

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:01:03,580

2
00:01:03,580 --> 00:01:05,050
There.

3
00:01:05,050 --> 00:01:07,610
Pause.

4
00:01:07,610 --> 00:01:10,160
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

5
00:01:10,160 --> 00:01:12,050
Wait 10 seconds.

6
00:01:12,050 --> 00:01:14,820
I'll give you two.

7
00:01:14,820 --> 00:01:16,520
Any time.

8
00:01:16,520 --> 00:01:17,040
OK.

9
00:01:17,040 --> 00:01:20,280
It's June 19, 1991.

10
00:01:20,280 --> 00:01:24,120
We're at Temple Beth Shalom
interviewing Abraham Grossman

11
00:01:24,120 --> 00:01:26,700
for the Holocaust
Oral History Project.

12
00:01:26,700 --> 00:01:32,010
My name is Peggy Coster and with
me are Tanya Zatkin and John

13
00:01:32,010 --> 00:01:35,200

Grant as the producer.

14
00:01:35,200 --> 00:01:38,370
OK, why don't we
just start out today

15
00:01:38,370 --> 00:01:43,110
by going over who
was in your family?

16
00:01:43,110 --> 00:01:47,520
My family consisted of
my father, my mother,

17
00:01:47,520 --> 00:01:49,300
and four children.

18
00:01:49,300 --> 00:01:52,110
So it was Jacob, the eldest,
and then was Bernard,

19
00:01:52,110 --> 00:01:54,550
and I was the youngest son.

20
00:01:54,550 --> 00:01:57,717
And there was one girl
by the name of Tzili.

21
00:01:57,717 --> 00:01:59,300
And she was older
or younger than you?

22
00:01:59,300 --> 00:02:00,300
Beg pardon.

23
00:02:00,300 --> 00:02:01,860
She was older a
younger than you?

24
00:02:01,860 --> 00:02:03,780
No, she was the youngest.

25

00:02:03,780 --> 00:02:05,260
And when were you born?

26
00:02:05,260 --> 00:02:10,080
I was born in March 21, 1925,
in GÃ¼strow in the province

27
00:02:10,080 --> 00:02:12,600
of Mecklenburg in
Germany, East Germany.

28
00:02:12,600 --> 00:02:15,000
Could you spell that Gus--

29
00:02:15,000 --> 00:02:21,450
G-U-, two things
on top, S-T-R-O-W.

30
00:02:21,450 --> 00:02:24,510
In the province of Mecklenburg.

31
00:02:24,510 --> 00:02:25,980
OK.

32
00:02:25,980 --> 00:02:30,690
Was there a lot of years between
your older brothers and you?

33
00:02:30,690 --> 00:02:34,800
My eldest brother
was born in 1920.

34
00:02:34,800 --> 00:02:38,190
Bernard, the middle
brother, was born in 1923.

35
00:02:38,190 --> 00:02:41,490
And I, as I mentioned
before, in 1925.

36
00:02:41,490 --> 00:02:50,040
My sister was born in 1930.

37

00:02:50,040 --> 00:02:53,970

What did your father
do for a living?

38

00:02:53,970 --> 00:03:00,230

My father was-- he had a
shop where he sold everything

39

00:03:00,230 --> 00:03:07,590

to the surrounding villages
and the agricultural workers.

40

00:03:07,590 --> 00:03:11,930

But he also
manufactured jackboots,

41

00:03:11,930 --> 00:03:13,580

the shafts of the
boots, and then

42

00:03:13,580 --> 00:03:17,990

he had them, the lower parts,
he had them made by a shoemaker.

43

00:03:17,990 --> 00:03:20,270

So we used to carry
them to the shoemaker,

44

00:03:20,270 --> 00:03:24,170

and he used to attach the lower
part the sole and then they

45

00:03:24,170 --> 00:03:26,900

were sold to either
in the shop or even

46

00:03:26,900 --> 00:03:33,230

they were sold in quantity
to surrounding shops.

47

00:03:33,230 --> 00:03:35,990

These jackboots, are they
same ones that the Nazis wore?

48
00:03:35,990 --> 00:03:37,670
Exactly the same.

49
00:03:37,670 --> 00:03:40,130
They look the same exactly.

50
00:03:40,130 --> 00:03:42,380
Did he sell any to the Nazis?

51
00:03:42,380 --> 00:03:44,210
Well, the Germans,
I suppose, were

52
00:03:44,210 --> 00:03:48,800
members of the Social
Democratic Party.

53
00:03:48,800 --> 00:03:51,170
And they were all
Nazis, I suppose.

54
00:03:51,170 --> 00:03:55,040
And whoever came into the
shop, they were sold to.

55
00:03:55,040 --> 00:03:57,138
So you didn't sell
them to the army?

56
00:03:57,138 --> 00:03:59,180
No, they were-- he had no
contracts with the army

57
00:03:59,180 --> 00:04:01,800
whatsoever, but he sold a lot.

58
00:04:01,800 --> 00:04:03,800
I remember he used
to sell them--

59
00:04:03,800 --> 00:04:05,690

even there were sometimes fairs.

60
00:04:05,690 --> 00:04:08,750
So he used to put up a stall
and sold them at fairs,

61
00:04:08,750 --> 00:04:12,230
and I know he sold a lot.

62
00:04:12,230 --> 00:04:15,290
So, actually, before
they were the German army

63
00:04:15,290 --> 00:04:18,410
boot or whatever, they were
just the ordinary German boots?

64
00:04:18,410 --> 00:04:19,130
Yes.

65
00:04:19,130 --> 00:04:22,280
The Germans, I think
it was fashion.

66
00:04:22,280 --> 00:04:25,070
Many workers in
certain professions

67
00:04:25,070 --> 00:04:27,710
used to wear those
kind of boots,

68
00:04:27,710 --> 00:04:30,500
so I don't think it had
any kind of connection,

69
00:04:30,500 --> 00:04:32,600
Actually, with the Nazis.

70
00:04:32,600 --> 00:04:35,180
They were just born in
Germany in those days.

71

00:04:35,180 --> 00:04:40,650

72

00:04:40,650 --> 00:04:43,410

Were you raised in that town?

73

00:04:43,410 --> 00:04:45,750

I was born in that town, and I lived there

74

00:04:45,750 --> 00:04:49,670

until the age of either 11 or 12, I don't remember.

75

00:04:49,670 --> 00:04:52,620

I think until 1937.

76

00:04:52,620 --> 00:04:54,210

And I went to school there.

77

00:04:54,210 --> 00:05:00,460

And in 1937, things got so bad, and my father had died in 1936.

78

00:05:00,460 --> 00:05:03,120

So I was sent away to a bigger town,

79

00:05:03,120 --> 00:05:05,910

to the town of Szczecin which is, today, Poland.

80

00:05:05,910 --> 00:05:08,400

It's called Szczecin today.

81

00:05:08,400 --> 00:05:13,860

And I went into a kind of a hostel for boys,

82

00:05:13,860 --> 00:05:19,000

and then I attended a Jewish school in Szczecin

83

00:05:19,000 --> 00:05:21,880

Was the hostel connected
to the boys' school?

84

00:05:21,880 --> 00:05:26,590

Eh, no, not directly, but
the director, he and his wife

85

00:05:26,590 --> 00:05:27,730

taught in the same school.

86

00:05:27,730 --> 00:05:31,720

But it had no connection,
financially or otherwise,

87

00:05:31,720 --> 00:05:33,880

with that school.

88

00:05:33,880 --> 00:05:37,290

How big was the school?

89

00:05:37,290 --> 00:05:41,280

I think maybe between
400 and 600 children?

90

00:05:41,280 --> 00:05:42,960

Quite a big school.

91

00:05:42,960 --> 00:05:45,480

Did all the boys
live in a hostel?

92

00:05:45,480 --> 00:05:46,710

No, no.

93

00:05:46,710 --> 00:05:51,660

The pupils who
attended that school

94

00:05:51,660 --> 00:05:55,260

were from the town who

lived and were probably born

95

00:05:55,260 --> 00:06:01,020
in the same town of Szczecin
and they went to that school.

