sister's daughter,  
whose name is nothing related

393  
00:17:41,230 --> 00:17:44,560  
to our names at all, but who's  
an extremely active presence

394  
00:17:44,560 --> 00:17:46,780  
on the web and has  
her own company.

395

00:17:46,780 --> 00:17:47,800

Contacted her.

396

00:17:47,800 --> 00:17:50,680

She referred it  
to my sister, who

397

00:17:50,680 --> 00:17:55,250

really hasn't followed the  
history of my family the way

398

00:17:55,250 --> 00:17:55,750

I have.

399

00:17:55,750 --> 00:17:57,130

There's always one.

400

00:17:57,130 --> 00:17:59,120

There's always one, thank God.

401

00:17:59,120 --> 00:18:00,830

And so she forwarded it to me.

402

00:18:00,830 --> 00:18:02,980

And so that's how I found it.

403

00:18:02,980 --> 00:18:04,575

It's startling to see.

404

00:18:04,575 --> 00:18:05,560

Oh, I see.

405

00:18:05,560 --> 00:18:06,835

So this is all very recent.

406

00:18:06,835 --> 00:18:08,520

This is all recent.

407

00:18:08,520 --> 00:18:09,280

Yeah.

408

00:18:09,280 --> 00:18:11,020

So I forward it to my kids.

409

00:18:11,020 --> 00:18:15,760

And my younger one, Jesse, who's  
the historian in the family,

410

00:18:15,760 --> 00:18:19,330

sent along images of this  
suitcase to the foundation.

411

00:18:19,330 --> 00:18:20,200

He still has it.

412

00:18:20,200 --> 00:18:23,410

He said, when my mother  
died, he saw this suitcase.

413

00:18:23,410 --> 00:18:25,690

So I must have said  
something to him.

414

00:18:25,690 --> 00:18:27,840

And he took it.

415

00:18:27,840 --> 00:18:29,140

And no one else was interested.

416

00:18:29,140 --> 00:18:31,540

It was an old  
bungeed-up suitcase.

417

00:18:31,540 --> 00:18:35,240

But interestingly  
enough, she kept it.

418

00:18:35,240 --> 00:18:36,750

Yeah.

419

00:18:36,750 --> 00:18:40,110

Now, my uncle, who  
was a survivor,

420  
00:18:40,110 --> 00:18:44,440  
came to this country,  
America, when I was four.

421  
00:18:44,440 --> 00:18:45,750  
It was 1947?

422  
00:18:45,750 --> 00:18:46,890  
Right.

423  
00:18:46,890 --> 00:18:50,010  
And he was very handsome.

424  
00:18:50,010 --> 00:18:59,250  
My father had sent him and a  
cousin, [?Gertie?] Fleischman,

425  
00:18:59,250 --> 00:19:05,050  
to a sanatorium in Switzerland  
for a year to recover

426  
00:19:05,050 --> 00:19:07,650  
because he was  
severely underweight.

427  
00:19:07,650 --> 00:19:10,740  
And apparently-- now, again,  
I don't know how I knew this,

428  
00:19:10,740 --> 00:19:14,280  
but he sat my mother down,  
probably my father too,

429  
00:19:14,280 --> 00:19:16,843  
and said, I'm going to  
tell you this story once.

430  
00:19:16,843 --> 00:19:18,510  
I'm going to tell you  
what happened once

431

00:19:18,510 --> 00:19:22,350  
and then I never want  
to speak of it again.

432  
00:19:22,350 --> 00:19:27,690  
So my parents weren't  
exactly communicative,

433  
00:19:27,690 --> 00:19:31,620  
but I think I knew the  
story before he actually

434  
00:19:31,620 --> 00:19:36,180  
did start talking about it,  
which was when he was older

435  
00:19:36,180 --> 00:19:39,300  
and my younger son was  
getting bar mitzvahed.

436  
00:19:39,300 --> 00:19:41,070  
So he was starting to talk.

437  
00:19:41,070 --> 00:19:45,330  
And I remember my uncle as  
being a great ping-pong player.

438  
00:19:45,330 --> 00:19:50,010  
And young, and kind of  
dashing, and very funny.

439  
00:19:50,010 --> 00:19:51,390  
He told jokes all the time.

440  
00:19:51,390 --> 00:19:52,740  
His name, again, is--

441  
00:19:52,740 --> 00:19:56,690  
Well, his real name was  
Pavel Briess, B-R-I-E-S-S.

442  
00:19:56,690 --> 00:20:01,200  
And when he came

to this country,

443

00:20:01,200 --> 00:20:04,358  
the customs person said, well,  
you can't go with Pavel Briess,

444

00:20:04,358 --> 00:20:06,150  
no one will know what  
to do with that name.

445

00:20:06,150 --> 00:20:09,630  
So I now call you Paul Brennan,  
the Irishman from Prague.

446

00:20:09,630 --> 00:20:12,510

447

00:20:12,510 --> 00:20:15,240  
And many years later,  
I got contacted

448

00:20:15,240 --> 00:20:20,730  
by someone, who by  
chance had been searching

449

00:20:20,730 --> 00:20:22,350  
for my uncle for many years.

450

00:20:22,350 --> 00:20:25,110  
Unfortunately, he had just died.

451

00:20:25,110 --> 00:20:29,470  
And he was in the bunk bed  
above him at this camp.

452

00:20:29,470 --> 00:20:30,750  
I want to call it Friedenwald.

453

00:20:30,750 --> 00:20:32,957  
I don't know what it would  
be in another language.

454

00:20:32,957 --> 00:20:34,290  
I don't think it was in Germany.

455  
00:20:34,290 --> 00:20:37,750  
But it's where they  
made rocket parts.

456  
00:20:37,750 --> 00:20:39,920  
But he was in Auschwitz  
and the whole--

457  
00:20:39,920 --> 00:20:40,740  
That was his story.

458  
00:20:40,740 --> 00:20:42,490  
I was going to ask you  
what his story was.

459  
00:20:42,490 --> 00:20:45,210  
Well, his story is that  
he was in Theresienstadt.

460  
00:20:45,210 --> 00:20:47,130  
And then when he was  
sent to Auschwitz

461  
00:20:47,130 --> 00:20:49,920  
along with his  
mother-- his father

462  
00:20:49,920 --> 00:20:57,150  
had already died in the boxcar  
from Prague to Theresienstadt.

463  
00:20:57,150 --> 00:21:00,930  
And I think he saw  
his mother die.

464  
00:21:00,930 --> 00:21:06,270  
But long story short, he  
was greeted at the train

465  
00:21:06,270 --> 00:21:11,250

by Mengele in his white  
uniform, just the way they say.

466  
00:21:11,250 --> 00:21:13,590  
This is what he told me.

467  
00:21:13,590 --> 00:21:17,370  
And he was going to the right,  
to the left, to the right,

468  
00:21:17,370 --> 00:21:18,810  
to the left.

469  
00:21:18,810 --> 00:21:22,930  
And the man ahead of him said,  
you know, I'm a good worker,

470  
00:21:22,930 --> 00:21:24,570  
my back hurts me a  
little bit, but I

471  
00:21:24,570 --> 00:21:27,780  
can certainly-- to the left, or  
however it was-- to the left.

472  
00:21:27,780 --> 00:21:31,200  
And my uncle got off, and he  
said, I'm young, I'm strong,

473  
00:21:31,200 --> 00:21:33,350  
and I know how to weld.

474  
00:21:33,350 --> 00:21:34,230  
To the right.

475  
00:21:34,230 --> 00:21:37,170  
How he learned how to  
weld is another story.

476  
00:21:37,170 --> 00:21:42,270  
But another cousin of ours, also  
a survivor who recently died,



477

00:21:42,270 --> 00:21:43,200  
was a violinist.

478

00:21:43,200 --> 00:21:46,980  
And his father, I don't know,  
had taught them both to weld.

479

00:21:46,980 --> 00:21:48,850  
So anyway, he survived.

480

00:21:48,850 --> 00:21:51,840  
And then was sent to--

481

00:21:51,840 --> 00:21:53,940  
I don't know if he was  
sent to another camp,

482

00:21:53,940 --> 00:21:58,200  
like Dachau, before Friedlander.

483

00:21:58,200 --> 00:22:04,260  
My cousin, other one, was in  
every camp you can imagine.

484

00:22:04,260 --> 00:22:07,830  
So then he-- that's the story he  
told your parents when he came.

485

00:22:07,830 --> 00:22:09,810  
Yeah, he told it.

486

00:22:09,810 --> 00:22:13,620  
And then I remember  
after the war,

487

00:22:13,620 --> 00:22:19,980  
he had saved someone's  
life in the camps

488

00:22:19,980 --> 00:22:26,130  
by getting him extra food,  
or doing what I don't know,

489  
00:22:26,130 --> 00:22:28,020  
or by getting him  
a pair of shoes.

490  
00:22:28,020 --> 00:22:32,130  
And then after the war, they  
were marching out, or getting

491  
00:22:32,130 --> 00:22:39,630  
out, and this same man said,  
"Look what these shoes have

492  
00:22:39,630 --> 00:22:40,827  
done to my feet.

493  
00:22:40,827 --> 00:22:42,410  
You like them so  
much, you wear them."

494  
00:22:42,410 --> 00:22:44,580  
And he took them off and  
he threw me at my uncle,

495  
00:22:44,580 --> 00:22:47,580  
because I guess the  
shoes didn't exactly fit.

496  
00:22:47,580 --> 00:22:51,270  
So I remember that story.

497  
00:22:51,270 --> 00:22:55,380  
And it must have  
been horrible for him

498  
00:22:55,380 --> 00:22:58,590  
to know about his mother.

499  
00:22:58,590 --> 00:23:01,230  
So I don't know how  
they actually-- my uncle

500

00:23:01,230 --> 00:23:03,540  
got in touch with, or  
my father, actually,

501  
00:23:03,540 --> 00:23:05,140  
got in touch with him.

502  
00:23:05,140 --> 00:23:07,770  
I remember in my early days,  
there were all these phone

503  
00:23:07,770 --> 00:23:11,520  
calls, all these phone  
calls going on all the time,

504  
00:23:11,520 --> 00:23:14,700  
trying to locate people.

505  
00:23:14,700 --> 00:23:18,810  
And then there was  
always wiedergutmachung.

506  
00:23:18,810 --> 00:23:23,010  
So there was a lawyer,  
accountant, or whatever

507  
00:23:23,010 --> 00:23:26,490  
in Forest Hills,  
[Personal NAME],

508  
00:23:26,490 --> 00:23:28,530  
and I think he dealt  
with all the people

509  
00:23:28,530 --> 00:23:34,770  
who were putting in  
claims, legal claims.

510  
00:23:34,770 --> 00:23:40,260  
And I don't think my parents  
or my grandmother ever

511  
00:23:40,260 --> 00:23:43,058

got any wiedergutmachung.

512  
00:23:43,058 --> 00:23:46,200

513  
00:23:46,200 --> 00:23:50,120  
But from what I understand,  
it's property, not people--

514  
00:23:50,120 --> 00:23:51,475  
if you lost a paint factory.

515  
00:23:51,475 --> 00:23:54,420

516  
00:23:54,420 --> 00:23:55,890  
So you don't think  
they got any--

517  
00:23:55,890 --> 00:23:56,627  
I don't think so.

518  
00:23:56,627 --> 00:23:57,210  
--reparations.

519  
00:23:57,210 --> 00:24:00,920  
I'm not even sure,  
the reparation, yeah.

520  
00:24:00,920 --> 00:24:03,720  
And so then your parents  
stayed in New York.

521  
00:24:03,720 --> 00:24:04,980  
In Forest Hills, yes.

522  
00:24:04,980 --> 00:24:06,430  
The rest of their lives?

523  
00:24:06,430 --> 00:24:07,590  
Yes.

524

00:24:07,590 --> 00:24:08,940

And your father worked?

525

00:24:08,940 --> 00:24:13,840

He became a stockbroker.

526

00:24:13,840 --> 00:24:19,860

And I remember, he was one of  
the first hundred, or whatever,

527

00:24:19,860 --> 00:24:22,480

to be admitted into the  
New York Stock Exchange.

