

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:48,180

2

00:00:48,180 --> 00:00:52,690

The worst period for me
for two basic reasons.

3

00:00:52,690 --> 00:00:57,360

One, I found the army
life very, very harsh.

4

00:00:57,360 --> 00:01:02,010

And of course, the war
in Korea was going on.

5

00:01:02,010 --> 00:01:05,459

And all the people that were
being inducted into the United

6

00:01:05,459 --> 00:01:09,720

States Army were basically
being sent to Korea.

7

00:01:09,720 --> 00:01:13,050

And so basic training
was extremely harsh

8

00:01:13,050 --> 00:01:18,360

and very difficult. And I was
having a very difficult time.

9

00:01:18,360 --> 00:01:23,250

And there was also a certain
amount of antisemitism, again,

10

00:01:23,250 --> 00:01:24,720

directed at me in the army.

11

00:01:24,720 --> 00:01:26,580

I remember it very well.

12

00:01:26,580 --> 00:01:29,070

But every once in
a while, I would

13

00:01:29,070 --> 00:01:31,110

want to get permission
from my superiors

14

00:01:31,110 --> 00:01:34,920

to attend Jewish services
on Friday nights.

15

00:01:34,920 --> 00:01:38,700

And I remember my superiors
sort of laughing and saying,

16

00:01:38,700 --> 00:01:43,170

well, you're not
Jewish or you know,

17

00:01:43,170 --> 00:01:48,510

they sort of started to
make a little fun out of it.

18

00:01:48,510 --> 00:01:54,690

But the main reason that
I didn't care for the army

19

00:01:54,690 --> 00:01:58,090

was basically that it was
a very, very harsh life.

20

00:01:58,090 --> 00:02:01,540

And I found it extremely
difficult to go through.

21

00:02:01,540 --> 00:02:03,720

But I did get through
basic training.

22

00:02:03,720 --> 00:02:06,300

I started going AWOL a
little bit here and there,

23

00:02:06,300 --> 00:02:09,840

but I never intended to go.

24

00:02:09,840 --> 00:02:11,550

You know, I always

intended to come back.

25

00:02:11,550 --> 00:02:13,230

I mean, it was just

AWOL in the sense

26

00:02:13,230 --> 00:02:17,070

that I just couldn't stand

the weekend, sometimes

27

00:02:17,070 --> 00:02:19,180

having to go stay there.

28

00:02:19,180 --> 00:02:23,310

And so what I would often

do, I would sort of quietly

29

00:02:23,310 --> 00:02:25,800

slip out of the camp on the

weekend and go to New York

30

00:02:25,800 --> 00:02:27,240

to see my friends.

31

00:02:27,240 --> 00:02:29,520

And then I would always

be back Monday morning

32

00:02:29,520 --> 00:02:34,230

when we basically had to

report to our battalion again.

33

00:02:34,230 --> 00:02:37,710

But I remember very

well that one weekend,

34

00:02:37,710 --> 00:02:40,200

I went AWOL, so to
speak, in the sense

35
00:02:40,200 --> 00:02:43,860
that I left camp without
permission for the weekend.

36
00:02:43,860 --> 00:02:46,680
And I stayed at one of
my friend's apartment

37
00:02:46,680 --> 00:02:47,970
in New York City.

38
00:02:47,970 --> 00:02:50,970
And this friend of mine was a
South American friend of mine.

39
00:02:50,970 --> 00:02:53,880
And he decided to play
a little joke on me.

40
00:02:53,880 --> 00:02:57,630
And that evening, while I
was at my friend's home,

41
00:02:57,630 --> 00:02:59,640
there were some
knocks at the door.

42
00:02:59,640 --> 00:03:02,520
And we opened the
door, and who was there

43
00:03:02,520 --> 00:03:10,230
in uniformed army MP, military
police, asking for me.

44
00:03:10,230 --> 00:03:13,530
And he asked me whether
I would please show him

45
00:03:13,530 --> 00:03:18,540

my permit to be on
leave for that weekend.

46
00:03:18,540 --> 00:03:20,910
And of course, I
didn't have one.

47
00:03:20,910 --> 00:03:26,760
And the next thing, I
thought that I happened this,

48
00:03:26,760 --> 00:03:28,350
that he was going to take me in.

49
00:03:28,350 --> 00:03:32,550
And then it turned out to
be a joke that my friend had

50
00:03:32,550 --> 00:03:33,930
planted on me.

51
00:03:33,930 --> 00:03:36,060
This happened to be a friend
of this friend of mine

52
00:03:36,060 --> 00:03:37,440
that I was staying.

53
00:03:37,440 --> 00:03:42,750
And anyway, I got
through basic training.

54
00:03:42,750 --> 00:03:45,960
And then basically
thought that I

55
00:03:45,960 --> 00:03:48,900
was going to be sent to
Korea to fight the war just

56
00:03:48,900 --> 00:03:50,650
like everybody else did.

57

00:03:50,650 --> 00:03:53,520

And I had written to my
mother in South America,

58

00:03:53,520 --> 00:03:57,150

and saying that I was
going to go to Korea.

59

00:03:57,150 --> 00:03:59,550

And that was fine with me.

60

00:03:59,550 --> 00:04:03,420

And my mother didn't
react a great deal.

61

00:04:03,420 --> 00:04:05,580

Of course, she have
to accept everything

62

00:04:05,580 --> 00:04:07,560

that was happening here.

63

00:04:07,560 --> 00:04:09,060

But I was lucky.

64

00:04:09,060 --> 00:04:13,560

And when my basic training
ended and my orders came,

65

00:04:13,560 --> 00:04:15,930

I was one of the very
few people that was not

66

00:04:15,930 --> 00:04:18,089

assigned to go to Korea.

67

00:04:18,089 --> 00:04:21,660

Instead, I was assigned
to a military intelligence

68

00:04:21,660 --> 00:04:25,860

unit near Washington, DC.

69
00:04:25,860 --> 00:04:31,110
And so I was transferred
from Camp Fort

70
00:04:31,110 --> 00:04:36,690
Dix, New Jersey to Fort
Meade near Baltimore,

71
00:04:36,690 --> 00:04:39,040
between Baltimore
and Washington.

72
00:04:39,040 --> 00:04:44,010
And where I then was
trained, basically,

73
00:04:44,010 --> 00:04:47,130
to become an
interpreter and being

74
00:04:47,130 --> 00:04:49,650
part of a military
intelligence unit.

75
00:04:49,650 --> 00:04:53,475

76
00:04:53,475 --> 00:04:55,710
That was a good
experience for me.

77
00:04:55,710 --> 00:04:58,290
And I basically thought
I had to sit there

78
00:04:58,290 --> 00:05:01,500
for a while waiting to get
my security clearance, which

79
00:05:01,500 --> 00:05:04,890
in my case was taking
a very long time

80
00:05:04,890 --> 00:05:06,900
because I had lived
in South America.

81
00:05:06,900 --> 00:05:09,390
And I'm sure the
army had to inquire

82
00:05:09,390 --> 00:05:13,210
about me in South America.

83
00:05:13,210 --> 00:05:15,330
And so I took a very
long time before I was

84
00:05:15,330 --> 00:05:18,240
able to get security clearance.

85
00:05:18,240 --> 00:05:20,460
When my security
clearance finally came,

86
00:05:20,460 --> 00:05:23,670
it was approved by the
United States Army,

87
00:05:23,670 --> 00:05:29,310
I was considered to be sent to
France, to NATO headquarters,

88
00:05:29,310 --> 00:05:31,300
as an interpreter.

89
00:05:31,300 --> 00:05:36,420
But it meant signing up for an
additional year in the United

90
00:05:36,420 --> 00:05:39,270
States Army, and I did not want
to sign up for another year.

91

00:05:39,270 --> 00:05:40,973
I had to serve two years.

92
00:05:40,973 --> 00:05:42,390
And then, of course,
I knew that I

93
00:05:42,390 --> 00:05:44,820
was going to be able
to get the discharge.

94
00:05:44,820 --> 00:05:48,350
And I decided not to go to
NATO headquarters in France

95
00:05:48,350 --> 00:05:49,970
because, as I
said, I didn't want

96
00:05:49,970 --> 00:05:51,860
to sign up for another year.

97
00:05:51,860 --> 00:05:55,340
And I decided that I would
finish off my two-year term

98
00:05:55,340 --> 00:05:59,630
in Washington, DC,
nearby Washington, DC,

99
00:05:59,630 --> 00:06:01,100
and get out of the army.

100
00:06:01,100 --> 00:06:04,670
Which I did in 1953.

101
00:06:04,670 --> 00:06:13,010
Well, the two benefits that were
available to anybody serving

102
00:06:13,010 --> 00:06:15,020
in the army then
was, number one,

103
00:06:15,020 --> 00:06:20,060
I was able to get the
GI Bill of Rights, which

104
00:06:20,060 --> 00:06:22,760
enabled me to choose a
college in the United

105
00:06:22,760 --> 00:06:26,690
States of my choice where I
would be able to study for four

106
00:06:26,690 --> 00:06:31,910
years while getting
paid at the same time

107
00:06:31,910 --> 00:06:33,840
by the United States government.

108
00:06:33,840 --> 00:06:37,710
So much a month, which
was sufficient to live on.

109
00:06:37,710 --> 00:06:41,780
And I decided that I would
take advantage of the GI Bill.

110
00:06:41,780 --> 00:06:43,950
And the other
advantage, of course,

111
00:06:43,950 --> 00:06:47,762
was that I was also
finally being issued--

112
00:06:47,762 --> 00:06:48,470
Your citizenship.

113
00:06:48,470 --> 00:06:50,660
--my citizenship papers.

114

00:06:50,660 --> 00:06:57,590
So I got out in May in
1953 and didn't quite know

115
00:06:57,590 --> 00:07:00,230
what college to
attend to or where.

116
00:07:00,230 --> 00:07:03,470
But it just so happened
that my intelligence unit,

117
00:07:03,470 --> 00:07:07,940
I found myself with
some other people

118
00:07:07,940 --> 00:07:10,580
from California,
who were telling me

119
00:07:10,580 --> 00:07:13,340
a great deal about the Bay Area.

120
00:07:13,340 --> 00:07:16,460
And were showing me
all kinds of pictures,

121
00:07:16,460 --> 00:07:19,790
including the campus of the
University of California

122
00:07:19,790 --> 00:07:21,050
at Berkeley.

123
00:07:21,050 --> 00:07:25,100
And when I saw all of that
information and the pictures,

124
00:07:25,100 --> 00:07:28,010
I basically really fell
in love with the place.