96

00:06:01,020 --> 00:06:03,150
The only persons who
went out of the town

97

00:06:03,150 --> 00:06:07,350
was the hostel, maybe
50 or 60 children, boys,

98

00:06:07,350 --> 00:06:08,970
and they attended
the same school.

99

00:06:08,970 --> 00:06:13,720

100

00:06:13,720 --> 00:06:15,400
Did you-- when you
were at this school,

101

00:06:15,400 --> 00:06:17,915
that was after the Nazis
already had a lot of power, so--

102

00:06:17,915 --> 00:06:18,415
Yes.

103

00:06:18,415 --> 00:06:21,310
Did you encounter-- and
it was a Jewish school, so

104

00:06:21,310 --> 00:06:23,320
did you encounter a
lot of antisemitism

105

00:06:23,320 --> 00:06:25,120
from the surrounding
townspeople?

106
00:06:25,120 --> 00:06:26,710
Yes, very much so, of course.

107
00:06:26,710 --> 00:06:33,550
I remember the
day when the names

108
00:06:33,550 --> 00:06:35,320
of every male Jewish person--

109
00:06:35,320 --> 00:06:38,560

110
00:06:38,560 --> 00:06:42,100
to his name was added
the name of Israel.

111
00:06:42,100 --> 00:06:43,840
If my name was
Abraham Grossman--

112
00:06:43,840 --> 00:06:46,660
but it was not Abraham in
those days, it was Adolf.

113
00:06:46,660 --> 00:06:48,490
So my name was incongruent.

114
00:06:48,490 --> 00:06:51,190
It was Adolf Israel Grossman.

115
00:06:51,190 --> 00:06:54,850
And the girl had to take the
additional name of Sarah.

116
00:06:54,850 --> 00:06:57,880
If she had her own name,
then Sarah was added.

117
00:06:57,880 --> 00:07:03,698
And that was kind of

a thing to accentuate

118
00:07:03,698 --> 00:07:04,990
the fact that they were Jewish.

119
00:07:04,990 --> 00:07:10,210
It was a kind of a directed way
of making Jews feel that they

120
00:07:10,210 --> 00:07:13,630
are lower than anybody else.

121
00:07:13,630 --> 00:07:17,740
And the antisemitism in the
town was like anywhere else.

122
00:07:17,740 --> 00:07:19,520
I encountered it in the streets.

123
00:07:19,520 --> 00:07:22,270
I encountered it
wherever I went.

124
00:07:22,270 --> 00:07:23,980
We had it all the time.

125
00:07:23,980 --> 00:07:24,820
What specifically?

126
00:07:24,820 --> 00:07:27,160
Were there anything specific?

127
00:07:27,160 --> 00:07:31,540
Well, how can I express myself?

128
00:07:31,540 --> 00:07:32,760
It's the usual things.

129
00:07:32,760 --> 00:07:33,760
You went on the streets.

130

00:07:33,760 --> 00:07:35,135
If somebody knew
you were Jewish,

131
00:07:35,135 --> 00:07:39,490
they used to go and taunt you
and shout and yell after you,

132
00:07:39,490 --> 00:07:42,610
you dirty Jew, whatever.

133
00:07:42,610 --> 00:07:46,120
But I remember the 10th of
November, the Kristallnacht.

134
00:07:46,120 --> 00:07:48,190
I had to go--

135
00:07:48,190 --> 00:07:51,070
on my way to school, I
passed the synagogue,

136
00:07:51,070 --> 00:07:53,170
and the synagogue was in flames.

137
00:07:53,170 --> 00:07:56,840
And I didn't quite know
what to make of it.

138
00:07:56,840 --> 00:07:59,230
So there's a big
crowd there, and I

139
00:07:59,230 --> 00:08:00,400
mingled amongst the crowds.

140
00:08:00,400 --> 00:08:01,450
And I was blond.

141
00:08:01,450 --> 00:08:03,880
I don't think I looked
particularly Jewish,

142

00:08:03,880 --> 00:08:05,500

and nobody took
any notice of me.

143

00:08:05,500 --> 00:08:09,850

And I saw the fire brigade.

144

00:08:09,850 --> 00:08:12,370

They were not putting
the flames out,

145

00:08:12,370 --> 00:08:14,830

but they were trying to keep
the flames from spreading

146

00:08:14,830 --> 00:08:16,510

to the neighboring houses.

147

00:08:16,510 --> 00:08:18,790

And I stood amongst the people.

148

00:08:18,790 --> 00:08:24,490

And I noticed especially that
a young woman holding a baby

149

00:08:24,490 --> 00:08:28,120

in her hand, and she
looked so ordinary.

150

00:08:28,120 --> 00:08:30,070

And I thought maybe
she would have

151

00:08:30,070 --> 00:08:32,980

some compassion on her face that
the House of God was burning,

152

00:08:32,980 --> 00:08:35,559

but not so.

153

00:08:35,559 --> 00:08:38,500

She said-- I remember the

words like today-- she said,

154

00:08:38,500 --> 00:08:42,490

it's about time that the Jews
know what the Germans are,

155

00:08:42,490 --> 00:08:45,940

she said in German because
this is a translation.

156

00:08:45,940 --> 00:08:49,150

But it seems to be--

157

00:08:49,150 --> 00:08:51,190

in my mind, it's
never left me when

158

00:08:51,190 --> 00:08:54,190

she said that because it
made such an impression on me

159

00:08:54,190 --> 00:08:58,060

that a woman holding a baby
would look on and look on

160

00:08:58,060 --> 00:09:01,780

without compassion, without
pity, that a synagogue should

161

00:09:01,780 --> 00:09:02,890

be burning.

162

00:09:02,890 --> 00:09:06,100

And while i was standing
there, an elderly Jew.

163

00:09:06,100 --> 00:09:09,880

In fact, his synagogue was
a conservative synagogue.

164

00:09:09,880 --> 00:09:13,300

It had an organ, and that
was a beautiful synagogue.

165
00:09:13,300 --> 00:09:18,970
And an elderly Jew with
side locks and a beard

166
00:09:18,970 --> 00:09:20,680
came running out
of that synagogue,

167
00:09:20,680 --> 00:09:24,580
out of the burning synagogue,
carrying a Torah scroll.

168
00:09:24,580 --> 00:09:26,150
He saved it from the flames.

169
00:09:26,150 --> 00:09:29,650
And a big, burly SS
man came up to him,

170
00:09:29,650 --> 00:09:32,290
pulled him by the beard,
and threw him on the floor.

171
00:09:32,290 --> 00:09:36,400
And the Torah fell on the
floor, and it opened up.

172
00:09:36,400 --> 00:09:42,850
And he got hold of the elderly
Jew by the scruff of his neck

173
00:09:42,850 --> 00:09:45,520
and commanded him to
dance on the Torah scroll.

174
00:09:45,520 --> 00:09:48,520
And he pulled out a revolver
and held it to his head.

175
00:09:48,520 --> 00:09:51,850
And I was wondering in
my mind, is this person

176
00:09:51,850 --> 00:09:54,430
going to either
die or is he going

177
00:09:54,430 --> 00:09:57,040
to do what he's being told?

178
00:09:57,040 --> 00:10:00,430
But now I understand that
the saving of one's life

179
00:10:00,430 --> 00:10:03,190
is even more important than
the Torah, so he danced.

180
00:10:03,190 --> 00:10:04,930
Like a zombie, he
danced on the Torah

181
00:10:04,930 --> 00:10:07,120
in a very stiff sort of manner.

182
00:10:07,120 --> 00:10:09,770
And it shook me to my
very core when I saw that.

183
00:10:09,770 --> 00:10:11,050
And I was only about--

184
00:10:11,050 --> 00:10:12,370
I had just had bar mitzvah.

185
00:10:12,370 --> 00:10:15,040
I remember because my
tallis and my tefillin

186
00:10:15,040 --> 00:10:18,070
were inside the synagogue,
and they went up in flames.

187
00:10:18,070 --> 00:10:20,180

So I lost those.

188

00:10:20,180 --> 00:10:23,650

And when I looked on
this picture, this man

189

00:10:23,650 --> 00:10:27,970

dancing on the Torah scroll and
this terrible SS man in uniform

190

00:10:27,970 --> 00:10:30,880

and the death skull on his
cap pointing the revolver

191

00:10:30,880 --> 00:10:35,770

at the temple of
this person, I know

192

00:10:35,770 --> 00:10:38,110

that is the day I
became a Zionist.