528

00:24:22,480 --> 00:24:25,050

This had to be back in the '50s.

529

00:24:25,050 --> 00:24:26,490

And he did very well.

530

00:24:26,490 --> 00:24:30,630

He researched companies,  
and invested for himself

531

00:24:30,630 --> 00:24:32,580

and for other people.

532

00:24:32,580 --> 00:24:35,790

And he invested in  
this little company

533

00:24:35,790 --> 00:24:39,510

that had something to do with  
technology and computers, which

534

00:24:39,510 --> 00:24:41,550

was IBM.

535

00:24:41,550 --> 00:24:45,210

So IBM, as a matter of fact,  
traveled through my father,

536

00:24:45,210 --> 00:24:46,740

through my mother,  
and came to me.

537

00:24:46,740 --> 00:24:49,410

They weren't worth all that much  
by the time they came to me.

538

00:24:49,410 --> 00:24:51,960

539

00:24:51,960 --> 00:24:53,910

So he did quite well.

540

00:24:53,910 --> 00:24:56,820

And I also remember, we  
had a little candy store

541

00:24:56,820 --> 00:24:59,370

at the corner, walking  
there every night

542

00:24:59,370 --> 00:25:01,980

to get the evening  
paper so he could see.

543

00:25:01,980 --> 00:25:06,540

Eventually, we had a ticker  
tape in our basement.

544

00:25:06,540 --> 00:25:09,090

Yeah.

545

00:25:09,090 --> 00:25:12,210

Any other stories  
about them or your--

546

00:25:12,210 --> 00:25:13,920

I know my mother  
took sleeping pills.

547

00:25:13,920 --> 00:25:17,000

548  
00:25:17,000 --> 00:25:17,962  
She couldn't sleep.

549  
00:25:17,962 --> 00:25:19,295  
She was having trouble sleeping.

550  
00:25:19,295 --> 00:25:22,160

551  
00:25:22,160 --> 00:25:25,190  
Because for many years,  
when I was first born

552  
00:25:25,190 --> 00:25:29,180  
she didn't know whether her  
own parents were alive or dead.

553  
00:25:29,180 --> 00:25:34,420  
And she had her  
own fears, which I

554  
00:25:34,420 --> 00:25:38,560  
think were exaggerated  
because of this situation.

555  
00:25:38,560 --> 00:25:40,900  
And my father's  
paranoia was certainly

556  
00:25:40,900 --> 00:25:42,140  
exaggerated-- maybe not.

557  
00:25:42,140 --> 00:25:45,370  
Maybe he would have  
been like that anyway.

558  
00:25:45,370 --> 00:25:47,260  
So he said--

559  
00:25:47,260 --> 00:25:49,630

I've written a lot about this.

560  
00:25:49,630 --> 00:25:51,490  
I've written a lot  
of this material

561  
00:25:51,490 --> 00:25:57,100  
in two books of poetry,  
that talk about this,

562  
00:25:57,100 --> 00:26:02,270  
exactly how he kept saying,  
never invest in real estate.

563  
00:26:02,270 --> 00:26:03,910  
It's not liquid.

564  
00:26:03,910 --> 00:26:08,230  
And the one illegal thing he  
did was keeping a bar of gold

565  
00:26:08,230 --> 00:26:09,450  
under his pillow.

566  
00:26:09,450 --> 00:26:13,750  
It's not allowed, at least  
at that time, to keep gold.

567  
00:26:13,750 --> 00:26:15,580  
Because you couldn't--  
it wasn't liquid.

568  
00:26:15,580 --> 00:26:19,500  
You couldn't make a getaway.

569  
00:26:19,500 --> 00:26:21,700  
And that mentality  
of making a getaway

570  
00:26:21,700 --> 00:26:23,590  
is something that  
I grew up with.



571

00:26:23,590 --> 00:26:26,440

Also-- these are  
just little things

572

00:26:26,440 --> 00:26:28,240

that are sort of interesting.

573

00:26:28,240 --> 00:26:33,010

He never believed in showing  
exactly what you have.

574

00:26:33,010 --> 00:26:38,483

So our house in Forest Hills, it  
was outside the gardens, which

575

00:26:38,483 --> 00:26:40,150

were the Forest Hills  
Garden, which were

576

00:26:40,150 --> 00:26:44,950

segregated-- no Jews,  
no Blacks, no anything.

577

00:26:44,950 --> 00:26:47,620

It looked like a decent house,  
but you would never know

578

00:26:47,620 --> 00:26:49,930

what it looked like inside.

579

00:26:49,930 --> 00:26:52,120

And there was this snobbery.

580

00:26:52,120 --> 00:26:56,290

But I imagine that  
pre-existed the war,

581

00:26:56,290 --> 00:27:00,940

with the Eastern European Jews.

582

00:27:00,940 --> 00:27:05,350

And the two communities,

Forest Hills and Kew Gardens,

583

00:27:05,350 --> 00:27:09,040  
were in their own  
way segregated.

584

00:27:09,040 --> 00:27:13,510  
With the-- as I said, the  
Hungarians, and the Czechs,

585

00:27:13,510 --> 00:27:19,150  
and the Germans, and the  
Austrians, and all that

586

00:27:19,150 --> 00:27:21,580  
in Forest Hills, and the  
Poles, and the Russians,

587

00:27:21,580 --> 00:27:26,095  
and the rest over  
there in Kew Gardens.

588

00:27:26,095 --> 00:27:28,770

589

00:27:28,770 --> 00:27:31,300  
So there was only German  
spoken in my house.

590

00:27:31,300 --> 00:27:35,850  
I don't think we  
had an American--

591

00:27:35,850 --> 00:27:37,290  
I don't know if  
it was on purpose,

592

00:27:37,290 --> 00:27:40,080  
but they didn't have any--

593

00:27:40,080 --> 00:27:42,450  
they had American  
acquaintances, but they never

594  
00:27:42,450 --> 00:27:43,350  
came to the house.

595  
00:27:43,350 --> 00:27:46,590  
Or I don't know if  
they went there or not.

596  
00:27:46,590 --> 00:27:51,120  
So it was a fairly  
closed society,

597  
00:27:51,120 --> 00:27:55,185  
which they called  
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH] which is

598  
00:27:55,185 --> 00:27:57,750  
the whole circus,  
because it was so--

599  
00:27:57,750 --> 00:28:01,290  
the morality, and the  
ethics, and all that

600  
00:28:01,290 --> 00:28:06,570  
was so different from 1950s  
America and Ozzie and Harriet.

601  
00:28:06,570 --> 00:28:11,940  
There were love affairs,  
and divorces, and parties,

602  
00:28:11,940 --> 00:28:16,980  
and lots of-- a big social  
life, even during the week,

603  
00:28:16,980 --> 00:28:18,360  
as I call it, a school night.

604  
00:28:18,360 --> 00:28:21,330  
But that was the life there.

605

00:28:21,330 --> 00:28:26,490  
I know that my father loaned  
money to a lot of people

606  
00:28:26,490 --> 00:28:34,060  
and helped a lot of people  
out, which you would think

607  
00:28:34,060 --> 00:28:41,260  
would not quite be like  
his character, but he did.

608  
00:28:41,260 --> 00:28:46,030  
And he always said, this  
country's been very good to us.

609  
00:28:46,030 --> 00:28:47,440  
You have to pay all your taxes.

610  
00:28:47,440 --> 00:28:49,010  
And you have to this-- you know.

611  
00:28:49,010 --> 00:28:50,500  
He was very black and white.

612  
00:28:50,500 --> 00:28:53,050

613  
00:28:53,050 --> 00:28:54,610  
How do you think  
their experience

614  
00:28:54,610 --> 00:28:57,550  
affected the way they  
raised you and your sister.

615  
00:28:57,550 --> 00:28:59,830  
Hey, listen, I was raised  
in 19th century Vienna.

616  
00:28:59,830 --> 00:29:02,920

617

00:29:02,920 --> 00:29:07,060

The discipline  
was such, children

618

00:29:07,060 --> 00:29:10,810

are to be seen when  
they're clean, et cetera.

619

00:29:10,810 --> 00:29:14,320

And my father was-- well,  
let's just call him Prussian

620

00:29:14,320 --> 00:29:17,470

military, although he  
never was in the military--

621

00:29:17,470 --> 00:29:20,200

very, very strict, at  
least my father was.

622

00:29:20,200 --> 00:29:23,410

And my mother was less so.

623

00:29:23,410 --> 00:29:26,170

624

00:29:26,170 --> 00:29:27,380

Do you think--

625

00:29:27,380 --> 00:29:31,540

I was asking in the sense that  
they had to escape to leave,

626

00:29:31,540 --> 00:29:33,528

did that affect how  
they raised you.

627

00:29:33,528 --> 00:29:36,630

Do you think that influenced?

628

00:29:36,630 --> 00:29:38,620

You mean were they

overly cautious for us--

629  
00:29:38,620 --> 00:29:39,120  
Protective.

630  
00:29:39,120 --> 00:29:39,828  
--and protective?

631  
00:29:39,828 --> 00:29:41,760  
Yeah.

632  
00:29:41,760 --> 00:29:45,030  
Or did they encourage you to  
be independent and your sister?

633  
00:29:45,030 --> 00:29:48,480  
Well, the assumption at that  
time was you're a Heymann girl,

634  
00:29:48,480 --> 00:29:50,620  
you're supposed to  
behave a certain way.

635  
00:29:50,620 --> 00:29:53,070  
And you have to have  
the best education.

636  
00:29:53,070 --> 00:29:56,970  
And you have to go to the best  
colleges, et cetera, et cetera.

637  
00:29:56,970 --> 00:29:59,010  
And you're going to  
marry someone who's rich,

638  
00:29:59,010 --> 00:30:02,140  
who will take care of you, and  
you'll be the perfect wife.

639  
00:30:02,140 --> 00:30:03,300  
There were two girls.

640

00:30:03,300 --> 00:30:06,420  
So that was how we were raised.

641  
00:30:06,420 --> 00:30:09,460

642  
00:30:09,460 --> 00:30:11,730  
But you don't think  
that was influenced

643  
00:30:11,730 --> 00:30:13,515  
by the fact they had to escape.

644  
00:30:13,515 --> 00:30:14,640  
It's hard to say, isn't it?

645  
00:30:14,640 --> 00:30:19,900

646  
00:30:19,900 --> 00:30:20,670  
I don't know.

647  
00:30:20,670 --> 00:30:23,330

648  
00:30:23,330 --> 00:30:27,230  
There were little things,  
like in terms of movies,

649  
00:30:27,230 --> 00:30:30,110  
my mother didn't want  
to see sad movies.

650  
00:30:30,110 --> 00:30:32,430  
She always said  
life is sad enough.

651  
00:30:32,430 --> 00:30:35,690  
Of course, I love sad movies.

652  
00:30:35,690 --> 00:30:39,200  
I had to grow up opposite.

653  
00:30:39,200 --> 00:30:42,800  
My father died when I was 14.

654  
00:30:42,800 --> 00:30:48,980  
And he left an extremely  
complicated will.

655  
00:30:48,980 --> 00:30:55,130  
You had to admire the way  
he was thinking it through.

656  
00:30:55,130 --> 00:30:57,010  
Like, OK, at 21--

657  
00:30:57,010 --> 00:30:58,490  
and we were 14--

658  
00:30:58,490 --> 00:31:01,700  
up until the age of 21,  
whatever my mother--

659  
00:31:01,700 --> 00:31:02,200  
you know.

660  
00:31:02,200 --> 00:31:05,450  
But when we were 21,  
we came into money.

661  
00:31:05,450 --> 00:31:09,710  
Then when we were 28.

662  
00:31:09,710 --> 00:31:11,450  
So 21, we might be married.

663  
00:31:11,450 --> 00:31:13,160  
28 we might be divorced.

664  
00:31:13,160 --> 00:31:16,040  
And 35 we might be buying a  
house with second husband.



665

00:31:16,040 --> 00:31:19,940

I don't know, but I'm sure this was the way he was thinking.