125
00:07:28,010 --> 00:07:32,120

And I decided, this is where
I wanted to come and study.

126
00:07:32,120 --> 00:07:34,100
Namely, UC Berkeley.

127
00:07:34,100 --> 00:07:38,510
And so I didn't even
go back to New York,

128
00:07:38,510 --> 00:07:42,150
where most of my things were
stored during this period.

129
00:07:42,150 --> 00:07:44,300
And I flew out to California.

130
00:07:44,300 --> 00:07:46,970
Basically, I hitchhiked
by military plane.

131
00:07:46,970 --> 00:07:50,570
And the funny thing
was that I really

132
00:07:50,570 --> 00:07:53,240
didn't know exactly where
California was located.

133
00:07:53,240 --> 00:07:57,590
And I couldn't get a direct
flight from Washington, DC

134
00:07:57,590 --> 00:07:58,340
to California.

135
00:07:58,340 --> 00:07:59,900
I had to take short flights.

136
00:07:59,900 --> 00:08:01,640
And I never knew
exactly whether they

137

00:08:01,640 --> 00:08:05,150

were getting me into the
direction of California.

138

00:08:05,150 --> 00:08:08,900

But I finally,
after a rather long,

139

00:08:08,900 --> 00:08:10,490

must have been at
least a week or so,

140

00:08:10,490 --> 00:08:16,140

I finally managed to land in
a place called Yuma, Arizona.

141

00:08:16,140 --> 00:08:19,670

And again, I had no idea
where Yuma, Arizona was.

142

00:08:19,670 --> 00:08:22,460

But I thought it was somewhat
close to the Bay Area.

143

00:08:22,460 --> 00:08:25,070

And I landed there
and found myself

144

00:08:25,070 --> 00:08:30,830

in a very deserted little town,
way on the border with Mexico.

145

00:08:30,830 --> 00:08:33,440

And said, well, the
best thing I can do

146

00:08:33,440 --> 00:08:35,510

is to hitchhike up
to the Bay Area.

147

00:08:35,510 --> 00:08:36,830

I did it

148

00:08:36,830 --> 00:08:39,230

I was still in
uniform, of course.

149

00:08:39,230 --> 00:08:42,710

And just had my
honorable discharge.

150

00:08:42,710 --> 00:08:46,490

And came into the
Bay Area, where I did

151

00:08:46,490 --> 00:08:51,980

have a cousin and his family,
who had just settled here,

152

00:08:51,980 --> 00:08:54,270

who had emigrated from England.

153

00:08:54,270 --> 00:08:57,320

And so he was sort
of waiting for me.

154

00:08:57,320 --> 00:09:03,230

And I arrived in San
Francisco about June of 1953.

155

00:09:03,230 --> 00:09:07,880

And decided that I
would apply to enter

156

00:09:07,880 --> 00:09:10,970

the University of California
at Berkeley to study there.

157

00:09:10,970 --> 00:09:15,380

Well, I went over
to Berkeley, and I

158

00:09:15,380 --> 00:09:21,620

applied, and was told to show
my Chilean school records,

159

00:09:21,620 --> 00:09:23,660
and I did.

160

00:09:23,660 --> 00:09:28,010
Sent for copies and gave
them my school records.

161

00:09:28,010 --> 00:09:32,100
And they told me that
I would, first of all,

162

00:09:32,100 --> 00:09:36,740
have to go to a junior college
because they felt that this was

163

00:09:36,740 --> 00:09:41,090
not quite proof enough that
I could make a go of it

164

00:09:41,090 --> 00:09:42,290
at the university.

165

00:09:42,290 --> 00:09:47,150
But after a semester or two
attending a junior college,

166

00:09:47,150 --> 00:09:50,570
they would be happy to
consider my application again.

167

00:09:50,570 --> 00:09:54,020
And so I decided to
stay in San Francisco

168

00:09:54,020 --> 00:09:57,360
and enroll in the City
College of San Francisco.

169

00:09:57,360 --> 00:09:58,190
And I did.

170

00:09:58,190 --> 00:10:01,160

And I was getting
very good grades.

171
00:10:01,160 --> 00:10:02,990
And I was also
getting very impatient

172
00:10:02,990 --> 00:10:06,680
to come to the university here
because that's the place that I

173
00:10:06,680 --> 00:10:09,050
basically fell in love with.

174
00:10:09,050 --> 00:10:14,000
And again, I said that that's
where I was going to study.

175
00:10:14,000 --> 00:10:19,160
And I spent two semesters at the
City College in San Francisco.

176
00:10:19,160 --> 00:10:23,270
Then came over to Berkeley again
and was finally accepted here.

177
00:10:23,270 --> 00:10:24,140
After one year?

178
00:10:24,140 --> 00:10:26,630
After one year, yes, of
being at City College,

179
00:10:26,630 --> 00:10:29,840
and showing them my grades,
they accepted me on,

180
00:10:29,840 --> 00:10:33,510
I think it was, sort of a
probationary period at first.

181
00:10:33,510 --> 00:10:39,080
But things turned out fine,

even though I immediately

182
00:10:39,080 --> 00:10:40,700
flunked the English course.

183
00:10:40,700 --> 00:10:42,200
In English A?

184
00:10:42,200 --> 00:10:43,290
The English one.

185
00:10:43,290 --> 00:10:44,748
We still have that
subject A, yeah.

186
00:10:44,748 --> 00:10:46,475
Subject A. I flunked
English 1A and I

187
00:10:46,475 --> 00:10:48,050
had to go back and
take the subject

188
00:10:48,050 --> 00:10:50,650
A class here in Berkeley.

189
00:10:50,650 --> 00:10:53,890
And that was not such a
happy experience for me.

190
00:10:53,890 --> 00:10:56,380
I thought, again, the whole
world was coming down.

191
00:10:56,380 --> 00:10:59,590
But everything turned
out fine at Cal.

192
00:10:59,590 --> 00:11:04,810
What happened in my private life
when I came out to California

193

00:11:04,810 --> 00:11:07,960
was that, of course,
my cousin was

194
00:11:07,960 --> 00:11:13,525
here who had lost his parents in
the gas camps, and his sister.

195
00:11:13,525 --> 00:11:15,220
And he was the only one alive.

196
00:11:15,220 --> 00:11:18,490
And he's the only
one that I had here.

197
00:11:18,490 --> 00:11:23,950
And then I also had a friend
here, a German Jewish friend

198
00:11:23,950 --> 00:11:27,760
with whom I grew up in Chile,
who I had known very, very

199
00:11:27,760 --> 00:11:29,500
well, who had come
here just prior

200
00:11:29,500 --> 00:11:33,880
to myself coming to California,
who had settled here.

201
00:11:33,880 --> 00:11:36,010
And I became very
friendly with him.

202
00:11:36,010 --> 00:11:40,180
I didn't have anybody
else, except my cousin.

203
00:11:40,180 --> 00:11:44,560
And what then-- I
started attending

204

00:11:44,560 --> 00:11:46,270
the University of California.

205
00:11:46,270 --> 00:11:51,550
And actually, although prior
to attending California,

206
00:11:51,550 --> 00:11:59,920
at City College, I was
starting to check out

207
00:11:59,920 --> 00:12:03,730
a lot of the Jewish
organizations here.

208
00:12:03,730 --> 00:12:11,110
And I think the way I started
rejecting was basically

209
00:12:11,110 --> 00:12:16,240
that this friend of mine, German
Jewish friend, who I had known

210
00:12:16,240 --> 00:12:21,370
very well in Chile, had himself
rejected Judaism when he

211
00:12:21,370 --> 00:12:26,020
came here, and joined one of
the Baptist churches here,

212
00:12:26,020 --> 00:12:27,370
became very involved.

213
00:12:27,370 --> 00:12:31,480
He was apparently baptized
and joined the church here.

214
00:12:31,480 --> 00:12:36,850
And when I basically
came here to California,

215
00:12:36,850 --> 00:12:39,100

as far as my Judaism
was concerned,

216
00:12:39,100 --> 00:12:42,700
I was basically
very unhappy in it

217
00:12:42,700 --> 00:12:45,640
because I had bad experiences.

218
00:12:45,640 --> 00:12:50,860
And I have to say that this
friend of mine from Chile

219
00:12:50,860 --> 00:12:52,750
sort of influenced
me a little bit

220
00:12:52,750 --> 00:12:59,950
to perhaps try to attend one
of the Christian churches here.

221
00:12:59,950 --> 00:13:03,790
And I started attending one
of the Presbyterian Churches.

222
00:13:03,790 --> 00:13:06,610
Of course, I didn't know
any of the churches here.

223
00:13:06,610 --> 00:13:12,160
But I was in a place
where I just basically

224
00:13:12,160 --> 00:13:14,860
was rejecting anything
that was Jewish.

225
00:13:14,860 --> 00:13:18,500
I didn't want to attend
the synagogue here.

226
00:13:18,500 --> 00:13:21,100

And even though I was--

227

00:13:21,100 --> 00:13:23,050

I did make some
Jewish friends here.

228

00:13:23,050 --> 00:13:26,110

But somehow, this
friend of mine,

229

00:13:26,110 --> 00:13:29,510

somehow, this had a
tremendous influence on me.

230

00:13:29,510 --> 00:13:32,830

And I went, decided,
one Sunday morning

231

00:13:32,830 --> 00:13:35,170

to attend a Christian church.

232

00:13:35,170 --> 00:13:36,580

And I remember it very well.

233

00:13:36,580 --> 00:13:39,730

It was the First Baptist
Church in San Francisco.

234

00:13:39,730 --> 00:13:43,655

And I had a very, very
emotional experience

235

00:13:43,655 --> 00:13:45,550

there at this church.

236

00:13:45,550 --> 00:13:48,280

And I was very, very
influenced by what

237

00:13:48,280 --> 00:13:50,350

took place at this church.

238

00:13:50,350 --> 00:13:55,240

And I found myself attending
church ever thereafter.

239

00:13:55,240 --> 00:14:00,530

This was now 1953, when I
first came to California.

240

00:14:00,530 --> 00:14:03,010

And as I said, I'm
backtracking just a little bit.

241

00:14:03,010 --> 00:14:05,950

I was attending City College.

242

00:14:05,950 --> 00:14:08,530

And I was beginning
to attend church.

243

00:14:08,530 --> 00:14:11,230

And I think,
basically, what I felt

244

00:14:11,230 --> 00:14:17,110

was is that everybody was
accepting me and reaching out

245

00:14:17,110 --> 00:14:19,330

for me.

246

00:14:19,330 --> 00:14:22,960

And somehow, this had a
tremendous influence on me

247

00:14:22,960 --> 00:14:24,400

at that time.