193

00:10:38,110 --> 00:10:40,810

At the age of 13,
I thought to myself

194

00:10:40,810 --> 00:10:44,830

that if the Jewish people do
not have a state of their own,

195

00:10:44,830 --> 00:10:46,780

if they do not have an
army, if they do not

196

00:10:46,780 --> 00:10:51,250

have their independence,
then something

197

00:10:51,250 --> 00:10:54,070

is wrong with this world.

198

00:10:54,070 --> 00:10:57,280

So I continued and

went to the school,

199

00:10:57,280 --> 00:11:03,100

and everybody apparently
already knew what was happening.

200

00:11:03,100 --> 00:11:07,360

And that very day,
that very time I

201

00:11:07,360 --> 00:11:12,620

came in, the director of
the hostel I lived in,

202

00:11:12,620 --> 00:11:13,640

he gave a lesson.

203

00:11:13,640 --> 00:11:16,080

And he pulled out a book,
and he read a story to us.

204

00:11:16,080 --> 00:11:19,700

He hadn't read even two lines,
suddenly the door burst open,

205

00:11:19,700 --> 00:11:21,920

and two Gestapo men came inside.

206

00:11:21,920 --> 00:11:26,810

You know, typical Gestapo
men, slouch hats and raincoat.

207

00:11:26,810 --> 00:11:30,500

They went straight to
him, pulled the book out

208

00:11:30,500 --> 00:11:33,517

of his hand, and asked,
what are you reading?

209

00:11:33,517 --> 00:11:35,100

And he said, I'm
just reading a story.

210
00:11:35,100 --> 00:11:36,650
So they took the
book and flung it

211
00:11:36,650 --> 00:11:40,670
into the corner in a very most
brutal way, got hold of him,

212
00:11:40,670 --> 00:11:42,020
and dragged him outside.

213
00:11:42,020 --> 00:11:44,660
Outside was a truck
already loaded

214
00:11:44,660 --> 00:11:47,330
with the rest of the
teachers, and they pushed him

215
00:11:47,330 --> 00:11:48,710
onto the truck.

216
00:11:48,710 --> 00:11:52,820
And later on, he was sent to
Sachsenhausen, a concentration

217
00:11:52,820 --> 00:11:53,600
camp.

218
00:11:53,600 --> 00:11:57,680
He was released later, but
he came back somewhat broken

219
00:11:57,680 --> 00:12:00,650
with his hair shorn off.

220
00:12:00,650 --> 00:12:04,400
I was very, very much
affected by this sort of thing

221
00:12:04,400 --> 00:12:08,810

I'd really never encountered
except the thing I just

222

00:12:08,810 --> 00:12:12,440
told about, this Jewish person
who had danced on the Torah.

223

00:12:12,440 --> 00:12:15,270
But, really, I'd never
seen anything like it.

224

00:12:15,270 --> 00:12:18,743
And it affected me
to such an extent

225

00:12:18,743 --> 00:12:19,910
it has really never left me.

226

00:12:19,910 --> 00:12:23,520

227

00:12:23,520 --> 00:12:27,667
When you said that
now you understand

228

00:12:27,667 --> 00:12:29,250
that it's important
to save your life,

229

00:12:29,250 --> 00:12:30,750
does that mean that
at the time, you

230

00:12:30,750 --> 00:12:33,380
felt like a Jewish man shouldn't
have danced on the Torah?

231

00:12:33,380 --> 00:12:40,100
Ah, it's a difficult question,
but I felt, I was praying,

232

00:12:40,100 --> 00:12:42,140
that he would do what

the SS men told him.

233

00:12:42,140 --> 00:12:45,260

I didn't want him, God
forbid, to be shot.

234

00:12:45,260 --> 00:12:47,090

It would have even been worse.

235

00:12:47,090 --> 00:12:50,270

Even now that I'm,
of course, grown up,

236

00:12:50,270 --> 00:12:55,130

I have the same kind of concept,
that it is more important

237

00:12:55,130 --> 00:12:57,230

that life should be saved
than the Torah scroll.

238

00:12:57,230 --> 00:13:00,140

After all, the Torah scroll
is holy to the Jewish people.

239

00:13:00,140 --> 00:13:04,730

We revere it, but I think
life is more important.

240

00:13:04,730 --> 00:13:08,430

The Torah scroll can be
remade, it can be rewritten.

241

00:13:08,430 --> 00:13:11,330

Your life can never be
resurrected ever again.

242

00:13:11,330 --> 00:13:17,070

243

00:13:17,070 --> 00:13:19,747

So the teacher went
ahead and acted

244
00:13:19,747 --> 00:13:22,080
like it was a regular day
even though all this stuff was

245
00:13:22,080 --> 00:13:24,030
going outside?

246
00:13:24,030 --> 00:13:24,842
I'm sorry.

247
00:13:24,842 --> 00:13:26,050
Can you repeat your question?

248
00:13:26,050 --> 00:13:27,508
So the teacher just
kind of went on

249
00:13:27,508 --> 00:13:30,870
and acted like it was a regular
day until the SS men came in?

250
00:13:30,870 --> 00:13:33,762

251
00:13:33,762 --> 00:13:35,182
I'm sorry.

252
00:13:35,182 --> 00:13:37,660
You have to make your--
clarify your question.

253
00:13:37,660 --> 00:13:38,970
I guess I'm thinking--

254
00:13:38,970 --> 00:13:41,902
I guess that's one way of
handling when all this stuff is

255
00:13:41,902 --> 00:13:43,360
going on outside
and there's really

256

00:13:43,360 --> 00:13:46,360

nothing you can do about it,
that's how the teacher handled

257

00:13:46,360 --> 00:13:49,560

it was to just kind of go on
as though it was a regular day,

258

00:13:49,560 --> 00:13:51,560

or did you talk about
what was going on outside?

259

00:13:51,560 --> 00:13:53,860

Oh, no.

260

00:13:53,860 --> 00:13:59,000

I remember I was a
child full of energy.

261

00:13:59,000 --> 00:14:02,410

I was bursting with energy
and was always joyful.

262

00:14:02,410 --> 00:14:04,120

All these things had
no meaning to me.

263

00:14:04,120 --> 00:14:08,230

It absolutely didn't affect me
even though these things were--

264

00:14:08,230 --> 00:14:09,670

First and foremost,
I didn't even

265

00:14:09,670 --> 00:14:13,420

know that other things
were a part of one's life

266

00:14:13,420 --> 00:14:17,350

because since I remember,
we've always been mistreated,

267

00:14:17,350 --> 00:14:20,440
and I thought that's how
the world goes around.

268

00:14:20,440 --> 00:14:23,030
I had no idea that
things were different.

269

00:14:23,030 --> 00:14:26,620
So I was somehow conditioned
to that kind of treatment.

270

00:14:26,620 --> 00:14:29,620
But this particular treatment
was more than I had ever

271

00:14:29,620 --> 00:14:33,370
experienced, so it affected me.

272

00:14:33,370 --> 00:14:39,040
And it affected me in such
a way that it probably

273

00:14:39,040 --> 00:14:44,340
made my life and
my whole concept

274

00:14:44,340 --> 00:14:48,670
of thinking that I wanted
to go to a Jewish state.

275

00:14:48,670 --> 00:14:53,800
And, in fact, in 1948, when
the Jewish state was founded,

276

00:14:53,800 --> 00:14:57,850
I made my way illegally
on a Romanian cattle boat,

277

00:14:57,850 --> 00:15:02,500
and I came to take part
in the War of Liberation.

278

00:15:02,500 --> 00:15:07,040

I took part in that
one and other ones.

279

00:15:07,040 --> 00:15:13,540

But I think this was the
effect that [INAUDIBLE] on me.

280

00:15:13,540 --> 00:15:18,370

I never wavered from it ever,
that I wanted very fervently

281

00:15:18,370 --> 00:15:21,700

a Jewish state, and I put
this into a realization.

282

00:15:21,700 --> 00:15:27,280

I did go, and my two sons were
born there into my country.

283

00:15:27,280 --> 00:15:30,370

You said the SS men acted
like a typical SS man.