666

00:31:19,940 --> 00:31:23,960

So very-- that we would be taken care of.

667

00:31:23,960 --> 00:31:28,100

And in terms of being taken care of,

668

00:31:28,100 --> 00:31:30,650

that was how he showed his love.

669

00:31:30,650 --> 00:31:32,180

I don't remember one hug.

670

00:31:32,180 --> 00:31:35,540

671

00:31:35,540 --> 00:31:40,565

And my sister, I think he felt closer to her for many reasons.

672

00:31:40,565 --> 00:31:43,070

673

00:31:43,070 --> 00:31:45,290

I'm not saying--

674

00:31:45,290 --> 00:31:49,730

I don't know if he hugged her either.

675

00:31:49,730 --> 00:31:54,770

But she was more, apparently, or supposedly more mathematically

676

00:31:54,770 --> 00:31:55,970

minded.

677

00:31:55,970 --> 00:31:58,890

And her personality  
was totally different.

678

00:31:58,890 --> 00:31:59,510

I was a live--

679

00:31:59,510 --> 00:32:01,460

I mean, I just was like mercury.

680

00:32:01,460 --> 00:32:03,710

I was all over the place.

681

00:32:03,710 --> 00:32:06,710

And I kind of always  
had the feeling

682

00:32:06,710 --> 00:32:10,340

he could deal with her easier.

683

00:32:10,340 --> 00:32:13,700

I was like my mother,  
more exaggerated.

684

00:32:13,700 --> 00:32:17,570

But he did hit us,  
me in particular.

685

00:32:17,570 --> 00:32:20,180

Because I was fresh.

686

00:32:20,180 --> 00:32:23,450

The reason I was fresh  
is because I was proud.

687

00:32:23,450 --> 00:32:26,435

And I didn't even know I was  
fresh when I was being fresh.

688

00:32:26,435 --> 00:32:29,360

689

00:32:29,360 --> 00:32:33,320

But again, it's hard to  
say whether that would

690

00:32:33,320 --> 00:32:37,880

have been the case anyhow.

691

00:32:37,880 --> 00:32:41,180

Did you did you tell your  
friends about your parents

692

00:32:41,180 --> 00:32:44,280

history when you were young?

693

00:32:44,280 --> 00:32:45,120

I don't think so.

694

00:32:45,120 --> 00:32:49,670

But I know that a lot  
of immigrant families,

695

00:32:49,670 --> 00:32:53,210

the children are kind  
of ashamed of them,

696

00:32:53,210 --> 00:32:55,610

or ashamed of their parents,  
or ashamed of the house.

697

00:32:55,610 --> 00:32:57,290

I never felt that.

698

00:32:57,290 --> 00:33:01,220

I always thought  
it made me exotic.

699

00:33:01,220 --> 00:33:09,690

But no-- no, I don't think  
I talked about it with them.

700

00:33:09,690 --> 00:33:11,640

When did your mother pass away?

701  
00:33:11,640 --> 00:33:15,660  
Quite recently, February 2011.

702  
00:33:15,660 --> 00:33:17,550  
I was just so glad--

703  
00:33:17,550 --> 00:33:20,670  
not 2011-- 2001.

704  
00:33:20,670 --> 00:33:22,840  
So I was glad that she  
didn't live for that.

705  
00:33:22,840 --> 00:33:23,370  
Yeah.

706  
00:33:23,370 --> 00:33:26,400  
That would have-- the  
thing about my mother

707  
00:33:26,400 --> 00:33:30,210  
is that she-- as she  
said, she was a worrier.

708  
00:33:30,210 --> 00:33:34,260  
But she never worried about  
the big, important stuff.

709  
00:33:34,260 --> 00:33:37,650  
She worried about the little  
stuff that didn't really

710  
00:33:37,650 --> 00:33:39,430  
make a difference.

711  
00:33:39,430 --> 00:33:41,880  
And I think that  
was intensified.

712  
00:33:41,880 --> 00:33:45,570  
Like there was

just a reluctance--

713  
00:33:45,570 --> 00:33:48,000  
I can't blame her really--

714  
00:33:48,000 --> 00:33:53,250  
to go in certain directions in  
conversation or even thought.

715  
00:33:53,250 --> 00:33:56,670  
Because I think it was  
just too vivid for her.

716  
00:33:56,670 --> 00:33:59,660  
You're relating this to  
her experiences in Europe--

717  
00:33:59,660 --> 00:34:00,430  
Yeah, I--

718  
00:34:00,430 --> 00:34:01,080  
--and having to escape.

719  
00:34:01,080 --> 00:34:01,590  
Yes.

720  
00:34:01,590 --> 00:34:04,050  
And because of her  
parents, and her family,

721  
00:34:04,050 --> 00:34:10,830  
and the whole thing, that  
it just really intensified

722  
00:34:10,830 --> 00:34:12,929  
what may have been  
a quality anyway,

723  
00:34:12,929 --> 00:34:18,000  
which was a kind of anxiety,  
but it became quite pronounced.

724

00:34:18,000 --> 00:34:19,912  
When the Eichmann  
trial took place,

725  
00:34:19,912 --> 00:34:21,120  
did your mother say anything?

726  
00:34:21,120 --> 00:34:21,620  
No.

727  
00:34:21,620 --> 00:34:23,136  
She didn't talk about that?

728  
00:34:23,136 --> 00:34:25,080  
Uh-uh.

729  
00:34:25,080 --> 00:34:27,600  
Did you feel any connection  
when the Eichmann trial?

730  
00:34:27,600 --> 00:34:29,984  
What year was that?

731  
00:34:29,984 --> 00:34:30,567  
When was that?

732  
00:34:30,567 --> 00:34:35,300  
In the '60s-'70s.

733  
00:34:35,300 --> 00:34:36,500  
No.

734  
00:34:36,500 --> 00:34:39,830  
But I tell you what I did--  
because I think I was older.

735  
00:34:39,830 --> 00:34:41,630  
Who's that guy who  
came to the States.

736  
00:34:41,630 --> 00:34:43,300  
His name was Dem

something or other--

737  
00:34:43,300 --> 00:34:44,060  
Demjanjuk.

738  
00:34:44,060 --> 00:34:44,989  
Yes.

739  
00:34:44,989 --> 00:34:47,719  
And how he had kind of passed.

740  
00:34:47,719 --> 00:34:49,550  
I did kind of follow that.

741  
00:34:49,550 --> 00:34:52,489  
Also, my stepfather,  
who was also a member

742  
00:34:52,489 --> 00:34:58,230  
of [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH],, his  
brother went to South America

743  
00:34:58,230 --> 00:35:00,350  
and Argentina.

744  
00:35:00,350 --> 00:35:03,500  
And I know there was a big  
community of Jews there.

745  
00:35:03,500 --> 00:35:08,760  
And I had a cousin, who they  
made their lives in Mexico.

746  
00:35:08,760 --> 00:35:10,730  
So we met them  
maybe once or twice.

747  
00:35:10,730 --> 00:35:16,340  
I just remember I was the one  
person who I knew growing up

748  
00:35:16,340 --> 00:35:17,840

who had hardly any family.

749

00:35:17,840 --> 00:35:21,170

I had a grandmother  
and I had an uncle.

750

00:35:21,170 --> 00:35:25,070

And somehow distant  
were Ilse and Hans Boss.

751

00:35:25,070 --> 00:35:27,830

She had been experimented on.

752

00:35:27,830 --> 00:35:28,830

They never had children.

753

00:35:28,830 --> 00:35:30,350

They met in the camps.

754

00:35:30,350 --> 00:35:32,450

Really, very nice people.

755

00:35:32,450 --> 00:35:35,930

And they-- I think my father  
helped them out a lot.

756

00:35:35,930 --> 00:35:39,410

And he helped my uncle out  
when he came to this country.

757

00:35:39,410 --> 00:35:42,350

But Ilse and Hans were about--

758

00:35:42,350 --> 00:35:47,930

that was about it, and my  
uncle, and my grandmother.

759

00:35:47,930 --> 00:35:51,500

And she lived with us  
till I was about 11.

760

00:35:51,500 --> 00:35:54,350



And then at that  
time, what they had

761  
00:35:54,350 --> 00:35:57,470  
were people who took  
in older boarders.

762  
00:35:57,470 --> 00:36:02,360  
So she lived a bus  
ride away with this--

763  
00:36:02,360 --> 00:36:08,470  
these people who took  
in other older people.

764  
00:36:08,470 --> 00:36:10,990  
You mentioned stepfather,  
so your mother remarried.

765  
00:36:10,990 --> 00:36:12,100  
My mother remarried.

766  
00:36:12,100 --> 00:36:13,169  
When was that?

767  
00:36:13,169 --> 00:36:18,800

768  
00:36:18,800 --> 00:36:21,200  
Let's see, '59, I graduated.

769  
00:36:21,200 --> 00:36:23,550  
Like '58, '57.

770  
00:36:23,550 --> 00:36:24,950  
No that's, not right.

771  
00:36:24,950 --> 00:36:27,920  
I remember, she married  
before the year was out.

772  
00:36:27,920 --> 00:36:29,660

Big scandal.

773

00:36:29,660 --> 00:36:35,120

So my father, I think,  
died in '53, yes.

774

00:36:35,120 --> 00:36:40,100

And in August-- and they  
wanted to make a trip

775

00:36:40,100 --> 00:36:43,700

back to Czechoslovakia,  
as a matter of fact.

776

00:36:43,700 --> 00:36:47,840

And she said she wasn't going  
to travel with him unless they

777

00:36:47,840 --> 00:36:48,410

were married.

778

00:36:48,410 --> 00:36:53,060

And so they got married in  
May or June to make the trip.

779

00:36:53,060 --> 00:36:55,195

I went with them to--

780

00:36:55,195 --> 00:36:56,220

This is your--

781

00:36:56,220 --> 00:36:57,220

I went to Europe.

782

00:36:57,220 --> 00:36:59,300

So you're 10 years old?

783

00:36:59,300 --> 00:37:00,680

That sounds-- or 11.

784

00:37:00,680 --> 00:37:03,980

No, I had to be older.

785  
00:37:03,980 --> 00:37:06,140  
Maybe my father died in '53--

786  
00:37:06,140 --> 00:37:11,660  
at age 53 in 1957, sounds more  
like it, because I was 14 Yeah,

787  
00:37:11,660 --> 00:37:12,710  
sorry.

788  
00:37:12,710 --> 00:37:15,200  
So in 1957.

789  
00:37:15,200 --> 00:37:21,030  
And in 1958, they got married.

790  
00:37:21,030 --> 00:37:25,250  
And in terms of their lives,  
they went to Europe every year,

791  
00:37:25,250 --> 00:37:28,520  
Switzerland, et cetera,  
and stayed about six weeks,

792  
00:37:28,520 --> 00:37:30,780  
a month, six weeks.

793  
00:37:30,780 --> 00:37:34,120  
And then at 11 was my sister--

794  
00:37:34,120 --> 00:37:37,110  
well, I was 11, our  
first trip to Europe.

795  
00:37:37,110 --> 00:37:40,760  
They put us in a Swiss  
boarding school for a month.

796  
00:37:40,760 --> 00:37:44,960  
And then-- to learn  
French, supposedly.

797  
00:37:44,960 --> 00:37:46,310  
And then we met up with them.

798  
00:37:46,310 --> 00:37:49,430  
I can't believe they sent us  
alone by train from Switzerland

799  
00:37:49,430 --> 00:37:53,610  
to Austria, but we did.

800  
00:37:53,610 --> 00:37:58,250  
And I think they always--

801  
00:37:58,250 --> 00:38:01,910  
no matter, they always  
felt Europe was their home.

802  
00:38:01,910 --> 00:38:06,970  
Even though he was  
extremely patriotic.

803  
00:38:06,970 --> 00:38:08,560  
Your stepfather's name?

804  
00:38:08,560 --> 00:38:09,920  
No, this was my father.

805  
00:38:09,920 --> 00:38:10,910  
Oh, your Father, sorry.

806  
00:38:10,910 --> 00:38:11,670  
Yeah.

807  
00:38:11,670 --> 00:38:15,610  
My stepfather's name  
was Richard Glauber.