248

00:14:24,400 --> 00:14:29,620

And I got myself quite involved
and continued attending

249

00:14:29,620 --> 00:14:31,870

the church every single Sunday.

250

00:14:31,870 --> 00:14:34,810

And I made an awful lot
of friendships there.

251

00:14:34,810 --> 00:14:38,150

And it was a very
warm experience.

252

00:14:38,150 --> 00:14:41,920

And that really overtook
my life suddenly.

253

00:14:41,920 --> 00:14:50,380

And the next thing that happened
that I met another young person

254

00:14:50,380 --> 00:14:54,610

my age who was studying to be a
Presbyterian minister, who was

255

00:14:54,610 --> 00:14:56,080

also attending City College.

256

00:14:56,080 --> 00:14:57,790

And I just happened to meet him.

257

00:14:57,790 --> 00:15:01,090

And he and I decided to
share an apartment together

258

00:15:01,090 --> 00:15:04,720

in San Francisco while we were
both attending City College.

259

00:15:04,720 --> 00:15:07,240

And of course, he, too,
had a big influence on me.

260

00:15:07,240 --> 00:15:10,600

He was studying to be a
Presbyterian minister,

261

00:15:10,600 --> 00:15:14,650

and I was attending
church and reaching out

262

00:15:14,650 --> 00:15:17,200

towards Christianity in a sense.

263

00:15:17,200 --> 00:15:21,010

And was very much being
influenced by that experience.

264

00:15:21,010 --> 00:15:26,620

And then we both decided to come
to the University of California

265

00:15:26,620 --> 00:15:27,200

together.

266

00:15:27,200 --> 00:15:29,270

He also applied,
just like I did.

267

00:15:29,270 --> 00:15:42,790

And he got his acceptance and
so did I. And in June of 1954,

268

00:15:42,790 --> 00:15:45,070

we both transferred to Berkeley.

269

00:15:45,070 --> 00:15:50,790

And through him, I is able to
stay at a Presbyterian Student

270

00:15:50,790 --> 00:15:54,810

Center in Berkeley, which
was Westminster House.

271

00:15:54,810 --> 00:15:56,517

And again--

272

00:15:56,517 --> 00:15:57,600

There's an airplane noise.

273
00:15:57,600 --> 00:16:02,220
--found myself with some
very, very warm people

274
00:16:02,220 --> 00:16:04,980
who accepted me full-heartedly.

275
00:16:04,980 --> 00:16:09,360
And what basically
happened in my life

276
00:16:09,360 --> 00:16:15,030
is that I decided that I will--

277
00:16:15,030 --> 00:16:18,990
basically, the church
took hold of my life.

278
00:16:18,990 --> 00:16:22,500
And I held on to the church.

279
00:16:22,500 --> 00:16:26,310
And I started attending
church in Berkeley

280
00:16:26,310 --> 00:16:32,760
and became very, very involved
there and met a lot of people.

281
00:16:32,760 --> 00:16:34,830
And I really don't
know whether they--

282
00:16:34,830 --> 00:16:36,840
I don't think they even
knew that I was Jewish

283
00:16:36,840 --> 00:16:38,370
or had a Jewish background.

284
00:16:38,370 --> 00:16:40,480

It never really came up.

285

00:16:40,480 --> 00:16:43,260

And I was really,
basically fearful

286

00:16:43,260 --> 00:16:45,750

of even expressing
that to anybody,

287

00:16:45,750 --> 00:16:48,930

that I am coming from
a Jewish background.

288

00:16:48,930 --> 00:16:54,030

I'm sure that I mentioned
it to a few older people

289

00:16:54,030 --> 00:16:55,380

that I met at the church.

290

00:16:55,380 --> 00:16:59,250

But they were, of course,
very, very warm towards me

291

00:16:59,250 --> 00:17:01,570

and wanted me in the church.

292

00:17:01,570 --> 00:17:05,790

And it was an
experience that just

293

00:17:05,790 --> 00:17:09,569

overtook my life for a
very, very long period that

294

00:17:09,569 --> 00:17:11,490

followed then.

295

00:17:11,490 --> 00:17:16,260

I lived at Westminster
House, and became very active

296

00:17:16,260 --> 00:17:21,450

there in the student
affairs, and attended church,

297

00:17:21,450 --> 00:17:25,319

and made a lot of friends
there at the church,

298

00:17:25,319 --> 00:17:27,990

in youth groups
and college groups.

299

00:17:27,990 --> 00:17:32,760

And finished my studies at
the University of California.

300

00:17:32,760 --> 00:17:35,160

I majored in
business, specializing

301

00:17:35,160 --> 00:17:39,450

in accounting because of my
accounting experience in Chile.

302

00:17:39,450 --> 00:17:48,090

And then I continued
corresponding with my mother.

303

00:17:48,090 --> 00:17:51,210

And of course, the very first
thing that I informed my mother

304

00:17:51,210 --> 00:17:57,330

was that I had left Judaism and
that I was part of the Church.

305

00:17:57,330 --> 00:18:01,800

And I thought that my mother
would be very disappointed,

306

00:18:01,800 --> 00:18:02,970

but no, she wasn't.

307

00:18:02,970 --> 00:18:09,390

She said, if that's
what you wanted to do,

308

00:18:09,390 --> 00:18:10,650

that was fine with her.

309

00:18:10,650 --> 00:18:14,760

That she said, of course, she
could never do that herself.

310

00:18:14,760 --> 00:18:18,070

And would never consider it.

311

00:18:18,070 --> 00:18:21,030

But if I'm happy, that
this was her concern.

312

00:18:21,030 --> 00:18:25,120

And this is fine with her.

313

00:18:25,120 --> 00:18:30,720

And that was not all the case
with my relatives in Brazil

314

00:18:30,720 --> 00:18:31,895

when I informed them.

315

00:18:31,895 --> 00:18:33,270

And then sort of,
you know, I was

316

00:18:33,270 --> 00:18:35,760

going through such a
happy period in my life

317

00:18:35,760 --> 00:18:39,810

experiencing Christianity,
which as I said, you know,

318

00:18:39,810 --> 00:18:43,020

just totally overtook me.

319
00:18:43,020 --> 00:18:45,180
My relatives in
Brazil, of course,

320
00:18:45,180 --> 00:18:46,630
told me just the opposite.

321
00:18:46,630 --> 00:18:49,230
They were very, very
upset of what I had done,

322
00:18:49,230 --> 00:18:58,320
and never accepted it, and
told me so in very clear words.

323
00:18:58,320 --> 00:19:00,870
But that didn't have
any effect on me.

324
00:19:00,870 --> 00:19:05,640
I continued very much actively
in the church in Berkeley.

325
00:19:05,640 --> 00:19:09,290
And graduated in 1957.

326
00:19:09,290 --> 00:19:11,610
You got your AB degree or BS?

327
00:19:11,610 --> 00:19:13,950
BS, I believe it was.

328
00:19:13,950 --> 00:19:16,710
And immediately
was offered a job

329
00:19:16,710 --> 00:19:20,040
with one of the big
CPA accounting firms

330
00:19:20,040 --> 00:19:23,190

in San Francisco, Arthur
Young and Company.

331
00:19:23,190 --> 00:19:26,760
And started to work for them
as an auditor, junior auditor,

332
00:19:26,760 --> 00:19:31,140
in 1957.

333
00:19:31,140 --> 00:19:34,620
At the same time, I was
becoming more and more involved

334
00:19:34,620 --> 00:19:36,100
in the church.

335
00:19:36,100 --> 00:19:41,070
And I worked for
some other companies.

336
00:19:41,070 --> 00:19:44,190
I only had about a year with
Arthur Young and Company

337
00:19:44,190 --> 00:19:47,400
and found that a little
difficult, the auditing

338
00:19:47,400 --> 00:19:48,000
experience.

339
00:19:48,000 --> 00:19:50,340
I had to do a certain
amount of traveling.

340
00:19:50,340 --> 00:19:54,300
And there were some other
things that I was not

341
00:19:54,300 --> 00:19:57,310
quite to my liking on
somewhat difficult.

342
00:19:57,310 --> 00:20:02,250
So I decided, after
working for some CPA firms,

343
00:20:02,250 --> 00:20:04,950
that I would probably be
better off in industry.

344
00:20:04,950 --> 00:20:08,700
And so I started applying to
some of the big corporations

345
00:20:08,700 --> 00:20:09,540
in industry.

346
00:20:09,540 --> 00:20:14,790
And worked for companies like
Standard Oil of California,

347
00:20:14,790 --> 00:20:19,830
and Bethel Corporation, and
Stauffer Chemical, mainly

348
00:20:19,830 --> 00:20:23,970
as an auditor and
as an accountant.

349
00:20:23,970 --> 00:20:27,330
And at the same time, my
whole social life basically

350
00:20:27,330 --> 00:20:29,235
took place at the
Presbyterian Church

351
00:20:29,235 --> 00:20:32,940
here in Berkeley, where
I was very involved.

352
00:20:32,940 --> 00:20:36,360
And I basically never
saw another Jewish person

353
00:20:36,360 --> 00:20:37,140
ever again.

354
00:20:37,140 --> 00:20:40,110
In the next 20 years
here in the Bay Area,

355
00:20:40,110 --> 00:20:46,840
it was all Christians,
Presbyterians, what have you.

356
00:20:46,840 --> 00:20:49,480
My cousin in the meantime
had moved to Marin County,

357
00:20:49,480 --> 00:20:52,750
but I had very little
contact with him,

358
00:20:52,750 --> 00:20:56,350
and didn't see that much of him.

359
00:20:56,350 --> 00:21:02,980
And so I worked basically
as an accountant auditor

360
00:21:02,980 --> 00:21:05,620
until about 1962.

361
00:21:05,620 --> 00:21:09,130
And then I was--

362
00:21:09,130 --> 00:21:12,490
I had a number of
changes in industry.

363
00:21:12,490 --> 00:21:16,300
And suddenly, slowly,
came to realize

364
00:21:16,300 --> 00:21:21,160

that perhaps accounting was not
what I should pursue in life.

365
00:21:21,160 --> 00:21:25,240
And those were the
Kennedy years, the '60s,

366
00:21:25,240 --> 00:21:27,790
when Kennedy was in power.

367
00:21:27,790 --> 00:21:30,820
And there was-- I
realized that there

368
00:21:30,820 --> 00:21:33,250
was a tremendous demand
for foreign language people

369
00:21:33,250 --> 00:21:35,320
because languages,
foreign languages,

370
00:21:35,320 --> 00:21:38,290
were being taught at
the elementary levels.