284

00:15:30,370 --> 00:15:32,062

What was a typical SS man?

285

00:15:32,062 --> 00:15:34,660

286

00:15:34,660 --> 00:15:37,510

In the town I lived in
GÃ¼strow in Mecklenburg,

287

00:15:37,510 --> 00:15:42,070

which I had mentioned before,
we had a bar opposite our house.

288

00:15:42,070 --> 00:15:46,300

And there were lots of
going on in that bar day

289

00:15:46,300 --> 00:15:49,240
and night, lots of noise.

290

00:15:49,240 --> 00:15:51,020
And I sometimes
used to go in there,

291

00:15:51,020 --> 00:15:52,810
make my way in
there in order to--

292

00:15:52,810 --> 00:15:56,925
I was just a little bit of
a kid who liked excitement.

293

00:15:56,925 --> 00:16:01,210
So I used to go in, and I
saw these people drinking.

294

00:16:01,210 --> 00:16:09,280
The bar was filled with the
aroma of tobacco and beer.

295

00:16:09,280 --> 00:16:11,590
And I saw all these people
drinking and drinking.

296

00:16:11,590 --> 00:16:13,090
And then sometimes
they had a fight.

297

00:16:13,090 --> 00:16:15,215
And sometimes they were
thrown out into the street,

298

00:16:15,215 --> 00:16:16,570
and the policemen came.

299

00:16:16,570 --> 00:16:19,240
All these people
who drank mostly,

300

00:16:19,240 --> 00:16:23,968
and when in 1933,
the SS was founded,

301
00:16:23,968 --> 00:16:25,510
they were the first
to be in uniform.

302
00:16:25,510 --> 00:16:28,810
They became big to us,
big machers. you know,

303
00:16:28,810 --> 00:16:29,970
they felt important.

304
00:16:29,970 --> 00:16:32,410
They had a uniform, and
they had black boots.

305
00:16:32,410 --> 00:16:34,150
And they were given--

306
00:16:34,150 --> 00:16:38,500
probably Hitler and
his stooges, they

307
00:16:38,500 --> 00:16:41,830
needed these kind of
people, these brutal people.

308
00:16:41,830 --> 00:16:46,390
And these were probably
the stereotypes at first.

309
00:16:46,390 --> 00:16:50,020
Later on, many more
went into the SS.

310
00:16:50,020 --> 00:16:53,620

311
00:16:53,620 --> 00:16:58,120
But in the beginning, were those

low types, those drunkards,

312
00:16:58,120 --> 00:16:59,830
those people who had no jobs.

313
00:16:59,830 --> 00:17:01,360
And when they were
given a uniform,

314
00:17:01,360 --> 00:17:03,460
a wonderful black
uniform with a big belt

315
00:17:03,460 --> 00:17:06,069
and a strap across their
chest and a pistol,

316
00:17:06,069 --> 00:17:09,460
and then they felt great, they
felt big, they felt important.

317
00:17:09,460 --> 00:17:13,420

318
00:17:13,420 --> 00:17:16,660
Did they have very many
shows, marches, or--

319
00:17:16,660 --> 00:17:18,970
Oh, yes, very often, very often.

320
00:17:18,970 --> 00:17:23,140
They used to march through
the streets of the town,

321
00:17:23,140 --> 00:17:25,750
the little town I came from.

322
00:17:25,750 --> 00:17:27,700
And they used to sing
those terrible songs

323

00:17:27,700 --> 00:17:30,670
about how they're going
to finish off the Jews.

324
00:17:30,670 --> 00:17:34,120
One particular song
comes to my mind.

325
00:17:34,120 --> 00:17:38,200
It goes something like,
when Jewish blood spurts off

326
00:17:38,200 --> 00:17:38,920
our knives.

327
00:17:38,920 --> 00:17:42,460
I mean, even then,
I realized it's--

328
00:17:42,460 --> 00:17:49,840
I mean, it doesn't
seem even logical to me

329
00:17:49,840 --> 00:17:52,630
that anybody who has
a wife and children

330
00:17:52,630 --> 00:17:57,280
would even think of when Jewish
blood spurts off our knives.

331
00:17:57,280 --> 00:18:00,790
I mean, it seems ludicrous
to me that anybody

332
00:18:00,790 --> 00:18:02,110
would sing such a song.

333
00:18:02,110 --> 00:18:05,080
Where was the decency?

334
00:18:05,080 --> 00:18:07,930
They practiced religion.

335
00:18:07,930 --> 00:18:10,120
Every Sunday, they
went to the church,

336
00:18:10,120 --> 00:18:11,830
and they listened to the pastor.

337
00:18:11,830 --> 00:18:15,740
They sat in the aisles, and
the pastor was in the pulpit,

338
00:18:15,740 --> 00:18:16,717
and he preached.

339
00:18:16,717 --> 00:18:18,550
And I'm sure they kept
the Ten Commandments.

340
00:18:18,550 --> 00:18:20,950
But treating the Jews
in the way they did,

341
00:18:20,950 --> 00:18:24,100
that seemed to be in
a different category.

342
00:18:24,100 --> 00:18:29,290
On the one hand, they kept, I
suppose, a decent family life.

343
00:18:29,290 --> 00:18:31,818
And I'm sure they loved
their wives in most

344
00:18:31,818 --> 00:18:32,860
cases and their children.

345
00:18:32,860 --> 00:18:34,600
And yet, they looked at
the Jews as something

346

00:18:34,600 --> 00:18:35,475
completely different.

347
00:18:35,475 --> 00:18:40,540
They were able to
differentiate between living

348
00:18:40,540 --> 00:18:44,020
a kind of a middle-class,
bourgeois life

349
00:18:44,020 --> 00:18:46,630
and then treating the Jews,
that was a different story.

350
00:18:46,630 --> 00:18:49,887
Now whoever can explain
that, but I'm not able to.

351
00:18:49,887 --> 00:18:51,220
It doesn't make any sense to me.

352
00:18:51,220 --> 00:18:55,650

353
00:18:55,650 --> 00:18:58,110
Do you remember any more
of the "Horst Wessel" song?

354
00:18:58,110 --> 00:18:58,620
Oh, yes.

355
00:18:58,620 --> 00:18:59,720
I know them all.

356
00:18:59,720 --> 00:19:01,668
Can you sing it a little bit?

357
00:19:01,668 --> 00:19:03,150
Yeah, I know.

358
00:19:03,150 --> 00:19:04,160

I can sing it.

359

00:19:04,160 --> 00:19:06,960

I won't sing it to you,
but I'll say it to you.

360

00:19:06,960 --> 00:19:08,910

[SPEAKING GERMAN] in German?

361

00:19:08,910 --> 00:19:10,080

How about in German and--

362

00:19:10,080 --> 00:19:12,300

In German, and I will
translate to you if I can.

363

00:19:12,300 --> 00:19:25,590

[SPEAKING GERMAN] It
is something like--

364

00:19:25,590 --> 00:19:29,940

[SPEAKING GERMAN] the flag's
high [SPEAKING GERMAN]

365

00:19:29,940 --> 00:19:36,127

the rows are closed
[SPEAKING GERMAN] these

366

00:19:36,127 --> 00:19:43,440

are the stormtroopers
[SPEAKING GERMAN]

367

00:19:43,440 --> 00:19:52,980

with quiet, solid
steps [SPEAKING GERMAN]

368

00:19:52,980 --> 00:19:55,560

comrades who were
shot by the Communist

369

00:19:55,560 --> 00:20:05,570

[SPEAKING GERMAN] March in
spirit together in one row.

370
00:20:05,570 --> 00:20:07,880
And then, of course,
the German song which

371
00:20:07,880 --> 00:20:09,200
is Sudeten national anthem.

372
00:20:09,200 --> 00:20:11,283
It's called "Deutschland,
Deutschland Ä¼ber alles,"

373
00:20:11,283 --> 00:20:13,040
but that wasn't
a real Nazi song.

374
00:20:13,040 --> 00:20:15,973
But there were so many
Nazi songs, terrible.

375
00:20:15,973 --> 00:20:17,556
Do you remember the
words to any more?

376
00:20:17,556 --> 00:20:18,560
Any more songs?

377
00:20:18,560 --> 00:20:19,880
Any Nazi songs.

