

RG-50.120*0293

Roth, Ze'hava – 2 Tapes

Tape I

- 1:00:20 Ze'hava (née Brotman) Roth, her father was Moshe and mother was Hana. Ze'hava's name was Stella at birth. She was born in Poland, on March 28, 1935. Ze'hava was not sure of the day she which upset her because she was not sure. Identity and belongings were always issues in her life. She had an older brother, named Ben Zion. Ben Zion was one year older than Ze'hava. Her parents hailed from Cieszyn, a village near the River Olza that was cut in two by the river. One part belonged to Poland, the other belonged to Czechoslovakia. Her maternal grandfather, a chasid from Zanz, opposed the marriage of his daughter to a religious Zionist. Ze'hava's parents were active in the Hanoar Hatzioni Youth Movement. Ze'hava's father was a tailor. Ben Zion was born in Zilina where the Bata shoe factory was located, and Ze'hava was born in Zivietz (?), Upper Silesia. During the war, the family lived in Bochnia near Krakow, where there were plants to mine salt.
- 1:07:47 The day war began. Father had family in Vizhnitsa. No one survived.
- 1:13:50 Her grandfather was a baker. Talks about her relationship with her grandmother.
- 1:16:00 Talks about her relationship with her brother.
- 1:23:00 Talks about her relationship with her in-laws.
- 1:24:47 Talks about moving to the Bochnia ghetto.
- 1:28:28 Ze'hava talks about her doll.
- 1:29:28 Talks about the house in the ghetto.
- 2:00:00 Talks about sharing in the ghetto. Her relationships with others and her life there.
- 2:04:16 Beginnings of the ghetto, when it was still open.
- 2:06:13 Talks about going to school.
- 2:08:00 Food and customs at home and housework.
- 2:16:00 Talks about smuggling food into the ghetto.

- 2:19:57 Talks about her memories of her grandparents.
- 2:21:00 The ghetto is closed with barbed wire, partially electrified.
- 2:22:57 Talks about the relationship between her parents, and their children.
- 2:23:56 The school in the ghetto.
- 2:27:54 Talks about Lager Furer Miller. Ze'hava's Aunt Renia was his secretary, the correspondence secretary, under the authority of the Judenrat.
- 3:00:26 Talks about Passover eve and wanting to bake matzah for the holiday.
- 3:04:39 Father prepares bunker in case of "actions."
- 3:16:59 Describes the first "action" during Passover.
- 3:18:03 Talks about the three sections of the ghetto.
- 3:18:52 Talks about Aunt Renia, and her help.
- 3:23:22 Aunt Renia's story and her wedding.
- 3:24:16 Another "action." Ze'hava is in charge of her brother, but in the chaos, he gets lost. She never saw him again. Aunt Renia's husband saves Ze'hava from this round-up.
- 4:00:45 Losing her brother affected Ze'hava forever.
- 4:01:38 Another bunker, another "action" in the summer.
- 4:10:00 Ze'hava's first look at a shooting victim. Her opinion of the Judenrat and the Jewish police.
- 4:13:59 Talks about her grandparents.
- 4:19:50 Someone offers to take Ze'hava out of the ghetto, in exchange for money.
- 4:23:57 Her mother's last words to her before she leaves the ghetto in 1942 were "The Guardian of Israel never sleeps."
- 4:28:12 The encounter with the woman who took her out. Arrival, by train, to Prokocim.

- 5:01:42 The group of Jews who, reluctantly, received her were supposed to move to Svätý Mikulós, in Slovakia, through the Tatra Mountains. Ze'hava was seven years old.
- 5:04:52 After the group arrived at its destination, they continued to Budapest. Ze'hava refused to go onto Budapest because she was waiting for her parents. They had promised to "join" her later.
- 5:05:26 Among the refugees from the ghetto at Bochnia there was a woman who knew Ze'hava's parents and knew that they had already been sent to their deaths. She convinced Ze'hava to continue to Budapest because her mother would surely join her there.
- 5:06:30 The Joint set up and maintained a kind of "transit camp" in Svätý Mikulós, for those refugees fleeing from Poland to Hungary.
- 5:07:35 Ze'hava stayed there for five to six weeks. Describes the conditions at that camp.
- 5:10:00 Experiences of the camp still haunt Ze'hava to this day.
- 5:19:00 Describes the crossing to Budapest with border smugglers. Instead of taking the group to the stopover in Košice, they turned the group over to the Hungarian border patrol. The border smugglers forced each one in the group to state, in writing, that they had arrived to the "desired destination" which wasn't true, but they wanted to be paid. Being in prison there. Ze'hava was transported to another prison in Budapest.
- 5:22:53 Ze'hava's life in prison. On visiting days her Aunt Renia and her husband came to visit. The encounter. Aunt manages to extract her from there. Life in prison with other women.
- 6:00:00 Earlier memories of life at home. The "*appel*" *platz* in ghetto Bochnia. More memories.
- 6:20:00 In the Bochnia ghetto, men and women were separated in different quarters.
- Tape II
- 7:00:00 The influence of her war experiences on her current life. Ze'hava's ethical will.
- 7:09:20 Back in Budapest. Ze'hava and her aunt and uncle live in a kind of bordello.