371
00:21:38,290 --> 00:21:41,740
And many of the
school districts were

372
00:21:41,740 --> 00:21:44,320
crying for foreign language
people, or people who had

373
00:21:44,320 --> 00:21:45,970
a good knowledge of languages.

374
00:21:45,970 --> 00:21:48,080
And that idea appealed to me.

375
00:21:48,080 --> 00:21:50,830
And I got the idea
that perhaps I

376
00:21:50,830 --> 00:21:54,620
would leave industry and
pursue a teaching career.

377
00:21:54,620 --> 00:21:56,120
And I did.

378
00:21:56,120 --> 00:21:58,360
I went back to college.

379
00:21:58,360 --> 00:22:02,560
I enrolled at Haywood
State in Haywood.

380
00:22:02,560 --> 00:22:09,250
And decided that I wanted
to get a teaching credential

381
00:22:09,250 --> 00:22:12,490
and begin to teach at
the secondary level.

382
00:22:12,490 --> 00:22:14,470
And I wanted to teach Spanish.

383
00:22:14,470 --> 00:22:16,540
I could have taught
German, but I certainly

384
00:22:16,540 --> 00:22:18,430
didn't want to teach German.

385
00:22:18,430 --> 00:22:23,050
I decided that Spanish was the
language I wanted to teach.

386
00:22:23,050 --> 00:22:28,480
So I went back in 1962
and enrolled in Hayward

387
00:22:28,480 --> 00:22:30,640

and got a teaching
credential there.

388
00:22:30,640 --> 00:22:34,360
Also took some classes
at San Francisco State.

389
00:22:34,360 --> 00:22:42,460
And in 1963, I was immediately,
upon completion of my teaching

390
00:22:42,460 --> 00:22:47,260
credential, I was almost
immediately offered

391
00:22:47,260 --> 00:22:51,280
positions in many school
districts in the Bay Area

392
00:22:51,280 --> 00:22:55,270
because the language
people were in high demand

393
00:22:55,270 --> 00:22:58,390
and there was a shortage
of foreign language people.

394
00:22:58,390 --> 00:23:02,530
And I decided to accept an offer
with the Mount Diablo Unified

395
00:23:02,530 --> 00:23:07,210
School district in
Concord and started

396
00:23:07,210 --> 00:23:10,870
teaching at a secondary
school, or high school,

397
00:23:10,870 --> 00:23:14,590
by the name of Clayton Valley,
Clayton Valley High School.

398

00:23:14,590 --> 00:23:18,550
And taught Spanish there.

399
00:23:18,550 --> 00:23:21,790
Again, I had a very
difficult beginning there

400
00:23:21,790 --> 00:23:24,580
because I really didn't know
what I was getting myself

401
00:23:24,580 --> 00:23:29,080
into, suddenly facing
180 American high school

402
00:23:29,080 --> 00:23:31,120
students every day.

403
00:23:31,120 --> 00:23:34,450
That was something I
just really didn't quite

404
00:23:34,450 --> 00:23:37,460
realize what that was
going to be all about.

405
00:23:37,460 --> 00:23:40,980
And so my teaching career at the
beginning was not an easy one.

406
00:23:40,980 --> 00:23:42,730
It was rather difficult.

407
00:23:42,730 --> 00:23:47,040
But I managed to get my
tenure there after one year.

408
00:23:47,040 --> 00:23:50,440
I almost lost it, I think.

409
00:23:50,440 --> 00:23:53,470
But I managed to
get my tenure there,

410
00:23:53,470 --> 00:23:55,600
being accepted as a teacher.

411
00:23:55,600 --> 00:24:00,190
And at the same
time, my activities,

412
00:24:00,190 --> 00:24:02,890
my social activities
at the church

413
00:24:02,890 --> 00:24:07,370
became very, very involved,
more and more so every year.

414
00:24:07,370 --> 00:24:10,810
And my whole life really
basically centered

415
00:24:10,810 --> 00:24:11,740
within the church.

416
00:24:11,740 --> 00:24:13,580
My whole social life.

417
00:24:13,580 --> 00:24:21,520
And I met a woman at one of
the Presbyterian churches

418
00:24:21,520 --> 00:24:27,700
in San Francisco
and fell in love.

419
00:24:27,700 --> 00:24:30,430
And of course, you
know, I was determined

420
00:24:30,430 --> 00:24:32,020
to marry a non-Jewish woman.

421
00:24:32,020 --> 00:24:33,140

I was determined.

422

00:24:33,140 --> 00:24:34,930

It was very important
for me to marry

423

00:24:34,930 --> 00:24:39,020

Christian girl because of my
involvement in the church.

424

00:24:39,020 --> 00:24:43,690

And I really basically sort
of put Judaism out of my life

425

00:24:43,690 --> 00:24:45,970

completely, really, basically.

426

00:24:45,970 --> 00:24:49,540

I had no contact
with anybody Jewish.

427

00:24:49,540 --> 00:24:55,300

My entire life was centered
around the Presbyterian Church.

428

00:24:55,300 --> 00:24:58,360

And I met this
woman, and decided,

429

00:24:58,360 --> 00:25:02,410

after courting her for about
six months, to get married.

430

00:25:02,410 --> 00:25:07,840

And we did get
married back in Ohio,

431

00:25:07,840 --> 00:25:09,610

where her family was from.

432

00:25:09,610 --> 00:25:12,910

I sort of insisted on
meeting her family,

433

00:25:12,910 --> 00:25:17,740
and going back to her hometown,
and getting married there.

434

00:25:17,740 --> 00:25:20,920
At a Presbyterian
Church, of course.

435

00:25:20,920 --> 00:25:27,520
And never really opened up to
my wife about much of anything

436

00:25:27,520 --> 00:25:29,290
in my life.

437

00:25:29,290 --> 00:25:32,890
I think, I basically
was very, very fearful

438

00:25:32,890 --> 00:25:37,280
of disclosing anything about
my Jewish life to anybody,

439

00:25:37,280 --> 00:25:39,640
including my future wife.

440

00:25:39,640 --> 00:25:42,910
So that unfortunately,
my wife really basically

441

00:25:42,910 --> 00:25:45,430
knew very little
about my background

442

00:25:45,430 --> 00:25:48,890
and what I had gone through in
South America, or in England,

443

00:25:48,890 --> 00:25:50,300
or Germany.

444

00:25:50,300 --> 00:25:53,870

I just simply was
not going to open up

445

00:25:53,870 --> 00:25:57,110

about my experiences
of being a Jew

446

00:25:57,110 --> 00:26:00,050

or being the
so-called dirty Jew.

447

00:26:00,050 --> 00:26:04,850

That was so ingrained in me
that I just simply, I'm sure,

448

00:26:04,850 --> 00:26:09,080

wanted to put this totally
out of my life forever.

449

00:26:09,080 --> 00:26:15,570

And I just did not want to touch
on that subject ever again.

450

00:26:15,570 --> 00:26:18,170

And so she knew nothing
about it, practically.

451

00:26:18,170 --> 00:26:20,700

Of course, she knew that
I had a Jewish background

452

00:26:20,700 --> 00:26:24,350

and that I had converted
in the Presbyterian Church.

453

00:26:24,350 --> 00:26:26,960

And that was good enough
for her, I'm sure.

454

00:26:26,960 --> 00:26:30,200

And in fact, I was
really basically

455

00:26:30,200 --> 00:26:32,705

the one who talked her into
attending church with me

456

00:26:32,705 --> 00:26:33,770

and becoming involved.

457

00:26:33,770 --> 00:26:36,410

She had no involvement at all.

458

00:26:36,410 --> 00:26:38,300

But I insisted on it.

459

00:26:38,300 --> 00:26:40,730

And so she became--

460

00:26:40,730 --> 00:26:44,180

at least she attended with me.

461

00:26:44,180 --> 00:26:49,440

Then, of course I had my
next unfortunate experience.

462

00:26:49,440 --> 00:26:55,760

And that was that I was
getting a divorce a few years

463

00:26:55,760 --> 00:26:57,320

after being married.

464

00:26:57,320 --> 00:27:04,550

And it was a divorce that I
really basically to this day

465

00:27:04,550 --> 00:27:09,000

never quite understood
how it came about.

466

00:27:09,000 --> 00:27:16,160

It basically happened that we
had gone to Europe one year

467

00:27:16,160 --> 00:27:17,930
together.

468

00:27:17,930 --> 00:27:20,780
We were shortly
married and decided

469

00:27:20,780 --> 00:27:22,430
to take a vacation in Europe.

470

00:27:22,430 --> 00:27:25,520
And we went to Europe for
eight weeks and came back.

471

00:27:25,520 --> 00:27:29,090
And then the following
year, we decided that--

472

00:27:29,090 --> 00:27:31,400
my wife was a
school psychologist

473

00:27:31,400 --> 00:27:35,370
in the Oakland school district,
and I was teaching at the time.

474

00:27:35,370 --> 00:27:38,510
So we both had our
vacations at the same time,

475

00:27:38,510 --> 00:27:40,170
during the summer months.

476

00:27:40,170 --> 00:27:42,440
So the next summer
we decided that we

477

00:27:42,440 --> 00:27:46,340
would have the in-laws come
out from Ohio to visit us.

478

00:27:46,340 --> 00:27:48,560

And we thought we would
spend the whole summer

479
00:27:48,560 --> 00:27:51,110
with the in-laws here.

480
00:27:51,110 --> 00:27:53,780
They all had a great deal
of interest in fishing.

481
00:27:53,780 --> 00:27:55,460
And my wife enjoyed fishing.

482
00:27:55,460 --> 00:27:57,260
And she introduced
me to fishing.

483
00:27:57,260 --> 00:27:58,550
And I got very excited.

484
00:27:58,550 --> 00:28:02,150
And so the plans were to go
fishing for the whole summer,

485
00:28:02,150 --> 00:28:04,190
basically, with the in-laws.

486
00:28:04,190 --> 00:28:06,530
Well, what happened
was that they came,

487
00:28:06,530 --> 00:28:09,500
the in-laws came
out to visit us.

488
00:28:09,500 --> 00:28:14,090
And I thought that the first
few days were very happy.

489
00:28:14,090 --> 00:28:24,560
But I suddenly got a divorce
with my in-laws being out here.

490

00:28:24,560 --> 00:28:30,770

And of course, it
didn't just happen

491

00:28:30,770 --> 00:28:33,050

without anything happening.

492

00:28:33,050 --> 00:28:37,670

But I don't know whether
the in-laws and my wife

493

00:28:37,670 --> 00:28:39,950

had this all preplanned or not.