808  
00:38:15,610 --> 00:38:17,760  
And he had two daughters  
with his first wife.

809

00:38:17,760 --> 00:38:20,620

810

00:38:20,620 --> 00:38:22,720

And he had tried to--

811

00:38:22,720 --> 00:38:25,240

he had made an  
expedition to Palestine--

812

00:38:25,240 --> 00:38:27,970

he was a pediatrician-- to  
see if he could live there.

813

00:38:27,970 --> 00:38:31,370

And he just found the  
language so impossibly hard

814

00:38:31,370 --> 00:38:34,015

that when he came back,  
he came to the States.

815

00:38:34,015 --> 00:38:37,550

816

00:38:37,550 --> 00:38:40,942

I remember him saying that  
he was in a rented apartment

817

00:38:40,942 --> 00:38:41,900

with I don't know what.

818

00:38:41,900 --> 00:38:43,490

It was a sweltering hot summer.

819

00:38:43,490 --> 00:38:46,190

He was in his undershirt,  
his underwear,

820

00:38:46,190 --> 00:38:48,395

listening to TV all day,  
trying to learn English.

821  
00:38:48,395 --> 00:38:51,590

822  
00:38:51,590 --> 00:38:56,975  
So how do you think your  
parents' experience affected

823  
00:38:56,975 --> 00:38:58,727  
you?

824  
00:38:58,727 --> 00:39:00,310  
Would you be a  
different person today?

825  
00:39:00,310 --> 00:39:02,350  
Absolutely, there's  
no question about it.

826  
00:39:02,350 --> 00:39:03,460  
If they--

827  
00:39:03,460 --> 00:39:05,410  
No, no, no, no, there's  
no question about it.

828  
00:39:05,410 --> 00:39:12,450  
Because there were a  
couple of little things,

829  
00:39:12,450 --> 00:39:16,570  
like I couldn't stand Hansel  
and Gretel, because of the oven.

830  
00:39:16,570 --> 00:39:22,080  
And because I was  
so curious, I was

831  
00:39:22,080 --> 00:39:25,940  
really curious to know  
all the unspoken stuff.

832

00:39:25,940 --> 00:39:29,400  
And I say there's always  
one in one family,

833  
00:39:29,400 --> 00:39:34,110  
I really felt like, in a way,  
I was holding the history

834  
00:39:34,110 --> 00:39:35,925  
because no one else was.

835  
00:39:35,925 --> 00:39:38,160  
It certainly had to  
do with the subject

836  
00:39:38,160 --> 00:39:44,130  
matter of my poetry, which is  
very much affected by that.

837  
00:39:44,130 --> 00:39:47,850  
And also, because it's  
astonishing to me--

838  
00:39:47,850 --> 00:39:49,830  
I think I can be funny too--

839  
00:39:49,830 --> 00:39:54,240  
but how, in a way, obsessed  
I am with apocalypse--

840  
00:39:54,240 --> 00:39:56,970  
I mean, with terrible  
things happening.

841  
00:39:56,970 --> 00:39:58,590  
Like, I never imagine  
things are going

842  
00:39:58,590 --> 00:40:00,400  
to turn out for the better.

843  
00:40:00,400 --> 00:40:02,280  
Of course, my father

said, always imagine

844

00:40:02,280 --> 00:40:05,280

the worst, that way you  
won't be disappointed.

845

00:40:05,280 --> 00:40:07,770

I think that was a huge mistake.

846

00:40:07,770 --> 00:40:10,810

Because it made me  
always imagine the worst.

847

00:40:10,810 --> 00:40:16,950

And like right now, OK,  
so I worked my whole life.

848

00:40:16,950 --> 00:40:19,950

And for the last 10  
years, before I retired,

849

00:40:19,950 --> 00:40:24,400

I was a speech writer  
at AARP, many issues.

850

00:40:24,400 --> 00:40:27,480

So after I retired, I thought,  
OK, I don't want to teach.

851

00:40:27,480 --> 00:40:28,800

I've taught enough.

852

00:40:28,800 --> 00:40:32,280

I've taught all the way through,  
even when I was working.

853

00:40:32,280 --> 00:40:34,500

And I've written,  
and this and that.

854

00:40:34,500 --> 00:40:39,180

So I became, and am to  
this day, which has only



855  
00:40:39,180 --> 00:40:41,520  
been two years, like  
obsessed with Iraq,

856  
00:40:41,520 --> 00:40:43,440  
and Pakistan, and  
the terrorists.

857  
00:40:43,440 --> 00:40:46,980  
And I go to everything having  
to do with that subject.

858  
00:40:46,980 --> 00:40:49,320  
There are many stuff  
downtown, think

859  
00:40:49,320 --> 00:40:50,700  
tanks, that are  
talking about it.

860  
00:40:50,700 --> 00:40:52,140  
I'm there.

861  
00:40:52,140 --> 00:40:53,460  
So, I mean, it's--

862  
00:40:53,460 --> 00:40:56,310  
I don't know if  
it's linked or not.

863  
00:40:56,310 --> 00:40:59,580  
But for some reason, going  
there and finding out

864  
00:40:59,580 --> 00:41:02,865  
these horrible things makes me--

865  
00:41:02,865 --> 00:41:07,290  
it objectifies it in such  
a way that I can kind of

866

00:41:07,290 --> 00:41:10,800  
live with it, sort of.

867  
00:41:10,800 --> 00:41:14,160  
And you think this is a  
result of your family history?

868  
00:41:14,160 --> 00:41:16,080  
I do.

869  
00:41:16,080 --> 00:41:22,290  
I think I may also have  
been anxious or whatever,

870  
00:41:22,290 --> 00:41:25,950  
but I don't think I'd be  
thinking about those things.

871  
00:41:25,950 --> 00:41:26,790  
I do.

872  
00:41:26,790 --> 00:41:30,270  
Do you discuss that  
with your sister?

873  
00:41:30,270 --> 00:41:34,870  
My sister has a kind of  
amnesia about our childhood.

874  
00:41:34,870 --> 00:41:36,690  
So I say, do you remember when--

875  
00:41:36,690 --> 00:41:38,130  
I don't remember that.

876  
00:41:38,130 --> 00:41:42,120  
I said, you know, I used  
to think such and such

877  
00:41:42,120 --> 00:41:43,140  
about Uncle Paul.

878

00:41:43,140 --> 00:41:45,390  
She says, what are  
you talking about?

879  
00:41:45,390 --> 00:41:49,230  
So it's like-- but she became  
interested for five minutes

880  
00:41:49,230 --> 00:41:55,170  
when the foundation people  
were contacting her.

881  
00:41:55,170 --> 00:41:57,840  
But it doesn't--  
she doesn't live it.

882  
00:41:57,840 --> 00:42:01,300  
I think it's always there  
for me at some level.

883  
00:42:01,300 --> 00:42:06,660

884  
00:42:06,660 --> 00:42:09,360  
So she doesn't talk about  
the fact that she was--

885  
00:42:09,360 --> 00:42:12,690  
No, and she knows so little.

886  
00:42:12,690 --> 00:42:16,680  
Although, I might be surprised--

887  
00:42:16,680 --> 00:42:20,350  
we're going to spend a  
week together shortly,

888  
00:42:20,350 --> 00:42:23,040  
and I might be surprised by  
the things she does remember,

889  
00:42:23,040 --> 00:42:25,620  
which have nothing to

do with what I remember.

890  
00:42:25,620 --> 00:42:26,580  
So we'll see.

891  
00:42:26,580 --> 00:42:27,630  
Because she was older.

892  
00:42:27,630 --> 00:42:28,425  
She was older.

893  
00:42:28,425 --> 00:42:30,990  
And she was closer to  
the European experience

894  
00:42:30,990 --> 00:42:31,825  
than you were.

895  
00:42:31,825 --> 00:42:33,660  
Obviously, she was born there.

896  
00:42:33,660 --> 00:42:35,100  
Yeah, but she was like a year--

897  
00:42:35,100 --> 00:42:35,850  
She was an infant.

898  
00:42:35,850 --> 00:42:36,930  
An infant.

899  
00:42:36,930 --> 00:42:38,880  
Yeah.

900  
00:42:38,880 --> 00:42:42,120  
And the other thing  
is, through my life

901  
00:42:42,120 --> 00:42:44,490  
I've always lived in two worlds.

902  
00:42:44,490 --> 00:42:47,325

It's like never putting all  
your eggs in one basket.

903  
00:42:47,325 --> 00:42:50,430

904  
00:42:50,430 --> 00:42:55,710  
Like, I had-- and it was really  
like a kind of split life.

905  
00:42:55,710 --> 00:42:58,630  
Even when I was working, I  
had my poetry life, my poetry

906  
00:42:58,630 --> 00:42:59,130  
career.

907  
00:42:59,130 --> 00:43:02,050  
When I was having my poetry  
career, I was teaching.

908  
00:43:02,050 --> 00:43:06,270  
And so it was always  
like I wanted always

909  
00:43:06,270 --> 00:43:08,670  
to have an escape hatch.

910  
00:43:08,670 --> 00:43:12,700  
So that if something went  
wrong here, I could move there.

911  
00:43:12,700 --> 00:43:17,100  
And the other thing is  
that whatever sustenance,

912  
00:43:17,100 --> 00:43:18,810  
or support, or--

913  
00:43:18,810 --> 00:43:22,050

914

00:43:22,050 --> 00:43:24,630  
I didn't get it at home.

915  
00:43:24,630 --> 00:43:26,640  
I just-- I got it from school.

916  
00:43:26,640 --> 00:43:27,840  
I got it from--

917  
00:43:27,840 --> 00:43:30,460  
through education or whatever.

918  
00:43:30,460 --> 00:43:31,635  
And so it made me very--

919  
00:43:31,635 --> 00:43:34,290

920  
00:43:34,290 --> 00:43:37,710  
also, you can't tell  
here, but I think

921  
00:43:37,710 --> 00:43:40,750  
I survived my family  
because I was very funny.

922  
00:43:40,750 --> 00:43:43,200  
And whenever I felt fires  
starting, as it were,

923  
00:43:43,200 --> 00:43:45,100  
I would just start  
being very funny.

924  
00:43:45,100 --> 00:43:47,430  
Yeah, to protect  
yourself, you mean.

925  
00:43:47,430 --> 00:43:48,570  
To protect them too.

926  
00:43:48,570 --> 00:43:49,350

Oh, protect them.

927  
00:43:49,350 --> 00:43:50,370  
Yeah.

928  
00:43:50,370 --> 00:43:52,780  
Tell me about your education.

929  
00:43:52,780 --> 00:43:55,650  
Well, I went to PS 101.

930  
00:43:55,650 --> 00:43:58,280  
And after high--

931  
00:43:58,280 --> 00:44:03,060  
I went to Forest Hills High,  
home of Simon and Garfunkel.

932  
00:44:03,060 --> 00:44:06,180  
They graduated a couple  
of years ahead of me,

933  
00:44:06,180 --> 00:44:08,580  
and some other famous people.

934  
00:44:08,580 --> 00:44:11,880  
And from there I went  
to Mount Holyoke.

935  
00:44:11,880 --> 00:44:16,560  
It was a given that I would go  
to a girls school, because--

936  
00:44:16,560 --> 00:44:19,350  
and my father was dead  
then, but it was the Ivy--

937  
00:44:19,350 --> 00:44:21,240  
it was the Ivy League.

938  
00:44:21,240 --> 00:44:23,610  
Majored in philosophy,

minored in art history,

939

00:44:23,610 --> 00:44:27,000

and was writing all along,  
but didn't claim it.

940

00:44:27,000 --> 00:44:29,250

I knew I wanted to be  
a writer, but I never--

941

00:44:29,250 --> 00:44:32,120

it sounded too kind of arrogant.

942

00:44:32,120 --> 00:44:33,630

So even in my college--

943

00:44:33,630 --> 00:44:35,700

my high school yearbook,  
I said journalist.

944

00:44:35,700 --> 00:44:37,920

I didn't want to  
be a journalist.