378
00:20:19,880 --> 00:20:20,900
Yeah, I do.

379
00:20:20,900 --> 00:20:22,820
Wait a minute.

380
00:20:22,820 --> 00:20:24,325
Let me think a minute.

381
00:20:24,325 --> 00:20:29,120

382
00:20:29,120 --> 00:20:30,590
Yeah.

383
00:20:30,590 --> 00:20:33,440
[SPEAKING GERMAN] We
marched through Berlin.

384
00:20:33,440 --> 00:20:37,520

385
00:20:37,520 --> 00:20:38,990
We fight for Adolf Hitler.

386
00:20:38,990 --> 00:20:44,070

387
00:20:44,070 --> 00:20:46,590
The Communists killed
them one by one.

388
00:20:46,590 --> 00:20:50,040

389
00:20:50,040 --> 00:20:52,620
Attention, keep
the streets free.

390
00:20:52,620 --> 00:20:54,630
Something of that sort.

391
00:20:54,630 --> 00:20:58,620
You know, silly, stupid,
really nonsensical songs.

392
00:20:58,620 --> 00:21:00,030
And everybody used to sing them.

393
00:21:00,030 --> 00:21:02,880
They were so-- every
time they sang,

394

00:21:02,880 --> 00:21:05,580
cheering with these
songs, even then,

395
00:21:05,580 --> 00:21:09,650
they seemed stupid to
me, even as a child.

396
00:21:09,650 --> 00:21:10,980
Do you remember any more?

397
00:21:10,980 --> 00:21:12,900
Yeah, but I haven't
got them quite ready.

398
00:21:12,900 --> 00:21:14,180
I'm sorry.

399
00:21:14,180 --> 00:21:15,750
If you would have
told me before,

400
00:21:15,750 --> 00:21:17,085
I would have prepared them.

401
00:21:17,085 --> 00:21:19,860
Actually, if you can
remember any more,

402
00:21:19,860 --> 00:21:21,360
maybe you could next time.

403
00:21:21,360 --> 00:21:22,140
Yeah.

404
00:21:22,140 --> 00:21:24,540
I'll gladly even
sing them to you

405
00:21:24,540 --> 00:21:26,520
although I haven't
got a good voice.

406
00:21:26,520 --> 00:21:27,090
Oh no.

407
00:21:27,090 --> 00:21:28,132
That's no problem at all.

408
00:21:28,132 --> 00:21:28,920
Yeah, yeah.

409
00:21:28,920 --> 00:21:33,470

410
00:21:33,470 --> 00:21:35,210
So, OK, next time.

411
00:21:35,210 --> 00:21:37,130
Yeah, I will prepare
you some songs.

412
00:21:37,130 --> 00:21:37,820
I have them all.

413
00:21:37,820 --> 00:21:40,360

414
00:21:40,360 --> 00:21:43,530
What did-- so you heard
these songs your whole life,

415
00:21:43,530 --> 00:21:46,300
actually, from a very young age?

416
00:21:46,300 --> 00:21:48,550
What did that do to
your self-esteem?

417
00:21:48,550 --> 00:21:51,445
Did you take it personally?

418
00:21:51,445 --> 00:21:53,950
As I said, you

know, I was a child

419

00:21:53,950 --> 00:21:57,100
who was so full of
energy, and I was playful,

420

00:21:57,100 --> 00:22:00,800
and I played with
Gentile friends.

421

00:22:00,800 --> 00:22:05,760
It really didn't have
much of an effect on me.

422

00:22:05,760 --> 00:22:11,230
I suppose it was part and parcel
of my life to hear those songs.

423

00:22:11,230 --> 00:22:15,670
I remember when Hitler
used to speak on the radio.

424

00:22:15,670 --> 00:22:19,510
So we had a neighbor
who had a radio shop.

425

00:22:19,510 --> 00:22:22,120
So he used to put up in our
street, all along the street,

426

00:22:22,120 --> 00:22:28,808
he used to put up these
microphones, the other end

427

00:22:28,808 --> 00:22:29,600
of the microphones.

428

00:22:29,600 --> 00:22:30,308
The loudspeakers?

429

00:22:30,308 --> 00:22:33,670
Loudspeakers, so everybody--
not many people in those days

430
00:22:33,670 --> 00:22:34,330
had radios.

431
00:22:34,330 --> 00:22:35,680
They couldn't afford them.

432
00:22:35,680 --> 00:22:37,450
So he put a loudspeaker
so everybody

433
00:22:37,450 --> 00:22:41,260
was able to hear the
speech of Adolf Hitler.

434
00:22:41,260 --> 00:22:44,590
And I remember, I
didn't really understand

435
00:22:44,590 --> 00:22:46,210
what he was talking about.

436
00:22:46,210 --> 00:22:49,030
But what I do remember,
he was always--

437
00:22:49,030 --> 00:22:52,750
every sentence was
intermittent with accusations

438
00:22:52,750 --> 00:22:54,700
against the Jews,
that the Jews are

439
00:22:54,700 --> 00:22:57,850
the instigators of all
the troubles in the world,

440
00:22:57,850 --> 00:23:01,810
they caused the First World War,
they caused the unemployment,

441

00:23:01,810 --> 00:23:06,250
and they caused that
people have no homes.

442
00:23:06,250 --> 00:23:09,280
In the end, he used to shout,
[SPEAKING GERMAN] Judah,

443
00:23:09,280 --> 00:23:10,330
perish.

444
00:23:10,330 --> 00:23:12,340
And somehow it was frightening.

445
00:23:12,340 --> 00:23:14,380
And when he used
to speak, then we

446
00:23:14,380 --> 00:23:18,002
always used to go into our homes
and closed ourselves and be--

447
00:23:18,002 --> 00:23:19,210
in a way, we were frightened.

448
00:23:19,210 --> 00:23:20,910
So although I wasn't
a frightened child,

449
00:23:20,910 --> 00:23:23,020
and my parents weren't
frightened at all,

450
00:23:23,020 --> 00:23:26,950
but for safety's sake,
we didn't venture out

451
00:23:26,950 --> 00:23:29,890
into the streets
on those occasions.

452
00:23:29,890 --> 00:23:32,350
What might happen if you

did venture into the street?

453

00:23:32,350 --> 00:23:37,480

Oh, some person would
have probably attacked us.

454

00:23:37,480 --> 00:23:38,620

Not the whole population.

455

00:23:38,620 --> 00:23:39,580

I doubt it.

456

00:23:39,580 --> 00:23:42,100

But some of these persons
I mentioned before,

457

00:23:42,100 --> 00:23:43,480

those people who drank.

458

00:23:43,480 --> 00:23:46,210

And, as I said, there was
a bar opposite our house,

459

00:23:46,210 --> 00:23:51,820

and they could have
come out, and maybe

460

00:23:51,820 --> 00:23:54,560

beat us up or
something of that sort.

461

00:23:54,560 --> 00:23:59,050

I remember one occasion,
if I may tell the story,

462

00:23:59,050 --> 00:24:00,880

it was a Friday night,
and the whole family

463

00:24:00,880 --> 00:24:02,380

sat around the table.

464

00:24:02,380 --> 00:24:05,680
There were Shabbos
candles on the table.

465
00:24:05,680 --> 00:24:08,800
There's a beautiful
tablecloth on the table

466
00:24:08,800 --> 00:24:11,913
and two challah on the
table, a goblet of wine.

467
00:24:11,913 --> 00:24:13,330
My father had just
finished making

468
00:24:13,330 --> 00:24:16,390
the kiddush when
suddenly, we heard

469
00:24:16,390 --> 00:24:18,340
a tremendous crash outside.

470
00:24:18,340 --> 00:24:21,580
So we all left the table,
went outside, and there

471
00:24:21,580 --> 00:24:24,160
we saw a burly fellow.

472
00:24:24,160 --> 00:24:26,020
He heaved a big--

473
00:24:26,020 --> 00:24:30,512
one of those tree trunks
which were used to split wood

474
00:24:30,512 --> 00:24:32,470
on for making kindling.

475
00:24:32,470 --> 00:24:34,110
Everybody had it in their yard.

476

00:24:34,110 --> 00:24:36,340

We used to split
kindling on this thing.