494

00:28:39,950 --> 00:28:42,140

I really am not quite sure.

495

00:28:42,140 --> 00:28:45,290

But one night, after
them being out here,

496

00:28:45,290 --> 00:28:48,440

I had a little argument
with my father-in-law.

497

00:28:48,440 --> 00:28:55,640

And you know, we were at the
point of starting a family.

498

00:28:55,640 --> 00:28:57,740

We wanted very much
to have a family.

499

00:28:57,740 --> 00:29:01,280

And my wife had quit her
job with the Oakland School

500

00:29:01,280 --> 00:29:02,150

District.

501

00:29:02,150 --> 00:29:04,520

And we were looking at homes.

502

00:29:04,520 --> 00:29:06,680

And we wanted to start a family.

503

00:29:06,680 --> 00:29:09,590

And I had a little argument
with my father-in-law.

504

00:29:09,590 --> 00:29:13,940

And he didn't like
this argument maybe,

505

00:29:13,940 --> 00:29:18,710

or he sort of confronted me,
and the thought of maybe--

506

00:29:18,710 --> 00:29:20,720

gave me to understand
that maybe I

507

00:29:20,720 --> 00:29:24,050

should consider not
having any children

508

00:29:24,050 --> 00:29:26,720

because maybe there
were some problems here.

509

00:29:26,720 --> 00:29:32,210

But anyway, my in-laws,
very quickly that night,

510

00:29:32,210 --> 00:29:36,050

decided with my wife to leave.

511

00:29:36,050 --> 00:29:39,740

And I did not know
what was happening.

512

00:29:39,740 --> 00:29:42,800

And the following
day, I realized,

513

00:29:42,800 --> 00:29:47,660
after seeing them at a bank
where we had our bank accounts.

514

00:29:47,660 --> 00:29:52,280
I finally realized that I was
getting a divorce initiated

515

00:29:52,280 --> 00:29:55,490
by my in-laws and by my wife.

516

00:29:55,490 --> 00:30:01,610
And of course, that was a
very tragic event in my life.

517

00:30:01,610 --> 00:30:05,930
And I was very, very--

518

00:30:05,930 --> 00:30:10,340
well, I was devastated
at the time.

519

00:30:10,340 --> 00:30:13,970
And I didn't understand
exactly what was really

520

00:30:13,970 --> 00:30:16,160
going on behind their
minds and the reasons

521

00:30:16,160 --> 00:30:19,520
for it when we
were beginning to--

522

00:30:19,520 --> 00:30:24,080
thinking about a family and her
already having quit her job.

523

00:30:24,080 --> 00:30:25,820
But anyway, I did get it.

524

00:30:25,820 --> 00:30:28,520

I got a divorce.

525

00:30:28,520 --> 00:30:34,970

And the in-laws
stayed with my wife,

526

00:30:34,970 --> 00:30:38,000

apparently, for a long
period until the divorce was

527

00:30:38,000 --> 00:30:38,930

finalized.

528

00:30:38,930 --> 00:30:43,550

And then the in-laws went back
to their hometown in Ohio.

529

00:30:43,550 --> 00:30:49,910

And my wife, at that point,
started making contact with me

530

00:30:49,910 --> 00:30:51,020

again.

531

00:30:51,020 --> 00:30:53,240

And maybe she did have
some second thoughts

532

00:30:53,240 --> 00:30:54,770

about the divorce.

533

00:30:54,770 --> 00:30:57,230

But she was very, very
attached to her father.

534

00:30:57,230 --> 00:30:59,640

And I was very
much aware of that.

535

00:30:59,640 --> 00:31:03,630

And obviously, something
must have been going on.

536

00:31:03,630 --> 00:31:07,550

And I already had many
inklings about this,

537

00:31:07,550 --> 00:31:10,220

even already at the time
that we were getting married,

538

00:31:10,220 --> 00:31:17,120

that her father was not going to
let her daughter go that easy.

539

00:31:17,120 --> 00:31:20,330

They were very, very much
attached to each other.

540

00:31:20,330 --> 00:31:22,970

Anyway, the divorce
was finalized.

541

00:31:22,970 --> 00:31:27,530

And I was facing
life alone again,

542

00:31:27,530 --> 00:31:30,770

which was a tragedy
for me, certainly.

543

00:31:30,770 --> 00:31:32,480

Because I was very
much looking forward

544

00:31:32,480 --> 00:31:35,990

to family and home, and
this did not come about.

545

00:31:35,990 --> 00:31:38,780

546

00:31:38,780 --> 00:31:47,480

But this was now about
1970 to 1971 or thereabouts

547

00:31:47,480 --> 00:31:49,880
when the divorce was finalized.

548

00:31:49,880 --> 00:31:53,930
And the good thing that
came out of the divorce

549

00:31:53,930 --> 00:31:59,000
was that I decided
that I wanted to have

550

00:31:59,000 --> 00:32:01,910
a little better
understanding of my life,

551

00:32:01,910 --> 00:32:04,700
and my contact
with Christianity,

552

00:32:04,700 --> 00:32:06,540
and my involvement there.

553

00:32:06,540 --> 00:32:09,270
And I decided after
my divorce that I

554

00:32:09,270 --> 00:32:13,670
would want to get
some counseling

555

00:32:13,670 --> 00:32:17,510
and contacted the Jewish Family
Services in the Bay Area.

556

00:32:17,510 --> 00:32:22,250
And they came up with a
recommendation of somebody

557

00:32:22,250 --> 00:32:23,600
that I could see.

558

00:32:23,600 --> 00:32:26,480

And it proved, in a
sense, to be a life saver.

559
00:32:26,480 --> 00:32:31,010
Because I finally
realized, or at least got

560
00:32:31,010 --> 00:32:36,590
a little better understanding,
why I had joined the church

561
00:32:36,590 --> 00:32:39,560
and why I became
involved in Christianity.

562
00:32:39,560 --> 00:32:43,040
And I also suddenly realized
that that certainly was not

563
00:32:43,040 --> 00:32:49,730
my place, and that I
certainly needed to come back

564
00:32:49,730 --> 00:32:50,930
where I started out.

565
00:32:50,930 --> 00:32:52,340
And I did.

566
00:32:52,340 --> 00:32:56,090
I contacted-- of course,
I had some very--

567
00:32:56,090 --> 00:32:59,420
I was full of guilt
feelings about it.

568
00:32:59,420 --> 00:33:00,830
Tremendous guilt feelings.

569
00:33:00,830 --> 00:33:04,360
And I said, well, I can't
just wander into the synagogue

570
00:33:04,360 --> 00:33:06,320
and become a Jew again.

571
00:33:06,320 --> 00:33:09,800
So I decided to contact
one of the local rabbis

572
00:33:09,800 --> 00:33:11,150
here in Berkeley.

573
00:33:11,150 --> 00:33:15,140
And I remember very well,
it was Rabbi Abrami at one

574
00:33:15,140 --> 00:33:17,780
of the Jewish congregations
here in Berkeley.

575
00:33:17,780 --> 00:33:19,970
Because I knew that
he was from Europe.

576
00:33:19,970 --> 00:33:21,740
And he came recommended to me.

577
00:33:21,740 --> 00:33:24,530
And I decided to get an
appointment with him.

578
00:33:24,530 --> 00:33:27,350
And I talked it over with
Rabbi Abrami, and said,

579
00:33:27,350 --> 00:33:30,800
this is what I've done, this
is where I want to be now.

580
00:33:30,800 --> 00:33:33,920
And he assured me that
everything was fine,

581

00:33:33,920 --> 00:33:38,720
and that I should not feel
guilty about anything,

582
00:33:38,720 --> 00:33:42,020
and that I basically, as
far as he was concerned,

583
00:33:42,020 --> 00:33:44,400
never left Judaism.

584
00:33:44,400 --> 00:33:45,140
Excuse me.

585
00:33:45,140 --> 00:33:45,670
Out of time.

586
00:33:45,670 --> 00:33:46,170
Bad timing.

587
00:33:46,170 --> 00:33:47,200
I'm sorry.

588
00:33:47,200 --> 00:33:49,700
You're right.

589
00:33:49,700 --> 00:33:52,948
That's pretty good that
it lasted that long.

590
00:33:52,948 --> 00:33:55,490
I'm not sure whether I'm getting
at the stuff that I really--

591
00:33:55,490 --> 00:33:56,700
isn't so relevant.

592
00:33:56,700 --> 00:33:59,690
Oh, that is tremendously
fascinating,

593
00:33:59,690 --> 00:34:03,260

the fact that you as
a Jew could come back.

594
00:34:03,260 --> 00:34:05,900
You didn't have to go
through any kind of ceremony

595
00:34:05,900 --> 00:34:08,969
or anything else.

596
00:34:08,969 --> 00:34:13,147
And that work goes pretty
fast when you have to change.

597
00:34:13,147 --> 00:34:16,909
I've never seen one
of those close up.

598
00:34:16,909 --> 00:34:17,420
OK.

599
00:34:17,420 --> 00:34:18,037
I do think.

600
00:34:18,037 --> 00:34:19,870
I could tell you exactly
where you left off.

601
00:34:19,870 --> 00:34:21,090
Yeah, I remember it.

602
00:34:21,090 --> 00:34:21,710
OK.

603
00:34:21,710 --> 00:34:25,040
So rabbi-- I had some sessions
with Rabbi Abrami here.

604
00:34:25,040 --> 00:34:28,580
He was extremely
warm-hearted towards me

605

00:34:28,580 --> 00:34:31,760
and assured me that
everything was fine.

606
00:34:31,760 --> 00:34:35,150
And that I really, basically,
as far as Judaism concerned,

607
00:34:35,150 --> 00:34:36,750
never left Judaism.

608
00:34:36,750 --> 00:34:38,630
And I should not feel guilty.

609
00:34:38,630 --> 00:34:41,150
And that I would be
fully accepted again

610
00:34:41,150 --> 00:34:42,980
into the Jewish community.

611
00:34:42,980 --> 00:34:47,600
And I decided to join the Temple
Isaiah in Lafayette, a Reform

612
00:34:47,600 --> 00:34:48,920
congregation.

613
00:34:48,920 --> 00:34:52,159
And was very, very happy there.

614
00:34:52,159 --> 00:34:58,190
Although, again, I was having a
certain amount of difficulties

615
00:34:58,190 --> 00:34:59,070
experience.

616
00:34:59,070 --> 00:35:04,490
And I got myself involved quite
actively at Temple Isaiah,

617

00:35:04,490 --> 00:35:09,230
in the sense that I was a member
of several committees there,

618
00:35:09,230 --> 00:35:13,010
and wanted to
participate, and did.