945

00:44:37,920 --> 00:44:41,550

So after Mount Holyoke--

946

00:44:41,550 --> 00:44:43,380

let's see, where do I start?

947

00:44:43,380 --> 00:44:46,090

I went to my first  
graduate school,

948

00:44:46,090 --> 00:44:51,000

which was Yeshiva  
University in New York.

949

00:44:51,000 --> 00:44:53,250

Because I wanted-- they  
had a special program

950



00:44:53,250 --> 00:44:55,950  
for teaching people  
who wanted to teach

951  
00:44:55,950 --> 00:44:59,700  
in disadvantaged  
schools, education

952  
00:44:59,700 --> 00:45:00,880  
for the disadvantaged.

953  
00:45:00,880 --> 00:45:03,300  
So I taught in Spanish Harlem.

954  
00:45:03,300 --> 00:45:08,340  
And then after that I got  
another degree to become--

955  
00:45:08,340 --> 00:45:10,260  
in psychology of  
school learning.

956  
00:45:10,260 --> 00:45:13,200  
That was to be a reading  
specialist because people were

957  
00:45:13,200 --> 00:45:15,240  
tracked-- kids were tracked  
according to reading

958  
00:45:15,240 --> 00:45:17,073  
and there were smart  
kids who couldn't read.

959  
00:45:17,073 --> 00:45:18,870  
So I did that.

960  
00:45:18,870 --> 00:45:23,520  
And then I got my MFA here.

961  
00:45:23,520 --> 00:45:26,760  
And I say I have recidivism.

962  
00:45:26,760 --> 00:45:29,380  
I always keep going back there.

963  
00:45:29,380 --> 00:45:30,500  
But I wrote a--

964  
00:45:30,500 --> 00:45:32,130  
Here, being where?

965  
00:45:32,130 --> 00:45:33,030  
School.

966  
00:45:33,030 --> 00:45:35,580  
No, no-- where'd  
you get your MFA?

967  
00:45:35,580 --> 00:45:37,995  
My MFA was Myra,  
American University.

968  
00:45:37,995 --> 00:45:38,910  
American University.

969  
00:45:38,910 --> 00:45:40,680  
Right.

970  
00:45:40,680 --> 00:45:47,160  
And so currently, I'm visiting  
writer at American University.

971  
00:45:47,160 --> 00:45:52,170  
And I taught there for a  
while, just as an adjunct.

972  
00:45:52,170 --> 00:45:56,310  
But at the DC JCC and the  
Rockville JCC I taught.

973  
00:45:56,310 --> 00:46:00,870  
And also, I did  
some private work

974

00:46:00,870 --> 00:46:03,300

when my kids were young  
as a reading specialist.

975

00:46:03,300 --> 00:46:06,120

976

00:46:06,120 --> 00:46:08,332

Do you tell people about your--

977

00:46:08,332 --> 00:46:10,550

when you're teaching in  
a professional situation,

978

00:46:10,550 --> 00:46:12,508

do you ever talk about  
your parents' background

979

00:46:12,508 --> 00:46:13,010

or anything?

980

00:46:13,010 --> 00:46:14,340

Do you bring it in?

981

00:46:14,340 --> 00:46:17,670

Sometimes I do, depending on  
the books we were reading.

982

00:46:17,670 --> 00:46:20,490

Do you know Tova Penny?

983

00:46:20,490 --> 00:46:22,938

Well, she's fascinated--  
that's all she reads.

984

00:46:22,938 --> 00:46:25,230

I mean, she reads everything  
there is to read about it.

985

00:46:25,230 --> 00:46:28,120

And I'm not like that.

986

00:46:28,120 --> 00:46:31,110

I'm sort of like that, but  
in that sense, I'm my mother.

987

00:46:31,110 --> 00:46:33,960

I haven't read all  
the literature.

988

00:46:33,960 --> 00:46:37,350

And it's like, I'm there.

989

00:46:37,350 --> 00:46:39,450

I remember when I  
wanted to change jobs

990

00:46:39,450 --> 00:46:42,510

and I interviewed at  
the Holocaust Museum.

991

00:46:42,510 --> 00:46:44,670

And I thought, I  
just don't think

992

00:46:44,670 --> 00:46:45,970

I could come here every day.

993

00:46:45,970 --> 00:46:47,660

I couldn't.

994

00:46:47,660 --> 00:46:50,280

And so, it's like  
I'm very aware of it.

995

00:46:50,280 --> 00:46:55,060

Like, I'm very aware  
that I'm Jewish,

996

00:46:55,060 --> 00:46:56,940

but I've never been observant.

997

00:46:56,940 --> 00:47:00,290

998  
00:47:00,290 --> 00:47:02,380  
And I'm very--

999  
00:47:02,380 --> 00:47:06,460  
I'm trying to think of  
the books I've chosen.

1000  
00:47:06,460 --> 00:47:08,970  
Well, when I was in  
the Rockville JCC,

1001  
00:47:08,970 --> 00:47:11,460  
I may have chosen some books.

1002  
00:47:11,460 --> 00:47:14,370  
It was supposed to  
be by women authors,

1003  
00:47:14,370 --> 00:47:18,240  
where this was the subject.

1004  
00:47:18,240 --> 00:47:19,680  
And, of course, I see the films.

1005  
00:47:19,680 --> 00:47:27,080

1006  
00:47:27,080 --> 00:47:30,000  
When your parents were still  
alive and came to this country,

1007  
00:47:30,000 --> 00:47:32,170  
did they have any kind  
of religious observance?

1008  
00:47:32,170 --> 00:47:33,212  
Or they were still very--

1009  
00:47:33,212 --> 00:47:34,870  
No, my father only  
said if you want

1010  
00:47:34,870 --> 00:47:37,310  
to not go to school  
for Yom Kippur,

1011  
00:47:37,310 --> 00:47:40,370  
you kippur, Yom Kippur,  
you better go to temple.

1012  
00:47:40,370 --> 00:47:42,283  
You can't stay home  
just to stay home.

1013  
00:47:42,283 --> 00:47:44,700  
But there were no holidays  
observed in the home, Passover?

1014  
00:47:44,700 --> 00:47:46,160  
Well, oh, yeah, we did Passover.

1015  
00:47:46,160 --> 00:47:48,860  
Oh, you did.

1016  
00:47:48,860 --> 00:47:52,850  
My grandmother, as I  
say, she was kosher,

1017  
00:47:52,850 --> 00:47:55,670  
although we didn't keep  
kosher, except for bacon.

1018  
00:47:55,670 --> 00:47:58,400  
She loved bacon.

1019  
00:47:58,400 --> 00:48:02,090  
But no.

1020  
00:48:02,090 --> 00:48:04,310  
What are your  
feelings about Israel?

1021  
00:48:04,310 --> 00:48:07,670

Well, I very powerful feelings  
about Israel, very complicated

1022  
00:48:07,670 --> 00:48:08,720  
feelings about Israel.

1023  
00:48:08,720 --> 00:48:13,070  
But I'm not sure I would have  
those feelings were I not--

1024  
00:48:13,070 --> 00:48:17,630  
did I not get involved  
with an Israeli poet.

1025  
00:48:17,630 --> 00:48:19,970  
And get involved  
in the translation.

1026  
00:48:19,970 --> 00:48:25,510  
And I go there, at this  
point I go there a lot.

1027  
00:48:25,510 --> 00:48:28,190  
I'm trying desperately  
to learn Hebrew.

1028  
00:48:28,190 --> 00:48:33,830  
I have very complicated  
feelings about Israel,

1029  
00:48:33,830 --> 00:48:36,530  
like I think the  
basic question is,

1030  
00:48:36,530 --> 00:48:40,310  
does it have a right to exist?

1031  
00:48:40,310 --> 00:48:43,880  
And once you say yes,  
then that comes along

1032  
00:48:43,880 --> 00:48:45,035  
with so many other issues.

1033  
00:48:45,035 --> 00:48:47,990

1034  
00:48:47,990 --> 00:48:50,510  
I'm very bothered  
by people who have

1035  
00:48:50,510 --> 00:48:53,750  
very strong opinions about it  
without having seen it, or been

1036  
00:48:53,750 --> 00:48:56,900  
there, or seen how small it is,  
and how close everything is,

1037  
00:48:56,900 --> 00:48:58,880  
and to know what they  
live with every day.

1038  
00:48:58,880 --> 00:49:01,690

1039  
00:49:01,690 --> 00:49:05,390  
And I'm very sorry for  
the generation that's

1040  
00:49:05,390 --> 00:49:14,240  
aging that knew about the ideals  
that Israel had, and are now

1041  
00:49:14,240 --> 00:49:18,800  
very materialistic, and  
Americanized, and the hatred.

1042  
00:49:18,800 --> 00:49:21,380  
Because like, when the--

1043  
00:49:21,380 --> 00:49:22,648  
Moshe Dor, who I--

1044  
00:49:22,648 --> 00:49:24,440



He's the poet that  
you've been translating.

1045  
00:49:24,440 --> 00:49:25,310  
Yes.

1046  
00:49:25,310 --> 00:49:27,710  
I mean, he learned  
Arabic in high school,

1047  
00:49:27,710 --> 00:49:29,870  
or to a certain extent.

1048  
00:49:29,870 --> 00:49:31,800  
So it was a whole  
different world.

1049  
00:49:31,800 --> 00:49:33,330  
And it's sad to see it go.

1050  
00:49:33,330 --> 00:49:37,040  
And it's sad to see it--

1051  
00:49:37,040 --> 00:49:39,890  
the people of his  
generation are very--

1052  
00:49:39,890 --> 00:49:42,710  
Again, do you feel that  
your connection to Israel--

1053  
00:49:42,710 --> 00:49:43,760  
Is stronger?

1054  
00:49:43,760 --> 00:49:46,055  
No, is influenced by  
your parents' history?

1055  
00:49:46,055 --> 00:49:51,640

1056  
00:49:51,640 --> 00:49:54,760

I know my father bought  
bonds and all that stuff

1057  
00:49:54,760 --> 00:49:55,735  
and supported Israel.

1058  
00:49:55,735 --> 00:49:58,690

1059  
00:49:58,690 --> 00:50:01,920  
But I don't know.

1060  
00:50:01,920 --> 00:50:02,880  
I never went with them.

1061  
00:50:02,880 --> 00:50:03,922  
We always went to Europe.

1062  
00:50:03,922 --> 00:50:06,510

1063  
00:50:06,510 --> 00:50:10,240  
But I think-- what's the word--  
philosophically speaking,

1064  
00:50:10,240 --> 00:50:13,310  
he was certainly in favor.

1065  
00:50:13,310 --> 00:50:15,650  
But both my sister  
and I married--

1066  
00:50:15,650 --> 00:50:17,480  
our first marriage  
was to non-Jews.

1067  
00:50:17,480 --> 00:50:20,440

1068  
00:50:20,440 --> 00:50:24,870  
And the rabbi-- we did  
belong to a reform--

1069  
00:50:24,870 --> 00:50:26,540  
well, I went to Sunday school.

1070  
00:50:26,540 --> 00:50:28,300  
So I know my Bible  
stories, which

1071  
00:50:28,300 --> 00:50:32,110  
is more than I can say for  
most of the people today.

1072  
00:50:32,110 --> 00:50:33,880  
And I knew that--  
he said he wouldn't

1073  
00:50:33,880 --> 00:50:37,990  
marry my sister because her  
husband to be was not Jewish.

1074  
00:50:37,990 --> 00:50:40,960

1075  
00:50:40,960 --> 00:50:42,600  
And for me, the  
more important thing

1076  
00:50:42,600 --> 00:50:44,740  
was that he not be American.

1077  
00:50:44,740 --> 00:50:48,090  
So my first marriage  
was to someone Dutch,

1078  
00:50:48,090 --> 00:50:50,220  
who came to this  
country when he was 11.

1079  
00:50:50,220 --> 00:50:52,980  
And he had blond hair, and blue  
eyes, and my mother thought--

1080

00:50:52,980 --> 00:50:56,630  
first thought was, he's a Nazi.

1081  
00:50:56,630 --> 00:51:01,270  
Why was it important to you  
that he not be an American?