477

00:24:36,340 --> 00:24:39,460

He took it and threw it
into our shop window,

478

00:24:39,460 --> 00:24:42,520

and he was threatening us.

479

00:24:42,520 --> 00:24:47,890

Later on, we found that
he had been drinking,

480

00:24:47,890 --> 00:24:49,250

and he ran out of money.

481

00:24:49,250 --> 00:24:52,270

And so the bar owner refused
to serve him any more,

482

00:24:52,270 --> 00:24:53,860

so he blamed the Jews.

483

00:24:53,860 --> 00:24:55,900

He blamed the Jews that
he had no more money.

484

00:24:55,900 --> 00:24:57,850

So he took one of those
things and threw it

485

00:24:57,850 --> 00:25:01,690

into our shop window and
threatened us, to kill us.

486

00:25:01,690 --> 00:25:04,780

Anyway, my father being a very
impetuous man, ran outside.

487

00:25:04,780 --> 00:25:06,520

He was two heads
shorter than him.

488
00:25:06,520 --> 00:25:09,280
He lunged out and
hit him in the face.

489
00:25:09,280 --> 00:25:10,570
And the man fell like a log.

490
00:25:10,570 --> 00:25:12,920
He was in a stupor, in any case.

491
00:25:12,920 --> 00:25:14,830
So the police came
and dragged my father

492
00:25:14,830 --> 00:25:17,660
to the police station.

493
00:25:17,660 --> 00:25:21,190
And they kept him there
for one day and two days,

494
00:25:21,190 --> 00:25:22,630
and my mother--

495
00:25:22,630 --> 00:25:24,700
they were Polish citizens.

496
00:25:24,700 --> 00:25:26,990
They emigrated from
Poland to Germany

497
00:25:26,990 --> 00:25:31,870
because Germany in those
days was a liberal country,

498
00:25:31,870 --> 00:25:33,580
and it was a
country where people

499

00:25:33,580 --> 00:25:35,950
could make a decent living
like many immigrants came

500
00:25:35,950 --> 00:25:37,820
to this country, to America.

501
00:25:37,820 --> 00:25:40,510
So many Jews from Eastern
Europe went to Germany

502
00:25:40,510 --> 00:25:43,660
to improve their
situation because Poland

503
00:25:43,660 --> 00:25:45,700
was a terrible country.

504
00:25:45,700 --> 00:25:46,810
Terrible country.

505
00:25:46,810 --> 00:25:49,700
The stories I heard about
Poland in my childhood mind,

506
00:25:49,700 --> 00:25:54,610
it made me feel that it was
a terrible place to live in.

507
00:25:54,610 --> 00:26:00,400
So my mother contacted the
Polish consul in the nearest

508
00:26:00,400 --> 00:26:03,940
town and after a few
days, he arrived,

509
00:26:03,940 --> 00:26:07,850
and she spoke to him in Polish,
explaining the situation.

510
00:26:07,850 --> 00:26:10,900
And I saw the scorn in his

face, this condescension

511
00:26:10,900 --> 00:26:13,120
when my mother spoke to him.

512
00:26:13,120 --> 00:26:19,300
Anyway, when I mentioned
this to my mother

513
00:26:19,300 --> 00:26:24,730
and I said, look, this man,
he had a kind of expression

514
00:26:24,730 --> 00:26:29,680
on his face as if he was
saying, or thinking at least,

515
00:26:29,680 --> 00:26:32,710
the Jews cause
nothing but trouble.

516
00:26:32,710 --> 00:26:36,180
So I told my mother about the
impression I had upon that man.

517
00:26:36,180 --> 00:26:37,930
And she said,
[SPEAKING YIDDISH]..

518
00:26:37,930 --> 00:26:42,240
He can go and be buried,
in juicy Yiddish.

519
00:26:42,240 --> 00:26:46,110
Anyway, he got my
father out, and then we

520
00:26:46,110 --> 00:26:48,870
realized that Germany was
getting really, really

521
00:26:48,870 --> 00:26:50,290
bad for the Jewish people.

522

00:26:50,290 --> 00:26:52,410

And my mother always
spoke to my father

523

00:26:52,410 --> 00:26:55,020

and said, let's leave,
let's go to Palestine,

524

00:26:55,020 --> 00:26:56,340

let's go to a Jewish country.

525

00:26:56,340 --> 00:26:59,160

My father always
used to say, oh,

526

00:26:59,160 --> 00:27:01,120

[NON-ENGLISH] come
and [NON-ENGLISH] go.

527

00:27:01,120 --> 00:27:03,780

And, you know, this
Hitler, is a mishugenah

528

00:27:03,780 --> 00:27:06,990

He'll go like the rest of
them, and we'll prevail.

529

00:27:06,990 --> 00:27:10,347

But, of course, it didn't
happen, unfortunately.

530

00:27:10,347 --> 00:27:15,220

531

00:27:15,220 --> 00:27:18,770

Was your family an
observant Jewish family?

532

00:27:18,770 --> 00:27:22,390

That's a very difficult
question to ask.

533

00:27:22,390 --> 00:27:25,450

I don't think consciously
they were so religious,

534

00:27:25,450 --> 00:27:31,150

but coming from Poland,
from a very poor family

535

00:27:31,150 --> 00:27:36,310

was endemic to be
religious, to keep the laws,

536

00:27:36,310 --> 00:27:37,210

to keep the halakha.

537

00:27:37,210 --> 00:27:40,240

And so they kept all
the Jewish customs,

538

00:27:40,240 --> 00:27:42,010

but I don't think
really they understood

539

00:27:42,010 --> 00:27:44,110

what religion really meant.

540

00:27:44,110 --> 00:27:46,810

I'm different today.

541

00:27:46,810 --> 00:27:49,990

If I would be religious, it
would be because of conviction.

542

00:27:49,990 --> 00:27:52,990

I would have maybe thought
about it or read about it

543

00:27:52,990 --> 00:27:54,580

or discussed.

544

00:27:54,580 --> 00:27:57,188

But I think in my parents,

it was a question of habit.

545

00:27:57,188 --> 00:27:59,230

Their parents and their
parents and their parents

546

00:27:59,230 --> 00:28:01,780

and their surroundings
were always religious.

547

00:28:01,780 --> 00:28:05,350

And to be not religious
in those environment

548

00:28:05,350 --> 00:28:12,790

would have been rebelling,
like jumping out of the circle.

549

00:28:12,790 --> 00:28:16,590

I think that would have been
impossible, not to keep kosher

550

00:28:16,590 --> 00:28:18,550

and not to keep the Shabbat.

551

00:28:18,550 --> 00:28:21,910

I think that's the
only reason they

552

00:28:21,910 --> 00:28:23,680

kept the laws, the Jewish laws.

553

00:28:23,680 --> 00:28:27,440

But I don't think consciously
they were really religious.

554

00:28:27,440 --> 00:28:31,510

Again, I think it was
a question of habit.

555

00:28:31,510 --> 00:28:33,840

And what is your--
what do you do now?

556
00:28:33,840 --> 00:28:35,260
You said if you were religious.

557
00:28:35,260 --> 00:28:42,920
Oh, you want to know about
my conviction about--

558
00:28:42,920 --> 00:28:45,890
again, it's a very profound,
very difficult question

559
00:28:45,890 --> 00:28:46,390
to answer.

560
00:28:46,390 --> 00:28:49,030
But I do go to synagogue
every Saturday.

561
00:28:49,030 --> 00:28:51,790
And there are several
reasons for it.

562
00:28:51,790 --> 00:28:54,770
I believe there's
nothing else for me.

563
00:28:54,770 --> 00:28:56,800
And besides, I live
in the diaspora.

564
00:28:56,800 --> 00:29:01,630
I don't live in Israel, and this
is my connection to my Judaism.

565
00:29:01,630 --> 00:29:07,300
And I look very, very strongly
to be amongst Jewish people.

566
00:29:07,300 --> 00:29:09,460
Therefore, I go every--

567

00:29:09,460 --> 00:29:12,640
it's very interesting to listen
to the sermons of the rabbis.

568
00:29:12,640 --> 00:29:15,280
It gives me a tremendous lot.

569
00:29:15,280 --> 00:29:17,230
And I look at my
Jewish fellowmen,

570
00:29:17,230 --> 00:29:19,270
and I have great gratification.