619
00:35:13,010 --> 00:35:17,210
But I also joined a Havurah
group, which met once a month

620
00:35:17,210 --> 00:35:21,530
there, which I thought
of very highly.

621
00:35:21,530 --> 00:35:26,030
But my next experience
at the Temple Isaiah

622
00:35:26,030 --> 00:35:30,620
was that I did not
fully participate

623
00:35:30,620 --> 00:35:36,740
in all the activities that the
Havurah decided to undertake.

624
00:35:36,740 --> 00:35:39,650
And basically, they
met once a month,

625
00:35:39,650 --> 00:35:42,050
and I went to all
of those meetings.

626
00:35:42,050 --> 00:35:46,900
But they then decided to take a
weekend or a couple of weekends

627
00:35:46,900 --> 00:35:48,170
away from the Bay Area.

628

00:35:48,170 --> 00:35:50,830
And they wanted to go
up to the mountains

629
00:35:50,830 --> 00:35:54,850
and undertake some Jewish
project in the Gold Country,

630
00:35:54,850 --> 00:35:56,350
I believe it was.

631
00:35:56,350 --> 00:35:59,840
And I felt a little
uncomfortable being single.

632
00:35:59,840 --> 00:36:01,840
And this was a couple's group.

633
00:36:01,840 --> 00:36:04,930
I felt a little
uncomfortable and decided

634
00:36:04,930 --> 00:36:08,350
that I was not going to partake
that weekend with the Havurah

635
00:36:08,350 --> 00:36:10,720
group.

636
00:36:10,720 --> 00:36:15,370
When I didn't go on
the weekend trip,

637
00:36:15,370 --> 00:36:18,250
I was suddenly notified
the following week

638
00:36:18,250 --> 00:36:21,460
by one of the members
of the Havurah group

639
00:36:21,460 --> 00:36:26,170
that I was not

fully participating

640

00:36:26,170 --> 00:36:28,750

with all the others in
everything they did,

641

00:36:28,750 --> 00:36:30,940

and that the members
felt that maybe I should

642

00:36:30,940 --> 00:36:33,280

look for another Havurah group.

643

00:36:33,280 --> 00:36:37,690

Well I took that
somewhat very personal.

644

00:36:37,690 --> 00:36:40,660

And I was a little bit shook up.

645

00:36:40,660 --> 00:36:45,940

And I decided just
instantaneously--

646

00:36:45,940 --> 00:36:48,940

I think I probably had a
little bit of an overreaction--

647

00:36:48,940 --> 00:36:52,060

and decided to leave
the congregation.

648

00:36:52,060 --> 00:36:54,220

Because I said, you
know, just because I

649

00:36:54,220 --> 00:36:56,830

didn't go on a weekend
with a Havurah group,

650

00:36:56,830 --> 00:36:59,500

that they were sort of--
asked me to leave and look

651
00:36:59,500 --> 00:37:01,900
for elsewhere.

652
00:37:01,900 --> 00:37:07,960
I said to myself, that
was a little bit too much.

653
00:37:07,960 --> 00:37:12,940
And I thought that I didn't want
to stay in this congregation.

654
00:37:12,940 --> 00:37:18,160
But I did begin to join many
other Jewish groups in the Bay

655
00:37:18,160 --> 00:37:24,820
Area again, and left
the church, and stopped

656
00:37:24,820 --> 00:37:26,380
attending the church.

657
00:37:26,380 --> 00:37:29,320
And even though I had
transferred my membership--

658
00:37:29,320 --> 00:37:31,480
I moved from the Berkeley area.

659
00:37:31,480 --> 00:37:34,570
I finally moved to Walnut
Creek after my divorce

660
00:37:34,570 --> 00:37:36,550
because I taught out there.

661
00:37:36,550 --> 00:37:39,250
They transferred my membership
first to another Presbyterian

662
00:37:39,250 --> 00:37:40,630

Church out there.

663

00:37:40,630 --> 00:37:46,040

But I then attended,
during my counseling,

664

00:37:46,040 --> 00:37:50,680

then I started attending many
Jewish organizations in the Bay

665

00:37:50,680 --> 00:37:55,060

Area, and felt this is
where I wanted to be.

666

00:37:55,060 --> 00:38:00,010

And even though I had somewhat
of an unfortunate experience

667

00:38:00,010 --> 00:38:05,560

at Temple Isiah, I still
thought that this was my place,

668

00:38:05,560 --> 00:38:12,100

and continued attending
many Jewish groups,

669

00:38:12,100 --> 00:38:14,560

both in San Francisco
and the East Bay.

670

00:38:14,560 --> 00:38:17,590

And became very involved
in many of them.

671

00:38:17,590 --> 00:38:21,400

And suddenly realized
that my 20 years

672

00:38:21,400 --> 00:38:25,870

that I spent in the church,
you know, that there, I'm sure,

673

00:38:25,870 --> 00:38:30,730

were some very good reasons
at the time for my being part

674
00:38:30,730 --> 00:38:31,510
of all of that.

675
00:38:31,510 --> 00:38:35,230
But I suddenly
got what I thought

676
00:38:35,230 --> 00:38:38,530
to have some understanding
why I did what I did.

677
00:38:38,530 --> 00:38:41,740
And that I certainly wanted to
be part of the Jewish community

678
00:38:41,740 --> 00:38:43,060
again.

679
00:38:43,060 --> 00:38:48,700
And I think that
I'm coming somewhat

680
00:38:48,700 --> 00:38:50,930
to the end of my story.

681
00:38:50,930 --> 00:38:56,950
I do not belong to any
congregation right now.

682
00:38:56,950 --> 00:39:01,780
And that's been a little bit
of a disappointment to me,

683
00:39:01,780 --> 00:39:06,520
personally, that I have
not joined a congregation.

684
00:39:06,520 --> 00:39:10,420
I have tried to rejoin
Temple Isaiah again.

685
00:39:10,420 --> 00:39:13,600
And I was a little
bit turned off

686
00:39:13,600 --> 00:39:20,440
because of some exorbitant
fees that they asked of me

687
00:39:20,440 --> 00:39:22,630
in order for me to join there.

688
00:39:22,630 --> 00:39:25,030
And so up to this
point, I really

689
00:39:25,030 --> 00:39:29,020
haven't found a place
in a congregation.

690
00:39:29,020 --> 00:39:32,020
But I'm sure that now
that I'm retired--

691
00:39:32,020 --> 00:39:34,520
I retired from my
former teaching career

692
00:39:34,520 --> 00:39:42,520
I taught for 26 years and
retired in June of 1989.

693
00:39:42,520 --> 00:39:45,220
And finally, now that I'm a
little more relaxed again,

694
00:39:45,220 --> 00:39:48,400
and don't have the pressure
of facing 180 high school

695
00:39:48,400 --> 00:39:52,710
children every day, I'm sure
that I will have time now

696
00:39:52,710 --> 00:39:59,530
to look into a congregation
where I can feel part,

697
00:39:59,530 --> 00:40:04,450
and where I can be part
of the Jewish community.

698
00:40:04,450 --> 00:40:07,150

699
00:40:07,150 --> 00:40:09,770
How about your mother?

700
00:40:09,770 --> 00:40:10,270
Oh, yes.

701
00:40:10,270 --> 00:40:11,710
Yes, let's hear that.

702
00:40:11,710 --> 00:40:16,300
Well, my mother continued
living in South America,

703
00:40:16,300 --> 00:40:19,780
in Chile, until about 1970.

704
00:40:19,780 --> 00:40:23,980
And at that time, elections
in Chile were taking place,

705
00:40:23,980 --> 00:40:25,600
or were about to take place.

706
00:40:25,600 --> 00:40:30,220
And Allende was one
of the front-runners.

707
00:40:30,220 --> 00:40:36,140
Allende was a socialist and was
front-runner in that election.

708

00:40:36,140 --> 00:40:40,780

And the opinion, the public
opinion in Chile at the time

709

00:40:40,780 --> 00:40:44,680

was that he would be the
one to come out ahead

710

00:40:44,680 --> 00:40:46,380

in that election.

711

00:40:46,380 --> 00:40:52,710

The Jewish community reacted
very negatively towards Allende

712

00:40:52,710 --> 00:40:55,530

because they thought,
basically, that he

713

00:40:55,530 --> 00:41:00,870

was number one, going to take
over all the property that Jews

714

00:41:00,870 --> 00:41:01,740

had acquired.

715

00:41:01,740 --> 00:41:04,500

And of course, many
Jewish families

716

00:41:04,500 --> 00:41:07,950

had become very
well-to-do in Chile,

717

00:41:07,950 --> 00:41:10,770

and owned a lot
of the factories,

718

00:41:10,770 --> 00:41:12,540

and a lot of the industries.

719

00:41:12,540 --> 00:41:15,990
And the fear spread that
with Allende's possibility

720
00:41:15,990 --> 00:41:19,560
of coming into power,
that number one,

721
00:41:19,560 --> 00:41:22,830
he would certainly take over all
the property that Jews owned.

722
00:41:22,830 --> 00:41:25,960
And number two, Jews even
feared for their lives.

723
00:41:25,960 --> 00:41:32,070
And there were rumors around
that the Allende politicians

724
00:41:32,070 --> 00:41:36,630
had lists of names on there,
including many prominent names

725
00:41:36,630 --> 00:41:38,730
from the Jewish community.

726
00:41:38,730 --> 00:41:42,180
People that he was
planning to do away with.

727
00:41:42,180 --> 00:41:45,300
And the Jewish
community basically

728
00:41:45,300 --> 00:41:47,760
panicked, including my mother.

729
00:41:47,760 --> 00:41:52,320
And many decided already, prior
to the election and Allende,

730
00:41:52,320 --> 00:41:54,360

which I believe
took place in 1970.

731
00:41:54,360 --> 00:41:56,560
Many decided to leave.

732
00:41:56,560 --> 00:42:00,660
And my mother did not want
to come to the United States,

733
00:42:00,660 --> 00:42:03,250
even though I
suggested it to her.

734
00:42:03,250 --> 00:42:07,740
I probably think that she
felt that the coming here

735
00:42:07,740 --> 00:42:11,070
was too difficult
a step for her,

736
00:42:11,070 --> 00:42:15,360
not knowing the language
fluently, and making a new life

737
00:42:15,360 --> 00:42:19,170
here, my mother already
being in her late 60s.

738
00:42:19,170 --> 00:42:24,450
And so my mother, together
with many other German Jews,

739
00:42:24,450 --> 00:42:27,120
who had lived in Chile
for all these years.

740
00:42:27,120 --> 00:42:28,950
About 30 years they
had lived there.