1082  
00:51:01,270 --> 00:51:10,290  
I didn't think anyone American  
could understand my terrain.

1083  
00:51:10,290 --> 00:51:14,250  
I often said that--

1084  
00:51:14,250 --> 00:51:18,060  
an American poet asked me,  
well, is your poetry American?

1085  
00:51:18,060 --> 00:51:19,540  
Is it Jewish?

1086  
00:51:19,540 --> 00:51:22,270  
And I said, no, I don't  
think I hide that I'm Jewish.

1087  
00:51:22,270 --> 00:51:23,250  
You'll be able to know.

1088  
00:51:23,250 --> 00:51:24,385  
But it's not American.

1089  
00:51:24,385 --> 00:51:26,010  
He says, what, you  
don't feel connected

1090  
00:51:26,010 --> 00:51:27,240  
to Walt Whitman and Emily--

1091  
00:51:27,240 --> 00:51:28,740  
I said not at all.

1092  
00:51:28,740 --> 00:51:31,830

My landscape is the  
Brothers Grimm, those woods.

1093  
00:51:31,830 --> 00:51:34,590  
That's my inner landscape.

1094  
00:51:34,590 --> 00:51:36,930  
And I don't think that--

1095  
00:51:36,930 --> 00:51:40,290

1096  
00:51:40,290 --> 00:51:42,200  
or under certain  
circles, I mean,

1097  
00:51:42,200 --> 00:51:44,400  
Moshe has a foreign accent.

1098  
00:51:44,400 --> 00:51:48,990  
So like, it just feels  
like it's a bigger world.

1099  
00:51:48,990 --> 00:51:50,770  
I feel I need to live  
in a bigger world.

1100  
00:51:50,770 --> 00:51:52,830  
Not that people  
who aren't American

1101  
00:51:52,830 --> 00:51:55,880  
live in a bigger world,  
but just something that's

1102  
00:51:55,880 --> 00:52:01,320  
broader, more international.

1103  
00:52:01,320 --> 00:52:03,810  
How did you raise your  
children, as Jews?

1104

00:52:03,810 --> 00:52:05,820

Well, now, my older  
son is observant.

1105

00:52:05,820 --> 00:52:07,560

And he married someone Jewish.

1106

00:52:07,560 --> 00:52:10,380

And she was bar mitzvahed  
when she was in her 20s.

1107

00:52:10,380 --> 00:52:11,880

So you get that story.

1108

00:52:11,880 --> 00:52:16,493

And the husband  
who's the father of--

1109

00:52:16,493 --> 00:52:17,910

was the father of  
my kids-- that's

1110

00:52:17,910 --> 00:52:21,870

number two, a psychiatrist,  
but we're divorced.

1111

00:52:21,870 --> 00:52:23,220

And he--

1112

00:52:23,220 --> 00:52:24,090

Was he Jewish?

1113

00:52:24,090 --> 00:52:24,665

Yes.

1114

00:52:24,665 --> 00:52:26,920

I thought, well, OK, now  
I'll do the right thing.

1115

00:52:26,920 --> 00:52:28,870

But that didn't work out  
either, for 18 years.

1116  
00:52:28,870 --> 00:52:33,930  
But anyway-- Jewish doctor.

1117  
00:52:33,930 --> 00:52:37,890  
But he was observant.

1118  
00:52:37,890 --> 00:52:39,600  
And he would go to  
Kol Nidrei, et cetera.

1119  
00:52:39,600 --> 00:52:42,080  
And I guess I'd  
have to come along.

1120  
00:52:42,080 --> 00:52:44,940  
And I just did it.

1121  
00:52:44,940 --> 00:52:47,650  
But it didn't really  
mean anything to me.

1122  
00:52:47,650 --> 00:52:53,550  
But it did seem to mean  
something to my older son.

1123  
00:52:53,550 --> 00:52:58,020  
My younger son married  
someone non-Jewish.

1124  
00:52:58,020 --> 00:52:59,910  
But they're everything.

1125  
00:52:59,910 --> 00:53:02,850  
If you ask him, do  
you believe in God?

1126  
00:53:02,850 --> 00:53:05,460  
He'll say-- and now I'm  
going to start saying this

1127  
00:53:05,460 --> 00:53:08,490  
because I like it so

much-- yes, but my God

1128  
00:53:08,490 --> 00:53:11,040  
is the God of  
infinite complexity.

1129  
00:53:11,040 --> 00:53:12,290  
I said, boy, that sounds good.

1130  
00:53:12,290 --> 00:53:15,360  
I like that a lot.

1131  
00:53:15,360 --> 00:53:17,820  
So I can acknowledge that God.

1132  
00:53:17,820 --> 00:53:20,480

1133  
00:53:20,480 --> 00:53:22,400  
How do you feel about  
the Holocaust Museum

1134  
00:53:22,400 --> 00:53:24,440  
being in Washington, DC?

1135  
00:53:24,440 --> 00:53:25,220  
I like it.

1136  
00:53:25,220 --> 00:53:29,377  
We knew-- God,  
what was his name?

1137  
00:53:29,377 --> 00:53:29,960  
His last name?

1138  
00:53:29,960 --> 00:53:30,460  
Weinberg.

1139  
00:53:30,460 --> 00:53:32,150  
Weinberg, yeah we  
used to go out to--



1140

00:53:32,150 --> 00:53:36,770

Moshe knew him from Israel.

1141

00:53:36,770 --> 00:53:39,380

I think it's fantastic.

1142

00:53:39,380 --> 00:53:42,420

Even though the war  
took place in Europe?

1143

00:53:42,420 --> 00:53:43,160

Well, you know--

1144

00:53:43,160 --> 00:53:45,950

You feel it's appropriate  
that it be here in Washington,

1145

00:53:45,950 --> 00:53:46,980

a museum be here?

1146

00:53:46,980 --> 00:53:47,690

Was it the first?

1147

00:53:47,690 --> 00:53:50,030

Because I know they have  
one-- all over the world--

1148

00:53:50,030 --> 00:53:50,180

Right.

1149

00:53:50,180 --> 00:53:51,430

--they have Holocaust museums.

1150

00:53:51,430 --> 00:53:52,790

Right, they do.

1151

00:53:52,790 --> 00:53:53,320

Yeah.

1152

00:53:53,320 --> 00:53:54,950

No, I have no--

1153  
00:53:54,950 --> 00:54:00,320  
the more, the better, especially  
now, with the people dying off.

1154  
00:54:00,320 --> 00:54:05,060  
The one thing that made  
me feel uncomfortable is--

1155  
00:54:05,060 --> 00:54:07,130  
and that's only as  
I've gotten older--

1156  
00:54:07,130 --> 00:54:15,503  
is there's so many Holocausts,  
so many other slaughters.

1157  
00:54:15,503 --> 00:54:17,420  
I don't know if they've  
ever been six million.

1158  
00:54:17,420 --> 00:54:19,880  
I don't know how many  
Armenians died, or Rwandans,

1159  
00:54:19,880 --> 00:54:20,870  
or any of the others.

1160  
00:54:20,870 --> 00:54:23,600  
So the word  
Holocaust, to have it,

1161  
00:54:23,600 --> 00:54:28,130  
it's like appropriated  
for the genocide.

1162  
00:54:28,130 --> 00:54:30,650

1163  
00:54:30,650 --> 00:54:34,470  
But as I recall, there are  
parts of the museum which--

1164

00:54:34,470 --> 00:54:36,950

Yes, they have a Committee  
on Conscience that deals--

1165

00:54:36,950 --> 00:54:37,460

Yes.

1166

00:54:37,460 --> 00:54:38,060

--with the--

1167

00:54:38,060 --> 00:54:38,560

Right.

1168

00:54:38,560 --> 00:54:39,860

Yeah.

1169

00:54:39,860 --> 00:54:41,630

I was in Paris not so long ago.

1170

00:54:41,630 --> 00:54:44,060

And I was wandering around.

1171

00:54:44,060 --> 00:54:45,290

And before I knew it, I was--

1172

00:54:45,290 --> 00:54:48,080

I didn't plan on it, I was in  
front of the Holocaust Museum

1173

00:54:48,080 --> 00:54:49,040

that's in Paris.

1174

00:54:49,040 --> 00:54:51,097

Never knew there was one.

1175

00:54:51,097 --> 00:54:53,180

And I thought, look, I  
have a day or two in Paris,

1176

00:54:53,180 --> 00:54:55,350

do I want to do this?

1177  
00:54:55,350 --> 00:54:59,090  
And then I say, God put me  
here, the God of infinite--

1178  
00:54:59,090 --> 00:55:00,890  
he had me standing here.

1179  
00:55:00,890 --> 00:55:02,780  
I think I have to go.

1180  
00:55:02,780 --> 00:55:04,810  
So I spent the day.

1181  
00:55:04,810 --> 00:55:07,700  
What was your reaction?

1182  
00:55:07,700 --> 00:55:09,230  
Very interesting.

1183  
00:55:09,230 --> 00:55:12,920  
You know, the French,  
they were not so great.

1184  
00:55:12,920 --> 00:55:21,770  
They had concentration camps of  
their own and very antisemitic

1185  
00:55:21,770 --> 00:55:23,770  
and all of that.

1186  
00:55:23,770 --> 00:55:28,670  
It seems to me that the  
Holocaust Museum there

1187  
00:55:28,670 --> 00:55:31,250  
concentrated on the  
French people who

1188  
00:55:31,250 --> 00:55:33,710  
saved people's lives.

1189

00:55:33,710 --> 00:55:38,750

There was a map, but the general  
impression, the most space

1190

00:55:38,750 --> 00:55:41,047

were these very moving videos.

1191

00:55:41,047 --> 00:55:43,130

And by the way, that to  
me is the most moving part

1192

00:55:43,130 --> 00:55:45,100

of the Holocaust Museum.

1193

00:55:45,100 --> 00:55:48,290

Like, I went through that  
museum and didn't cry.

1194

00:55:48,290 --> 00:55:51,200

But when I came to those--

1195

00:55:51,200 --> 00:55:51,800

Testimonies.

1196

00:55:51,800 --> 00:55:58,055

--testimonies, I found them  
so unbelievably moving.

1197

00:55:58,055 --> 00:56:00,650

1198

00:56:00,650 --> 00:56:04,370

So they had some people who  
went back to the French farmers

1199

00:56:04,370 --> 00:56:07,340

or whoever who saved them.

1200

00:56:07,340 --> 00:56:10,710

And the building itself  
was very impressive.

1201

00:56:10,710 --> 00:56:12,185

They were taking  
schoolkids around.

1202

00:56:12,185 --> 00:56:17,420

1203

00:56:17,420 --> 00:56:20,540

Do your grandchildren--  
well, how old are they?

1204

00:56:20,540 --> 00:56:21,610

They're still too young.

1205

00:56:21,610 --> 00:56:22,690

Five and two and a half.

1206

00:56:22,690 --> 00:56:23,190

Yeah.

1207

00:56:23,190 --> 00:56:24,050

Yeah.

1208

00:56:24,050 --> 00:56:30,470

So no, but they go  
to synagogue already.

1209

00:56:30,470 --> 00:56:36,740

They belong to a congregation,  
my older, the first born.

1210

00:56:36,740 --> 00:56:39,890

And to me, the most important  
holiday is Passover.

1211

00:56:39,890 --> 00:56:43,130

I really-- I don't  
go to services,

1212

00:56:43,130 --> 00:56:45,125

although I used to like  
to hear the shofar.

1213  
00:56:45,125 --> 00:56:52,210

1214  
00:56:52,210 --> 00:56:54,970  
I'm trying to think  
of the principle--

1215  
00:56:54,970 --> 00:56:55,990  
the principle.

1216  
00:56:55,990 --> 00:56:59,440  
I remember when I was going to--

1217  
00:56:59,440 --> 00:57:00,910  
when I was younger, I did go--

1218  
00:57:00,910 --> 00:57:03,243  
I did go to services, because  
I stayed home from school.

1219  
00:57:03,243 --> 00:57:05,690  
I was Jewish.

1220  
00:57:05,690 --> 00:57:10,180  
I think it was the Abraham-Isaac  
story that turned me off.