571
00:29:19,270 --> 00:29:24,190
I think, without
being too overmodest,

572
00:29:24,190 --> 00:29:25,450
I think we are a great people.

573
00:29:25,450 --> 00:29:27,770
There's nothing wrong with us.

574
00:29:27,770 --> 00:29:30,580
So when I go there, I usually
take the [NON-ENGLISH],,

575
00:29:30,580 --> 00:29:34,330
the Tanakh the portion of the
Torah which is being read,

576
00:29:34,330 --> 00:29:39,670
and I study and I read and I
find in my religion many things

577
00:29:39,670 --> 00:29:42,220
which can be found.

578
00:29:42,220 --> 00:29:45,940
I find many things in it.

579

00:29:45,940 --> 00:29:48,500

What did you mean by there's
nothing else for you?

580

00:29:48,500 --> 00:29:53,980

Well, I suppose we have
all gone through stages,

581

00:29:53,980 --> 00:30:01,060

every single person goes through
stages of kind of developments.

582

00:30:01,060 --> 00:30:04,370

I know when I was 16,
I lived in England,

583

00:30:04,370 --> 00:30:07,540

and I belonged to trade
unions, and I became a member

584

00:30:07,540 --> 00:30:08,960

of the Communist party.

585

00:30:08,960 --> 00:30:12,490

And then I became a member
of the Fabian Society, which

586

00:30:12,490 --> 00:30:14,170

was founded by Bernard Shaw.

587

00:30:14,170 --> 00:30:17,920

And then I became a socialist
and all kinds of things.

588

00:30:17,920 --> 00:30:21,250

I think nothing ever really
stuck except my Judaism.

589

00:30:21,250 --> 00:30:23,560

That's the only thing
that I think that remained

590

00:30:23,560 --> 00:30:24,820

very strongly within me.

591

00:30:24,820 --> 00:30:26,020

It is unshakable.

592

00:30:26,020 --> 00:30:33,940

593

00:30:33,940 --> 00:30:37,610

Did you have a large
extended family?

594

00:30:37,610 --> 00:30:38,360

What does it mean?

595

00:30:38,360 --> 00:30:38,920

Like?

596

00:30:38,920 --> 00:30:39,420

Well--

597

00:30:39,420 --> 00:30:40,010

Like cousins--

598

00:30:40,010 --> 00:30:40,780

Yeah, well.

599

00:30:40,780 --> 00:30:43,810

600

00:30:43,810 --> 00:30:45,250

I really know very little.

601

00:30:45,250 --> 00:30:47,410

My parents never spoke
about their family.

602

00:30:47,410 --> 00:30:49,580

I know they had
parents, of course,

603

00:30:49,580 --> 00:30:51,160
on my mother's side
and my father's

604
00:30:51,160 --> 00:30:53,140
side and their
brothers and sisters,

605
00:30:53,140 --> 00:30:55,960
but I'd never met anyone.

606
00:30:55,960 --> 00:30:58,580
But I did meet-- and
with your permission,

607
00:30:58,580 --> 00:31:00,220
like to tell you the story.

608
00:31:00,220 --> 00:31:01,730
My father had a brother.

609
00:31:01,730 --> 00:31:04,880
His name was Max, Max Grossman.

610
00:31:04,880 --> 00:31:08,330
And when I left my mother,
she handed me a note and said,

611
00:31:08,330 --> 00:31:10,210
look, this is the
address of your uncle,

612
00:31:10,210 --> 00:31:11,680
your father's brother.

613
00:31:11,680 --> 00:31:13,690
He lives in Paris.

614
00:31:13,690 --> 00:31:16,360
And I kept it with
me all the time,

615

00:31:16,360 --> 00:31:20,930
not realizing that one day, with
this note, I would find him.

616
00:31:20,930 --> 00:31:23,030
And the story was as follows.

617
00:31:23,030 --> 00:31:26,530
Let me first tell you in a
few words how we got to Paris.

618
00:31:26,530 --> 00:31:29,200
My father, my parents--

619
00:31:29,200 --> 00:31:31,810
I wasn't born
then-- they decided,

620
00:31:31,810 --> 00:31:33,190
at one stage in their life--

621
00:31:33,190 --> 00:31:35,830
I think it was 1923--
to go to Palestine.

622
00:31:35,830 --> 00:31:38,080
And they went to Palestine,
and they stayed there only

623
00:31:38,080 --> 00:31:38,920
half a year.

624
00:31:38,920 --> 00:31:41,650
They weren't able to
acclimatize themselves

625
00:31:41,650 --> 00:31:44,710
to the climate and the
food and the conditions.

626
00:31:44,710 --> 00:31:48,940
They thought it wasn't for Jews,
so they went back to Germany.

627
00:31:48,940 --> 00:31:50,800
And on the way
back on the ship--

628
00:31:50,800 --> 00:31:54,010
and his brother Max also went
with him, with his family--

629
00:31:54,010 --> 00:31:56,620
one of his children got sick.

630
00:31:56,620 --> 00:31:59,830
And they went off the ship
in Marseilles in France,

631
00:31:59,830 --> 00:32:02,000
and the child was hospitalized.

632
00:32:02,000 --> 00:32:04,000
And the child got well
and then he went to Paris

633
00:32:04,000 --> 00:32:06,000
and he stayed there
with his whole family.

634
00:32:06,000 --> 00:32:08,020
In the meantime, some
other children were born.

635
00:32:08,020 --> 00:32:10,050
My father went back
to this town, GÅ¼strow,

636
00:32:10,050 --> 00:32:10,760
where I was born.

637
00:32:10,760 --> 00:32:11,593
And then I was born.

638
00:32:11,593 --> 00:32:14,200

639
00:32:14,200 --> 00:32:18,460
In 1944, I joined the army,
British Army, and then

640
00:32:18,460 --> 00:32:23,260
I had a transfer to
the Jewish Brigade.

641
00:32:23,260 --> 00:32:26,890
And then I was
stationed in Germany.

642
00:32:26,890 --> 00:32:28,840
I was stationed in
Germany in a town

643
00:32:28,840 --> 00:32:31,750
called Bielefeld in Westphalia.

644
00:32:31,750 --> 00:32:39,740
And our duties was to guard
trains going all over Europe

645
00:32:39,740 --> 00:32:43,300
with ammunition, with
prisoners, with provisions,

646
00:32:43,300 --> 00:32:45,130
all kinds of things.

647
00:32:45,130 --> 00:32:49,330
And I had a very good friend.

648
00:32:49,330 --> 00:32:51,280
He was very close to me.

649
00:32:51,280 --> 00:32:53,940
And one day, he
received a notification

650

00:32:53,940 --> 00:32:56,550
that his brother had survived
a concentration camp,

651
00:32:56,550 --> 00:32:59,190
and he's in the South of France.

652
00:32:59,190 --> 00:33:01,470
And he received leave
to visit his brother,

653
00:33:01,470 --> 00:33:05,250
and I asked him, are you, by
any chance, going through Paris?

654
00:33:05,250 --> 00:33:07,620
And he said, yeah, I'm
staying about a day in Paris

655
00:33:07,620 --> 00:33:09,703
and then I'll take a train
to the South of France.

656
00:33:09,703 --> 00:33:11,880
I said, look, I have
an address of my uncle.

657
00:33:11,880 --> 00:33:13,710
But I don't think
he's still alive.

658
00:33:13,710 --> 00:33:15,210
He's probably been deported.

659
00:33:15,210 --> 00:33:15,990
He has a family.

660
00:33:15,990 --> 00:33:17,910
I don't know exactly
how many children,

661
00:33:17,910 --> 00:33:21,370
but if you have nothing

to do, just have a look.

662
00:33:21,370 --> 00:33:22,600
So he went to--

663
00:33:22,600 --> 00:33:25,620
he met his brother and after
about 10 days, he came back,

664
00:33:25,620 --> 00:33:29,040
and he told me about
terrible stories

665
00:33:29,040 --> 00:33:32,520
his brother had told him
what he had gone through

666
00:33:32,520 --> 00:33:34,620
and, you know, he'd survived.

667
00:33:34,620 --> 00:33:38,340
And then I asked him, do you
go to the address I gave you?