741
00:42:28,950 --> 00:42:30,540

They decided, a
lot of them decided

742
00:42:30,540 --> 00:42:33,480
to go back to Germany,
where I believe

743
00:42:33,480 --> 00:42:37,890
they were covered under
German social security,

744
00:42:37,890 --> 00:42:39,630
and they had Medicare available.

745
00:42:39,630 --> 00:42:43,620
And of course, many Jews were
getting reparations, including

746
00:42:43,620 --> 00:42:46,530
my mother, and were
getting pensions

747
00:42:46,530 --> 00:42:48,390
from the German government.

748
00:42:48,390 --> 00:42:54,840
And my mother's marriage
did not turn out.

749
00:42:54,840 --> 00:43:00,600
And she separated already very
early after getting married.

750
00:43:00,600 --> 00:43:02,610
They were not
together a long time

751
00:43:02,610 --> 00:43:04,620
so that my mother
was alone again.

752
00:43:04,620 --> 00:43:09,480
So basically, just prior to the

election of Allende in Chile,

753

00:43:09,480 --> 00:43:11,880

my mother, with
many other families,

754

00:43:11,880 --> 00:43:14,820

decided to go back to Germany.

755

00:43:14,820 --> 00:43:20,070

And many of them
decided to go on to one

756

00:43:20,070 --> 00:43:23,760

of the well-known
Jewish homes in Germany.

757

00:43:23,760 --> 00:43:26,310

There were a number of
Jewish homes in Germany

758

00:43:26,310 --> 00:43:27,960

that became quite known.

759

00:43:27,960 --> 00:43:37,050

And my mother decided to go to
Neustadt an der Weinstrasse,

760

00:43:37,050 --> 00:43:39,960

which was located
near Mannheim, where

761

00:43:39,960 --> 00:43:43,410

a very wonderful Jewish
home was located.

762

00:43:43,410 --> 00:43:51,330

And she settled there with
other families also from Chile.

763

00:43:51,330 --> 00:43:55,950

And I managed to
visit her there once.

764

00:43:55,950 --> 00:44:01,110

And we spent some time
together both at the home,

765

00:44:01,110 --> 00:44:06,510

and then also spent a vacation
together in Switzerland.

766

00:44:06,510 --> 00:44:08,670

But my mother felt that
she was somewhat too

767

00:44:08,670 --> 00:44:15,840

young for that home, and decided
to change, and leave the home.

768

00:44:15,840 --> 00:44:19,200

And settled in the town
of Wiesbaden, which

769

00:44:19,200 --> 00:44:22,590

is a lovely little resort town.

770

00:44:22,590 --> 00:44:25,710

Well-known German resort
town near Frankfurt,

771

00:44:25,710 --> 00:44:30,210

where many other families
from Chile had settled also.

772

00:44:30,210 --> 00:44:32,460

And she moved to Wiesbaden.

773

00:44:32,460 --> 00:44:38,310

And managed to get an apartment
there, a one-room apartment.

774

00:44:38,310 --> 00:44:43,590

And of course, she
enjoyed it in the sense

775

00:44:43,590 --> 00:44:46,320

that there were many
other families there

776

00:44:46,320 --> 00:44:49,200

with whom she had
basically lived together

777

00:44:49,200 --> 00:44:50,640

for 30 years in Chile.

778

00:44:50,640 --> 00:44:53,260

So there was a whole
Jewish community,

779

00:44:53,260 --> 00:44:56,880

so to speak, there that had
settled back in Wiesbaden.

780

00:44:56,880 --> 00:45:04,470

And unfortunately, in 1978,
I did not see my mother then

781

00:45:04,470 --> 00:45:08,670

for seven or eight years.

782

00:45:08,670 --> 00:45:12,720

My relationship with my
mother was rather strained,

783

00:45:12,720 --> 00:45:14,460

even with correspondence.

784

00:45:14,460 --> 00:45:17,400

It was a very, very
strained relationship

785

00:45:17,400 --> 00:45:19,170

all throughout our life.

786

00:45:19,170 --> 00:45:24,450

And I did not see my

mother after I saw her once

787

00:45:24,450 --> 00:45:25,020
in Germany.

788

00:45:25,020 --> 00:45:28,590
That was in 1970, shortly
after her arrival there.

789

00:45:28,590 --> 00:45:31,060
I did not see her for
about seven or eight years.

790

00:45:31,060 --> 00:45:37,050
And then in 1978, I wanted
to make a visit again

791

00:45:37,050 --> 00:45:38,760
to visit my mother.

792

00:45:38,760 --> 00:45:43,290
And my mother was looking
forward to this visit of mine.

793

00:45:43,290 --> 00:45:46,750
And even suggest--
or I suggested

794

00:45:46,750 --> 00:45:50,020
that I for the first time wanted
to make also a visit to Israel,

795

00:45:50,020 --> 00:45:53,170
and combine the two
trips, and go to Israel.

796

00:45:53,170 --> 00:45:56,800
And my mother had informed me
that she had a lot of family

797

00:45:56,800 --> 00:45:57,850
in Israel.

798

00:45:57,850 --> 00:46:00,250

And that I could visit
the family there,

799

00:46:00,250 --> 00:46:01,700

that she had there.

800

00:46:01,700 --> 00:46:04,000

And she was going to give
me this trip to Israel

801

00:46:04,000 --> 00:46:05,120

as a birthday present.

802

00:46:05,120 --> 00:46:11,140

So I was all set to visit my
mother in the summer of 1978,

803

00:46:11,140 --> 00:46:15,220

and fly to Frankfurt, and
already had my airline ticket

804

00:46:15,220 --> 00:46:16,750

bought, a charter flight.

805

00:46:16,750 --> 00:46:18,880

And my mother made
reservations for me

806

00:46:18,880 --> 00:46:22,930

to go to Israel for three weeks
and visit all of her family

807

00:46:22,930 --> 00:46:23,860

there.

808

00:46:23,860 --> 00:46:29,410

And about four weeks before I
was to fly out San Francisco,

809

00:46:29,410 --> 00:46:38,140

I received a phone call

in the middle of the night

810
00:46:38,140 --> 00:46:46,540
that my mother had been killed
in an automobile accident.

811
00:46:46,540 --> 00:46:50,785
And my phone started
ringing, as I said,

812
00:46:50,785 --> 00:46:51,910
in the middle of the night.

813
00:46:51,910 --> 00:46:54,530
And I usually don't
answer the phone

814
00:46:54,530 --> 00:46:56,140
when my phone starts ringing.

815
00:46:56,140 --> 00:46:59,290
And I didn't answer the
phone until about 4 o'clock

816
00:46:59,290 --> 00:46:59,920
in the morning.

817
00:46:59,920 --> 00:47:01,570
It continued to ring.

818
00:47:01,570 --> 00:47:05,320
And I got onto the phone,
finally, at 4 o'clock.

819
00:47:05,320 --> 00:47:07,420
And there was an American
on the other line.

820
00:47:07,420 --> 00:47:10,150
And I thought, I had
no idea who it was.

821

00:47:10,150 --> 00:47:11,650
And I just hang up.

822
00:47:11,650 --> 00:47:13,990
And then an hour
later, about 5 o'clock,

823
00:47:13,990 --> 00:47:16,100
my phone started ringing again.

824
00:47:16,100 --> 00:47:19,180
And all of a sudden,
a couple from Chile,

825
00:47:19,180 --> 00:47:23,410
who I had known very
well was on the line,

826
00:47:23,410 --> 00:47:30,490
informing me that my mother had
been killed in an automobile

827
00:47:30,490 --> 00:47:31,450
accident.

828
00:47:31,450 --> 00:47:35,350
And that it had happened
already four days ago.

829
00:47:35,350 --> 00:47:39,350
And that my mother had
no identification on her.

830
00:47:39,350 --> 00:47:42,310
She was basically
run over by a car

831
00:47:42,310 --> 00:47:44,530
by a young German
driver who had just

832
00:47:44,530 --> 00:47:46,700
gotten his driver's license.

833
00:47:46,700 --> 00:47:50,270
And my mother had no
identification on her,

834
00:47:50,270 --> 00:47:53,530
and nobody knew
who my mother was.

835
00:47:53,530 --> 00:47:57,910
And finally, the German
police in Wiesbaden

836
00:47:57,910 --> 00:48:00,400
decided to put
some announcements

837
00:48:00,400 --> 00:48:03,940
in the German newspapers
asking for information

838
00:48:03,940 --> 00:48:06,160
about my mother.

839
00:48:06,160 --> 00:48:10,000
And nobody responded
until the police

840
00:48:10,000 --> 00:48:14,230
decided to look at my
mother's house key.

841
00:48:14,230 --> 00:48:17,440
And the house key
had a number on it.

842
00:48:17,440 --> 00:48:21,535
And the German police decided to
publish the number of the house

843
00:48:21,535 --> 00:48:23,710
key in the paper.

844

00:48:23,710 --> 00:48:28,240

And sure enough,
suddenly, the manager

845

00:48:28,240 --> 00:48:32,680

where my mother had
an apartment building

846

00:48:32,680 --> 00:48:35,440

discovered the article in
the newspaper, the house

847

00:48:35,440 --> 00:48:36,070

key number.

848

00:48:36,070 --> 00:48:39,220

And out of curiosity,
decided to check the number

849

00:48:39,220 --> 00:48:42,850

with his records, and discovered
the housekeeper belonged

850

00:48:42,850 --> 00:48:44,140

to my mother.

851

00:48:44,140 --> 00:48:46,930

And so the German
police then went

852

00:48:46,930 --> 00:48:49,010

into my mother's apartment.

853

00:48:49,010 --> 00:48:53,380

And my mother was
very meticulous

854

00:48:53,380 --> 00:49:00,520

and had prepared all
kinds of documents for me

855

00:49:00,520 --> 00:49:01,870

in case of her death.

856

00:49:01,870 --> 00:49:04,990

And the German police
discovered those documents,

857

00:49:04,990 --> 00:49:07,660

and discovered that I
existed in Walnut Creek,

858

00:49:07,660 --> 00:49:11,140

and immediately found
out my phone number,

859

00:49:11,140 --> 00:49:13,180

and notified the
American consul.

860

00:49:13,180 --> 00:49:16,120

And the American consul was
one of the people who called

861

00:49:16,120 --> 00:49:17,530

in the middle of the night.

862

00:49:17,530 --> 00:49:20,140

But I hung up on him
because I thought--

863

00:49:20,140 --> 00:49:23,390

I didn't quite realize what
he was trying to tell me.