1221  
00:57:10,180 --> 00:57:14,090  
I still don't know  
how to cope with that.

1222  
00:57:14,090 --> 00:57:15,800  
And I was about--

1223  
00:57:15,800 --> 00:57:21,130  
I'd say I was about 11  
or 12 when I thought, no.

1224  
00:57:21,130 --> 00:57:24,410  
I mean, and even n metaphor  
I don't quite understand,

1225  
00:57:24,410 --> 00:57:27,510  
obviously.

1226  
00:57:27,510 --> 00:57:31,020  
But the principle  
behind atonement

1227  
00:57:31,020 --> 00:57:33,330  
for sins, I remember thinking,  
well, I haven't sinned,

1228  
00:57:33,330 --> 00:57:35,550  
I haven't sinned,  
what have I done?

1229  
00:57:35,550 --> 00:57:39,880  
But then that one line,  
for being stiff necked,

1230  
00:57:39,880 --> 00:57:45,600  
I thought, OK, maybe  
I've been stiff necked.

1231  
00:57:45,600 --> 00:57:50,220  
But I think the principle of  
it is it's very important.

1232  
00:57:50,220 --> 00:57:54,030  
I think you've answered the  
question I was going to ask,

1233  
00:57:54,030 --> 00:57:57,510  
which is has the world learned  
any lessons from the Holocaust,

1234  
00:57:57,510 --> 00:58:01,080  
but you obviously answered in  
the negative to that, there

1235  
00:58:01,080 --> 00:58:03,270  
still is so much genocide.



1236

00:58:03,270 --> 00:58:05,220

Still.

1237

00:58:05,220 --> 00:58:09,090

It's just-- it's, I

think as you get older,

1238

00:58:09,090 --> 00:58:15,540

and you see right, wrong,

gray, white, black, white,

1239

00:58:15,540 --> 00:58:18,300

everything is so complicated,

becomes so complicated,

1240

00:58:18,300 --> 00:58:20,310

that it almost becomes

impossible to make

1241

00:58:20,310 --> 00:58:21,930

a moral judgment.

1242

00:58:21,930 --> 00:58:24,030

Because everyone has something.

1243

00:58:24,030 --> 00:58:25,740

I do think--

1244

00:58:25,740 --> 00:58:33,900

I do think that Israel still,

despite everything, stands

1245

00:58:33,900 --> 00:58:40,350

on more of a morally high

ground than the Palestinians.

1246

00:58:40,350 --> 00:58:42,870

I do.

1247

00:58:42,870 --> 00:58:47,010

Even though, by no

means, are they perfect.

1248  
00:58:47,010 --> 00:58:50,430  
They have terrible PR.

1249  
00:58:50,430 --> 00:58:53,930  
And people are so uninformed.

1250  
00:58:53,930 --> 00:59:01,520  
But the recent incident  
of beating up Arab youth,

1251  
00:59:01,520 --> 00:59:03,020  
it's hard to--

1252  
00:59:03,020 --> 00:59:05,067  
it's hard to say.

1253  
00:59:05,067 --> 00:59:11,250  
Are you-- if you meet someone  
who is a child of a refugee,

1254  
00:59:11,250 --> 00:59:13,550  
do you feel a connection  
to that person?

1255  
00:59:13,550 --> 00:59:14,660  
Absolutely.

1256  
00:59:14,660 --> 00:59:16,700  
As a matter of fact,  
one of the causes

1257  
00:59:16,700 --> 00:59:20,870  
that I used to give  
to, not just Jewish, it

1258  
00:59:20,870 --> 00:59:23,210  
was Refugees International.

1259  
00:59:23,210 --> 00:59:26,540  
Because I see those people  
leaving their countries

1260  
00:59:26,540 --> 00:59:28,190  
with what?

1261  
00:59:28,190 --> 00:59:32,120  
So I do feel that  
they have experiences

1262  
00:59:32,120 --> 00:59:35,590  
that are quite unique.

1263  
00:59:35,590 --> 00:59:37,590  
And you, yourself,  
personally feel a connection?

1264  
00:59:37,590 --> 00:59:41,160  
I feel like, as I said, I  
have one foot in this country

1265  
00:59:41,160 --> 00:59:42,290  
and one foot over there.

1266  
00:59:42,290 --> 00:59:44,820

1267  
00:59:44,820 --> 00:59:47,100  
I really would doubt that  
my sister feels that way.

1268  
00:59:47,100 --> 00:59:48,230  
She's in California.

1269  
00:59:48,230 --> 00:59:50,580  
They have no history.

1270  
00:59:50,580 --> 00:59:52,640  
I'm exaggerating.

1271  
00:59:52,640 --> 00:59:54,680  
But yeah.

1272

00:59:54,680 --> 00:59:57,320

1273

00:59:57,320 --> 01:00:00,290

Now, I think that  
my parents adjusted

1274

01:00:00,290 --> 01:00:05,900

with minimum discomfort  
compared to many other stories.

1275

01:00:05,900 --> 01:00:07,520

But my mother  
always said anytime

1276

01:00:07,520 --> 01:00:11,330

she did see someone selling  
sausages in New York City,

1277

01:00:11,330 --> 01:00:14,580

she would think of her father.

1278

01:00:14,580 --> 01:00:21,540

So-- you know, they say,  
remember, remember, remember.

1279

01:00:21,540 --> 01:00:31,654

I mean, even that doesn't  
prevent, sad to say.

1280

01:00:31,654 --> 01:00:32,154

Yeah.

1281

01:00:32,154 --> 01:00:36,550

1282

01:00:36,550 --> 01:00:41,730

Do you have any future messages  
for your grandchildren?

1283

01:00:41,730 --> 01:00:43,770

They are young  
now, but when they

1284  
01:00:43,770 --> 01:00:46,710  
listen to this in the years  
ahead, is there any message

1285  
01:00:46,710 --> 01:00:48,480  
you'd like to leave them?

1286  
01:00:48,480 --> 01:00:49,620  
Well, I will say one thing.

1287  
01:00:49,620 --> 01:00:52,155  
When I was growing up  
and I felt this burden--

1288  
01:00:52,155 --> 01:00:57,810  
I felt a terrific burden,  
even though I always

1289  
01:00:57,810 --> 01:00:59,370  
felt really strongly  
that I didn't

1290  
01:00:59,370 --> 01:01:00,890  
want to burden my children.

1291  
01:01:00,890 --> 01:01:02,850  
And so I talked  
very little about it

1292  
01:01:02,850 --> 01:01:06,960  
myself, about the Holocaust  
and all the experiences.

1293  
01:01:06,960 --> 01:01:11,190  
I think when they got older,  
I started to a little more.

1294  
01:01:11,190 --> 01:01:15,870  
Because I feel probably how my  
parents felt, very protective.

1295

01:01:15,870 --> 01:01:18,930

I mean, how do you  
grow up with this?

1296

01:01:18,930 --> 01:01:21,270

I don't know what  
young children do

1297

01:01:21,270 --> 01:01:23,760

with this kind of information.

1298

01:01:23,760 --> 01:01:28,290

I mean, they should  
know about it, but when?

1299

01:01:28,290 --> 01:01:31,600

That's one of my main concerns.

1300

01:01:31,600 --> 01:01:35,214

So in terms of my  
grandchildren--

1301

01:01:35,214 --> 01:01:40,530

in terms of my  
grandchildren, I want

1302

01:01:40,530 --> 01:01:43,950

them to know that it happened  
and there's a written record

1303

01:01:43,950 --> 01:01:46,020

of it happening.

1304

01:01:46,020 --> 01:01:52,530

And I just can't expect  
them to feel as connected

1305

01:01:52,530 --> 01:01:54,070

to it as I do.

1306

01:01:54,070 --> 01:01:56,190

But on the other hand, if  
they're connected to me,

1307  
01:01:56,190 --> 01:01:57,610  
they will be connected to it.

1308  
01:01:57,610 --> 01:02:03,360

1309  
01:02:03,360 --> 01:02:04,500  
It's a big world out there.

1310  
01:02:04,500 --> 01:02:09,300  
I think that they  
should know what

1311  
01:02:09,300 --> 01:02:13,200  
they want to know about it  
and kind of stretch a little.

1312  
01:02:13,200 --> 01:02:21,780

1313  
01:02:21,780 --> 01:02:24,630  
My oldest granddaughter  
is starting

1314  
01:02:24,630 --> 01:02:27,235  
kindergarten in a few days.

1315  
01:02:27,235 --> 01:02:29,610  
Do I want her to know that  
there are people out there who

1316  
01:02:29,610 --> 01:02:32,310  
do these kinds of things?

1317  
01:02:32,310 --> 01:02:34,230  
I remember, in terms  
of when I found out

1318  
01:02:34,230 --> 01:02:40,550  
about my cousin who had  
these medical experiments,

1319  
01:02:40,550 --> 01:02:43,100  
I didn't want--

1320  
01:02:43,100 --> 01:02:47,540  
I mean, I guess, I didn't want  
a picture it all, but somehow--

1321  
01:02:47,540 --> 01:02:49,430  
so that a lot of my--

1322  
01:02:49,430 --> 01:02:53,630  
like, my mother, maybe it's just  
been pushing the imagery away.

1323  
01:02:53,630 --> 01:02:55,580  
Because the imagery  
is so disturbing.

1324  
01:02:55,580 --> 01:03:05,493

1325  
01:03:05,493 --> 01:03:06,910  
Well, is there  
anything you'd like

1326  
01:03:06,910 --> 01:03:08,770  
to add that we haven't covered?

1327  
01:03:08,770 --> 01:03:12,950  
Anything else you  
wanted to talk about?

1328  
01:03:12,950 --> 01:03:14,860  
Well, interestingly  
enough, I'm not--

1329  
01:03:14,860 --> 01:03:19,240  
I haven't gone back and traced  
my roots or done genealogies.

1330  
01:03:19,240 --> 01:03:21,010



I know that when I  
was in Israel I was

1331  
01:03:21,010 --> 01:03:23,380  
very upset there was no trace.

1332  
01:03:23,380 --> 01:03:26,080  
But of course, you have  
to fill out all the papers

1333  
01:03:26,080 --> 01:03:27,950  
and do all that.

1334  
01:03:27,950 --> 01:03:34,300  
And same here, same in  
the Holocaust Museum here.

1335  
01:03:34,300 --> 01:03:37,240  
And so while I do  
want it, I somehow

1336  
01:03:37,240 --> 01:03:38,740  
am not doing the work for it.

1337  
01:03:38,740 --> 01:03:41,850

1338  
01:03:41,850 --> 01:03:43,421  
I was going to say something.

1339  
01:03:43,421 --> 01:03:46,130

1340  
01:03:46,130 --> 01:03:50,120  
Now, there was a relative in my  
family who did do all of that.

1341  
01:03:50,120 --> 01:03:53,510  
And that was the husband of  
this [?Gertie?] Fleischman,

1342  
01:03:53,510 --> 01:03:54,470

who was a survivor.

1343

01:03:54,470 --> 01:03:56,660

She survived with my uncle.

1344

01:03:56,660 --> 01:03:59,980

And her brother became  
one of the Czech pilots.

1345

01:03:59,980 --> 01:04:02,210

Remember, at the  
beginning of the war,

1346

01:04:02,210 --> 01:04:04,070

there was a Czech Air Force?

1347

01:04:04,070 --> 01:04:04,970

They were very good.

1348

01:04:04,970 --> 01:04:05,510

Yes.

1349

01:04:05,510 --> 01:04:08,810

Anyway, they somehow  
made it out to England

1350

01:04:08,810 --> 01:04:13,490

and became part of the London,  
but they didn't let them fly.

1351

01:04:13,490 --> 01:04:18,780

So then he went to Israel  
and started up the Maccabiah,

1352

01:04:18,780 --> 01:04:21,600

the athletic games.

1353

01:04:21,600 --> 01:04:22,270

Maccabiah games.

1354

01:04:22,270 --> 01:04:23,410

Yeah, Maccabiah games.