- 7:10:22 Looking for a different place of residence in the village of Baja, and parading as Christians.
- 7:13:00 Her relationship with aunt Reina takes a turn for the worse. Aunt Reina looks for an orphanage for Ze'hava. The first one turns out to be inappropriate, so her aunt takes her out of there.
- 7:20:20 Talks about the Germans entering Baja.
- 7:21:16 Aunt brings Ze'hava to an orphanage in Budapest on Dohai Street, next to the synagogue mentioned by Herzl in his writings.
- 7:24:00 Bad experiences in the orphanage in Budapest. She was interrogated there. She said she was an orphan girl. She was nine years old.
- 8:01:00 Ze'hava leaves the orphanage and lives on the streets with two other children. Someone suggests she should go to Romania, and she agrees. Her first stop was Debrecen, where no Jews lived. There were six people who needed to hide and tried to hide in a cemetery. There she were caught, and put in jail and returned to Budapest. When she was freed again, she continued to wander with two other children a girl and a boy. They got on a train and traveled. They jumped off the train at Miske and then at Kalusa where a woman took her in, and also arranged housing for the other two children. The family was Starasole.
- 8:18:03 Russians liberated the town from the Germans. Fear of rapes, robberies, etc.
- 8:20:00 Beautiful story of Ze'hava's encounter with the Starasoles in Israel.
- 9:00:00 Life in Kalusa as Christians.
- 9:08:24 Arrival in Bucharest on Passover eve, with the Starasole family.
- 9:16:15 She was invited for Passover by a different family, who takes her under their wing.
- 9:21:35 Aunt Renia finds Ze'hava at the new home.
- 9:26:58 Ze'hava is unhappy in the new home. She takes advantage of the fact that the couple was away on vacation, and asks to be accepted at an orphanage.
- 10:03:02 Describes her two attempts to commit suicide.
- 10:04:18 Maternal uncles in Israel begin to look for Ze'hava through the Red Cross.

- 10:08:09 Aunt Renia invites her to join them in Czechoslovakia. Ze'hava leaves the orphanage and goes to Prague. It was 1947.
- 10:13:53 Ze'hava stayed with her aunt and uncle for a year, while going to a Czech school.
- 10:16:57 Arrival in Prague on the day of Massaryk's suicide. Ze'hava begins to wander again.
- 10:19:15 Rav Shendel organized a group of orphans and sent them to London. It was 1949.
- 10:26:36 Ze'hava spent a year in London and then decided to join a group of Aliyat Hanoar, to go to Israel.
- 10:27:03 She learned some agriculture before leaving for Israel. Describes waiting in Marseilles for a month, through Passover for embarkation to Israel.
- 10:28:45 No one came to greet Ze'hava in Haifa. She decided not to stay with the two uncles or the aunt.
- 11:00:00 In the meantime, Aunt Renia arrived in Israel and insisted that Ze'hava ha to continue her studies and, for that, she needed to enter a boarding school. Ze'hava takes tests for the boarding school.
- 11:06:40 She wanted to go to a religious institution, but in the meantime, she was sent to Carcur, a horrible place, near Pardes Hanna. She was there for about five months and no relative came to visit her there.
- 11:08:00 Describes sexual education in Prague.
- 11:10:54 A place is found in the religious youth village, on the Carmel Kefar Hanoar Hadati.
- 11:13:31 Describes her impressions of the Israelis.
- 11:19:38 She stayed in that boarding school for one and a half years. It was the first time she had studied in an organized fashion.
- 11:21:58 She went to a kindergarten teachers' school, supported in equal parts by her two aunts and two uncles. She went to Talpiot Seminar and lived in Beit Hahalutzot a Pioneer Women's Home.