864

00:49:23,390 --> 00:49:27,040

And it wasn't until my mother's
friends came on the phone

865

00:49:27,040 --> 00:49:29,950

in early morning, in May.

866

00:49:29,950 --> 00:49:32,710

And of course, then
I realized the minute

867
00:49:32,710 --> 00:49:35,080
I heard my mother's
friends on the phone

868
00:49:35,080 --> 00:49:37,000
that obviously
something had happened.

869
00:49:37,000 --> 00:49:40,870
And sure enough, my mother--

870
00:49:40,870 --> 00:49:43,360
that's when I was informed
that my mother had

871
00:49:43,360 --> 00:49:47,290
been killed in an accident.

872
00:49:47,290 --> 00:49:52,630
And I immediately flew
to Wiesbaden that morning

873
00:49:52,630 --> 00:49:58,990
and settled the
affairs of my mother.

874
00:49:58,990 --> 00:50:04,420
And my mother, shortly
before her death,

875
00:50:04,420 --> 00:50:09,640
had had a visit of her
only sister from Brazil.

876
00:50:09,640 --> 00:50:14,170
My aunt from Brazil had
just visited my mother

877
00:50:14,170 --> 00:50:16,690
and had just left my
mother before her death.

878

00:50:16,690 --> 00:50:18,260

Had gone into Switzerland.

879

00:50:18,260 --> 00:50:22,060

And so I was able to notify
my aunt in Switzerland

880

00:50:22,060 --> 00:50:23,050

what had happened.

881

00:50:23,050 --> 00:50:30,460

And my aunt came
for the funeral.

882

00:50:30,460 --> 00:50:33,280

I managed to locate
my aunt by calling up

883

00:50:33,280 --> 00:50:35,500

South America, her daughter.

884

00:50:35,500 --> 00:50:37,450

And we managed to
locate my aunt,

885

00:50:37,450 --> 00:50:38,680

and she came to the funeral.

886

00:50:38,680 --> 00:50:41,460

887

00:50:41,460 --> 00:50:48,390

Unfortunately, I had a very
unhappy experience with my aunt

888

00:50:48,390 --> 00:50:54,630

at the time that she
came in the sense

889

00:50:54,630 --> 00:51:01,240

that my aunt, for
some strange reason,

890
00:51:01,240 --> 00:51:04,620
thought that the
estate of my mother

891
00:51:04,620 --> 00:51:06,840
should go to her instead of me.

892
00:51:06,840 --> 00:51:09,270
And to her family,
and not to me.

893
00:51:09,270 --> 00:51:13,770
And we barely got through
with my mother's funeral

894
00:51:13,770 --> 00:51:18,480
in Wiesbaden, which was a very
emotional experience for me,

895
00:51:18,480 --> 00:51:21,570
and a very sad experience.

896
00:51:21,570 --> 00:51:25,290
When my aunt approached
me and wanted

897
00:51:25,290 --> 00:51:29,980
to take a look at my mother's
testament and will, and I said,

898
00:51:29,980 --> 00:51:32,220
why don't you come up,
and I'll show it to you.

899
00:51:32,220 --> 00:51:35,190
And my aunt took a
look at the testament,

900
00:51:35,190 --> 00:51:38,400
and my mother, of course,
left everything to me,

901

00:51:38,400 --> 00:51:39,690
being her only child.

902

00:51:39,690 --> 00:51:44,580
And my aunt yelled
out at me, saying

903

00:51:44,580 --> 00:51:47,550
that this is not
my mother's will,

904

00:51:47,550 --> 00:51:49,740
and there must be
some other will.

905

00:51:49,740 --> 00:51:52,980
And there wasn't.

906

00:51:52,980 --> 00:51:59,100
And my aunt left for Switzerland
back to complete her vacation.

907

00:51:59,100 --> 00:52:01,770
And the next thing that
happened to me, basically,

908

00:52:01,770 --> 00:52:06,570
was that I suddenly got a call
from my mother's German lawyer

909

00:52:06,570 --> 00:52:10,020
in Wiesbaden, telling
me that he had received

910

00:52:10,020 --> 00:52:12,600
a letter from my
aunt in Switzerland

911

00:52:12,600 --> 00:52:20,400
in which my aunt was accusing
me of using a false will.

912

00:52:20,400 --> 00:52:23,220

And claiming that the
estate of my mother

913

00:52:23,220 --> 00:52:27,810

should belong to her and
her family, and not me.

914

00:52:27,810 --> 00:52:33,480

Well, I was, of course, in
shock and couldn't disbelieve

915

00:52:33,480 --> 00:52:35,970

that this was my only
living relatives,

916

00:52:35,970 --> 00:52:37,890

my closest living
relatives that had

917

00:52:37,890 --> 00:52:40,380

survived the Jewish Holocaust.

918

00:52:40,380 --> 00:52:42,840

And I was looking
forward to having

919

00:52:42,840 --> 00:52:45,300

a relationship
with my aunt again,

920

00:52:45,300 --> 00:52:47,380

being the closest relative.

921

00:52:47,380 --> 00:52:52,530

And I simply could not believe
what was happening here to me.

922

00:52:52,530 --> 00:52:54,840

But the lawyer,
my mother's lawyer

923

00:52:54,840 --> 00:52:57,600

assured me that he already
wrote back to my aunt,

924
00:52:57,600 --> 00:53:01,920
saying that he wanted no
further correspondence with her

925
00:53:01,920 --> 00:53:02,690
on this matter.

926
00:53:02,690 --> 00:53:05,470

927
00:53:05,470 --> 00:53:07,210
And that was the end of that.

928
00:53:07,210 --> 00:53:09,180
And my aunt went back
to South America.

929
00:53:09,180 --> 00:53:11,550
And then quietly
thought she would just

930
00:53:11,550 --> 00:53:13,260
ignore what she had done.

931
00:53:13,260 --> 00:53:16,800
She basically accused me
of using a false testament.

932
00:53:16,800 --> 00:53:18,840
But she never
mentioned it again.

933
00:53:18,840 --> 00:53:23,130
But I obviously
decided I did not

934
00:53:23,130 --> 00:53:26,820
want to have any more contact
with my aunt in any shape

935

00:53:26,820 --> 00:53:27,940
or form.

936

00:53:27,940 --> 00:53:32,790
Although her daughter,
who is my cousin,

937

00:53:32,790 --> 00:53:36,810
was [? alive, ?] also
lives in Sao Paulo,

938

00:53:36,810 --> 00:53:39,420
probably is not aware of
what happened at the time,

939

00:53:39,420 --> 00:53:41,340
and corresponds with me.

940

00:53:41,340 --> 00:53:46,140
And has visited here once.

941

00:53:46,140 --> 00:53:47,370
You haven't brought it up?

942

00:53:47,370 --> 00:53:50,200
And I decided not to
bring it up either.

943

00:53:50,200 --> 00:53:53,880
So it's basically
a forgotten matter.

944

00:53:53,880 --> 00:53:59,530
But that was the
end of my mother.

945

00:53:59,530 --> 00:54:04,740
And I am now, you know, with--

946

00:54:04,740 --> 00:54:09,120
I mean, I have a lot of the
family mementos at home.

947
00:54:09,120 --> 00:54:12,030
And I'm going
through some of them.

948
00:54:12,030 --> 00:54:16,380
Of course, I have a really
basic, very little knowledge

949
00:54:16,380 --> 00:54:18,150
about my family other than most.

950
00:54:18,150 --> 00:54:23,100
My mother comes from a family of
five sisters, and two of which

951
00:54:23,100 --> 00:54:24,420
survived the Holocaust.

952
00:54:24,420 --> 00:54:27,060
Three did not with their
family and were all

953
00:54:27,060 --> 00:54:29,940
gassed in the German camps.

954
00:54:29,940 --> 00:54:34,380
And since I have no
correspondence with my aunt

955
00:54:34,380 --> 00:54:36,690
and very little
correspondence with my cousin,

956
00:54:36,690 --> 00:54:45,090
I don't have a very good
knowledge about my family past.

957
00:54:45,090 --> 00:54:49,290
And although my
cousin who survived

958

00:54:49,290 --> 00:54:54,480
and lives in Marin County knows
quite a bit about the family.

959
00:54:54,480 --> 00:54:59,616
And from time to time
fills me in whenever I--

960
00:54:59,616 --> 00:55:00,885
What is this relationship?

961
00:55:00,885 --> 00:55:02,460
Is he on your father's side?

962
00:55:02,460 --> 00:55:09,660
No, my cousin Rory, his
mother is my mother's sister.

963
00:55:09,660 --> 00:55:12,060
And she died in the camps.

964
00:55:12,060 --> 00:55:14,490
And he is the only one that
survived the Holocaust.

965
00:55:14,490 --> 00:55:17,880
He lost both of his
parents and his sister.

966
00:55:17,880 --> 00:55:21,760
But he survived being sent out
to Switzerland as a young boy.

967
00:55:21,760 --> 00:55:23,440
And then ended up in England.

968
00:55:23,440 --> 00:55:27,360
And then came out to
California and settled here.

969
00:55:27,360 --> 00:55:33,270
And I think that's about
the end of my story,

970
00:55:33,270 --> 00:55:39,840
at least what I can
recall right now.

971
00:55:39,840 --> 00:55:40,980
Thank you very much.

972
00:55:40,980 --> 00:55:43,530
That is a very
fascinating story.

973
00:55:43,530 --> 00:55:48,540
And I certainly feel
privileged to have heard it.

974
00:55:48,540 --> 00:55:53,680
I think that it bears telling.

975
00:55:53,680 --> 00:55:58,920
And I think it's historically
of great interest, I find.

976
00:55:58,920 --> 00:56:01,020
Because there are
many elements of it

977
00:56:01,020 --> 00:56:04,950
that are fascinating to me.

978
00:56:04,950 --> 00:56:05,590
Great story.

979
00:56:05,590 --> 00:56:06,090
Thank you.

980
00:56:06,090 --> 00:56:06,720
Great story.

981
00:56:06,720 --> 00:56:08,220
Very much.

982

00:56:08,220 --> 00:56:13,440

So we are winding up at about
3:10, something like that.

983

00:56:13,440 --> 00:56:15,705

So we've been just
about two hours.

984

00:56:15,705 --> 00:56:18,340

985

00:56:18,340 --> 00:56:18,890

Great.

986

00:56:18,890 --> 00:56:20,160

Three hours.

987

00:56:20,160 --> 00:56:20,940

Three?

988

00:56:20,940 --> 00:56:23,100

Oh, I mean three.

989

00:56:23,100 --> 00:56:26,600

See, it was so fascinating,
I lost an hour.

990

00:56:26,600 --> 01:02:26,432