1355  
01:04:23,410 --> 01:04:29,390  
And he did do some  
kind of family tree

1356  
01:04:29,390 --> 01:04:31,280  
on my mother's side.

1357  
01:04:31,280 --> 01:04:34,100  
So I have that somewhere.

1358  
01:04:34,100 --> 01:04:35,810  
And then, as I  
said, this man who

1359  
01:04:35,810 --> 01:04:39,575  
contacted me some years ago, who  
was the bunk mate of my uncle--

1360  
01:04:39,575 --> 01:04:43,250

1361  
01:04:43,250 --> 01:04:45,050  
he must be dead by now--

1362  
01:04:45,050 --> 01:04:49,880  
I sent all the stuff to my  
uncle's kids, to my sister,

1363  
01:04:49,880 --> 01:04:52,130  
because this had to  
do with my uncle.

1364  
01:04:52,130 --> 01:04:54,470  
And no one followed up on it.

1365  
01:04:54,470 --> 01:04:56,330  
So we were in  
correspondence a while.

1366  
01:04:56,330 --> 01:05:02,390  
And he sent me tons of papers

on the laws in Germany.

1367

01:05:02,390 --> 01:05:04,970

And how they-- like,  
when they first began,

1368

01:05:04,970 --> 01:05:09,020

like a veterinarian  
couldn't treat a Jewish dog.

1369

01:05:09,020 --> 01:05:12,470

What they saved,  
it's all with that--

1370

01:05:12,470 --> 01:05:15,590

the record keeping stuff.

1371

01:05:15,590 --> 01:05:19,400

So there's some people  
who make it their lives.

1372

01:05:19,400 --> 01:05:24,200

And I guess I haven't,  
but it's definitely there.

1373

01:05:24,200 --> 01:05:28,080

Do you have any desire to find  
out any more about Aristides de

1374

01:05:28,080 --> 01:05:30,000

Sousa Mendes or not?

1375

01:05:30,000 --> 01:05:32,240

Yes, I'm curious about him.

1376

01:05:32,240 --> 01:05:34,650

Because he really-- he got  
punished after the war.

1377

01:05:34,650 --> 01:05:35,150

Yes, he did.

1378

01:05:35,150 --> 01:05:35,650  
He did.

1379  
01:05:35,650 --> 01:05:37,670  
I don't remember in what way.

1380  
01:05:37,670 --> 01:05:39,800  
Well, his government, yeah--

1381  
01:05:39,800 --> 01:05:42,600  
he was in poverty when he died.

1382  
01:05:42,600 --> 01:05:43,190  
Yeah.

1383  
01:05:43,190 --> 01:05:44,023  
I think I remember--

1384  
01:05:44,023 --> 01:05:46,012  
He lost his job for doing that.

1385  
01:05:46,012 --> 01:05:48,867  
Because he issued  
all these visas.

1386  
01:05:48,867 --> 01:05:49,700  
Quite extraordinary.

1387  
01:05:49,700 --> 01:05:50,595  
Against the orders.

1388  
01:05:50,595 --> 01:05:51,430  
Against the orders.

1389  
01:05:51,430 --> 01:05:53,140  
OK, so this was Portugal.

1390  
01:05:53,140 --> 01:05:57,770  
But there was someone else from  
Portugal, in another part of--

1391

01:05:57,770 --> 01:06:00,130  
in another country  
who did the same--

1392  
01:06:00,130 --> 01:06:03,670  
who did the same thing.

1393  
01:06:03,670 --> 01:06:05,510  
Have you been to Portugal?

1394  
01:06:05,510 --> 01:06:07,330  
Just once.

1395  
01:06:07,330 --> 01:06:09,260  
But at that time,  
you didn't know.

1396  
01:06:09,260 --> 01:06:12,271  
No, I didn't know this.

1397  
01:06:12,271 --> 01:06:14,870  
Do you have any desire  
to go to Portugal--

1398  
01:06:14,870 --> 01:06:16,100  
And to find all this?

1399  
01:06:16,100 --> 01:06:17,315  
--and find out?

1400  
01:06:17,315 --> 01:06:19,250  
Not really.

1401  
01:06:19,250 --> 01:06:22,640  
Listen, it was hard enough  
to get me to Theresienstadt.

1402  
01:06:22,640 --> 01:06:26,790  
I was in Prague,  
limited period of time.

1403  
01:06:26,790 --> 01:06:28,310

And I kept saying, should I go?

1404

01:06:28,310 --> 01:06:29,170

Should I not go?

1405

01:06:29,170 --> 01:06:29,810

Should I go?

1406

01:06:29,810 --> 01:06:30,860

Should I not go?

1407

01:06:30,860 --> 01:06:33,770

And I mean, really, it was  
fighting an enormous thing

1408

01:06:33,770 --> 01:06:35,730

to go.

1409

01:06:35,730 --> 01:06:37,730

I felt I should  
have gone to Teplice

1410

01:06:37,730 --> 01:06:41,450

and seen the streets where my  
mother grew up and all of that,

1411

01:06:41,450 --> 01:06:43,160

although I'm sure it's changed.

1412

01:06:43,160 --> 01:06:45,680

But still, I didn't  
go to Teplice.

1413

01:06:45,680 --> 01:06:47,990

It's 10 minutes from Prague.

1414

01:06:47,990 --> 01:06:48,760

So I did go there.

1415

01:06:48,760 --> 01:06:54,170

I had no desire to see  
Auschwitz or any of the sites

1416  
01:06:54,170 --> 01:06:56,430  
and make the pilgrimage.

1417  
01:06:56,430 --> 01:06:56,930  
Why?

1418  
01:06:56,930 --> 01:06:59,410

1419  
01:06:59,410 --> 01:06:59,910  
Why?

1420  
01:06:59,910 --> 01:07:06,790

1421  
01:07:06,790 --> 01:07:08,690  
Is this something you  
live with every day?

1422  
01:07:08,690 --> 01:07:09,190  
Yes.

1423  
01:07:09,190 --> 01:07:20,540

1424  
01:07:20,540 --> 01:07:26,150  
I mean, it's hard for me to  
live in the moment, which

1425  
01:07:26,150 --> 01:07:30,510  
is I know the best way to live.

1426  
01:07:30,510 --> 01:07:38,960  
And the feeling of menace,  
even when there isn't any.

1427  
01:07:38,960 --> 01:07:43,100  
In my general  
surroundings, I feel safe.

1428



01:07:43,100 --> 01:07:49,580  
But I-- and just I don't know  
if this is the Holocaust,

1429  
01:07:49,580 --> 01:07:53,330  
maybe I'd be there anyway, but  
I really feel this Earth has

1430  
01:07:53,330 --> 01:07:54,155  
come--

1431  
01:07:54,155 --> 01:07:57,590  
is very close to the  
end of its life span.

1432  
01:07:57,590 --> 01:07:59,150  
It's not funny.

1433  
01:07:59,150 --> 01:08:01,790  
And I worry for my  
grandkids in that way.

1434  
01:08:01,790 --> 01:08:03,710  
Because human nature  
is human nature.

1435  
01:08:03,710 --> 01:08:06,380  
I remember once I was  
being interviewed.

1436  
01:08:06,380 --> 01:08:10,820  
And my interviewer,  
who was Black, said

1437  
01:08:10,820 --> 01:08:16,381  
do you feel like the  
Jews were especially--

1438  
01:08:16,381 --> 01:08:18,109  
Singled out.

1439  
01:08:18,109 --> 01:08:19,560  
--singled out or whatever.

1440  
01:08:19,560 --> 01:08:22,010  
And I said look, it's  
an accident of fate.

1441  
01:08:22,010 --> 01:08:23,779  
It could have been anything.

1442  
01:08:23,779 --> 01:08:25,740  
It's an action of faith  
that I'm born Jewish.

1443  
01:08:25,740 --> 01:08:31,420  
It's an accident of fate that  
Hitler went after the Jews.

1444  
01:08:31,420 --> 01:08:32,420  
It could have been this.

1445  
01:08:32,420 --> 01:08:33,420  
It could have been that.

1446  
01:08:33,420 --> 01:08:40,460  
There's no limit in terms  
of what could have happened,

1447  
01:08:40,460 --> 01:08:43,042  
what did or didn't happen.

1448  
01:08:43,042 --> 01:08:44,750  
I don't know if I put  
it quite like that.

1449  
01:08:44,750 --> 01:08:48,740

1450  
01:08:48,740 --> 01:08:53,149  
I don't feel especially--

1451  
01:08:53,149 --> 01:08:57,680  
what's the word-- righteous For.

1452

01:08:57,680 --> 01:09:00,870

My people having gone  
through this and survived.

1453

01:09:00,870 --> 01:09:03,689

I mean, look, I  
don't feel that way.

1454

01:09:03,689 --> 01:09:06,850

But I just feel that life is--

1455

01:09:06,850 --> 01:09:09,890

life is-- you're vulnerable.

1456

01:09:09,890 --> 01:09:13,130

And the best thing to  
do sometimes is to deny,

1457

01:09:13,130 --> 01:09:15,979

although I would have been  
scandalized by my saying

1458

01:09:15,979 --> 01:09:17,244

that in my flagrant youth.

1459

01:09:17,244 --> 01:09:22,106

1460

01:09:22,106 --> 01:09:23,939

Yeah, because otherwise,  
how could you live?

1461

01:09:23,939 --> 01:09:28,380

1462

01:09:28,380 --> 01:09:29,100

But I try.

1463

01:09:29,100 --> 01:09:33,450

1464

01:09:33,450 --> 01:09:37,939  
And to be remotely  
cheerful and good natured,

1465  
01:09:37,939 --> 01:09:41,600  
which was my livelihood  
when I was younger.

1466  
01:09:41,600 --> 01:09:44,340  
I mean, that's how I  
made it through all this.

1467  
01:09:44,340 --> 01:09:47,660

1468  
01:09:47,660 --> 01:09:51,170  
I do remember when I went to my  
stepfather, who was a doctor.

1469  
01:09:51,170 --> 01:09:52,760  
I was around 18 or 19.

1470  
01:09:52,760 --> 01:09:55,271  
I said, I'm very depressed.

1471  
01:09:55,271 --> 01:09:57,550  
And he went, you, depressed?

1472  
01:09:57,550 --> 01:09:59,320  
And he laughed.

1473  
01:09:59,320 --> 01:10:01,240  
And I mean, I think  
a lot of people

1474  
01:10:01,240 --> 01:10:02,980  
would say that-- you, depressed?

1475  
01:10:02,980 --> 01:10:08,070

1476  
01:10:08,070 --> 01:10:12,030

So your poetry is your  
way of expressing--

1477  
01:10:12,030 --> 01:10:13,170  
The depression.

1478  
01:10:13,170 --> 01:10:14,380  
No, no, no.

1479  
01:10:14,380 --> 01:10:16,770  
There's so much work about it.

1480  
01:10:16,770 --> 01:10:18,600  
Even in disguise  
there's a lot of work.

1481  
01:10:18,600 --> 01:10:22,440  
But I write about  
it in terms of my--

1482  
01:10:22,440 --> 01:10:26,010  
it's always in terms of  
my mother's experience.

1483  
01:10:26,010 --> 01:10:29,460  
I have a lot in there--

1484  
01:10:29,460 --> 01:10:31,420  
now that I think  
of it, you'd know

1485  
01:10:31,420 --> 01:10:35,860  
more if you read just five  
poems about how the war affected

1486  
01:10:35,860 --> 01:10:40,250  
my father and how he--

1487  
01:10:40,250 --> 01:10:42,190  
well, I don't want to  
paraphrase the poem,

1488

01:10:42,190 --> 01:10:46,150  
but how we always  
heard boots coming.

1489  
01:10:46,150 --> 01:10:52,060  
And my mother, and how that  
affected how they parented me.

1490  
01:10:52,060 --> 01:10:53,590  
It's in the poetry.

1491  
01:10:53,590 --> 01:10:54,760  
And how I understood it.

1492  
01:10:54,760 --> 01:10:57,160  
And how I've had to  
come to terms with it.

1493  
01:10:57,160 --> 01:10:58,500  
Mm-hmm.

1494  
01:10:58,500 --> 01:10:59,000