668
00:33:38,340 --> 00:33:41,250
And he said, yes, I saw
your uncle and his children.

669
00:33:41,250 --> 00:33:43,080
I said, you saw my
uncle and his children?

670
00:33:43,080 --> 00:33:45,960
He said, yes, he's still
at the same address.

671
00:33:45,960 --> 00:33:47,072
So I can't believe it.

672
00:33:47,072 --> 00:33:48,030
What do they look like?

673

00:33:48,030 --> 00:33:51,270
He said, well,
he's got four sons.

674
00:33:51,270 --> 00:33:54,450
And he looks very much like
you, he said to me, the uncle.

675
00:33:54,450 --> 00:33:55,797
I said, I can't believe it.

676
00:33:55,797 --> 00:33:56,880
And what about the mother?

677
00:33:56,880 --> 00:33:59,610
He says, they're all there.

678
00:33:59,610 --> 00:34:01,715
So I went straight to
my commanding officer

679
00:34:01,715 --> 00:34:04,090
and asked for leave, and he
didn't want to give it to me.

680
00:34:04,090 --> 00:34:08,800
So I went to the window and
the officer, got myself a pass.

681
00:34:08,800 --> 00:34:12,750
But it wasn't necessary because
he came to me the very next--

682
00:34:12,750 --> 00:34:13,429
few hours later.

683
00:34:13,429 --> 00:34:16,960
He said, you know, there's
a train going to Paris

684
00:34:16,960 --> 00:34:21,929
and if you want to be part
of that train to guard it,

685
00:34:21,929 --> 00:34:23,190
I will put you on that train.

686
00:34:23,190 --> 00:34:24,550
I said, of course.

687
00:34:24,550 --> 00:34:27,570
So I went on the train, and it
took a long time to get there.

688
00:34:27,570 --> 00:34:31,380
They used to stop and they used
to change wagons and so forth.

689
00:34:31,380 --> 00:34:32,880
But eventually, I
arrived one night.

690
00:34:32,880 --> 00:34:34,060
I arrived in Paris.

691
00:34:34,060 --> 00:34:37,800
That was just after
the war in 1945.

692
00:34:37,800 --> 00:34:39,330
I remember it was in January.

693
00:34:39,330 --> 00:34:41,760
It was very, very cold.

694
00:34:41,760 --> 00:34:43,330
I had caught a cold
in the meantime.

695
00:34:43,330 --> 00:34:50,239
And the trains
were drawn by coal,

696
00:34:50,239 --> 00:34:52,530
and there's smoke coming

out of the chimneys.

697

00:34:52,530 --> 00:34:54,810

I looked as black as anything.

698

00:34:54,810 --> 00:34:56,949

I needed to shower

badly, and we had no way

699

00:34:56,949 --> 00:34:58,540

of washing for those then.

700

00:34:58,540 --> 00:35:05,780

So we were quartered in

an army kind of a hostel.

701

00:35:05,780 --> 00:35:08,240

And I remember I want

to take a shower.

702

00:35:08,240 --> 00:35:09,240

There was no warm water.

703

00:35:09,240 --> 00:35:10,170

It was icy cold.

704

00:35:10,170 --> 00:35:11,610

It was January.

705

00:35:11,610 --> 00:35:12,610

I had no choice.

706

00:35:12,610 --> 00:35:15,450

I had to take a shower,

so I washed myself.

707

00:35:15,450 --> 00:35:17,250

Nothing much came

of the cold water,

708

00:35:17,250 --> 00:35:20,370

but somehow, I had a semblance

of a human being again.

709

00:35:20,370 --> 00:35:26,350

And the very next morning,
I had a map of Paris,

710

00:35:26,350 --> 00:35:30,090

and I walked towards that
address, and I found it.

711

00:35:30,090 --> 00:35:32,620

712

00:35:32,620 --> 00:35:34,950

And I remember it
very clearly, it's

713

00:35:34,950 --> 00:35:37,260

a Jewish part of Paris
where all the people

714

00:35:37,260 --> 00:35:40,510

lived who worked in textiles.

715

00:35:40,510 --> 00:35:43,080

So I came to that house,
and I saw the number.

716

00:35:43,080 --> 00:35:45,030

And I went inside.

717

00:35:45,030 --> 00:35:48,870

Very old house, steps were
all worn away from usage

718

00:35:48,870 --> 00:35:51,370

from hundreds of years.

719

00:35:51,370 --> 00:35:53,972

And while walking up the
stairs, a person came down.

720

00:35:53,972 --> 00:35:55,680
And I looked at him,
and he looked at me,

721
00:35:55,680 --> 00:35:57,270
and he looked very
familiar to me.

722
00:35:57,270 --> 00:35:59,550
He looked like one
of my family, I know.

723
00:35:59,550 --> 00:36:01,860
Very handsome young man.

724
00:36:01,860 --> 00:36:03,450
He must have been about--

725
00:36:03,450 --> 00:36:07,410
well, I was about 18, he
must have been about 22.

726
00:36:07,410 --> 00:36:10,300
And when he saw me in
uniform, of course,

727
00:36:10,300 --> 00:36:13,410
and he had heard from my
friend that I'm around

728
00:36:13,410 --> 00:36:15,420
and that I might
be-- and he assumed

729
00:36:15,420 --> 00:36:17,340
that I might be coming one day.

730
00:36:17,340 --> 00:36:19,920
I might make my way
to Paris to see him.

731
00:36:19,920 --> 00:36:23,933
Anyway, I walked up, and he made

a turn, and he came after me.

732
00:36:23,933 --> 00:36:25,350
And I knocked on
one of the doors,

733
00:36:25,350 --> 00:36:28,140
and the men came out
reeking of alcohol.

734
00:36:28,140 --> 00:36:29,260
And I said--

735
00:36:29,260 --> 00:36:30,180
I don't speak French--

736
00:36:30,180 --> 00:36:31,180
I said, family Grossman?

737
00:36:31,180 --> 00:36:33,120
He said, upstairs.

738
00:36:33,120 --> 00:36:34,740
He showed me, and
I went upstairs,

739
00:36:34,740 --> 00:36:36,660
and he came behind me.

740
00:36:36,660 --> 00:36:39,480
And I knocked on the door,
and I heard the noise

741
00:36:39,480 --> 00:36:40,962
of sewing machines there.

742
00:36:40,962 --> 00:36:43,170
When I opened the door,
there was a little apartment,

743
00:36:43,170 --> 00:36:44,640
with 3, 4 sewing machines.

744
00:36:44,640 --> 00:36:47,310
And they were all sewing,
you know, those foot things.

745
00:36:47,310 --> 00:36:48,900
They are sewing things.

746
00:36:48,900 --> 00:36:50,730
Then I saw my uncle.

747
00:36:50,730 --> 00:36:53,610
My God, he looked
exactly like my father.

748
00:36:53,610 --> 00:36:58,080
They were not, of course, twins,
but they were very similar.

749
00:36:58,080 --> 00:36:59,700
And he looked at
me, I looked at him,

750
00:36:59,700 --> 00:37:02,550
and he immediately
recognized me.

751
00:37:02,550 --> 00:37:06,330
Probably I also had a
resemblance to his family.

752
00:37:06,330 --> 00:37:08,040
And, of course,
his joy was great.

753
00:37:08,040 --> 00:37:10,200
And immediately, they
packed the machines away.

754
00:37:10,200 --> 00:37:13,890
They were pushed under
the bed, and the clothes

755

00:37:13,890 --> 00:37:15,210
were rolled up and put up.

756

00:37:15,210 --> 00:37:19,165
Everything was so-- it
was so small, everything.

757

00:37:19,165 --> 00:37:20,040
And he had two girls.

758

00:37:20,040 --> 00:37:23,280
Regularly, he sent
them home on vacation.

759

00:37:23,280 --> 00:37:25,280
And then we started to--

760

00:37:25,280 --> 00:37:25,980
He was so happy.

761

00:37:25,980 --> 00:37:30,330
So immediately, she
served a wonderful meal.

762

00:37:30,330 --> 00:37:32,100
Oh, yeah, it was
first of January.

763

00:37:32,100 --> 00:37:33,840
It was New Year.

764

00:37:33,840 --> 00:37:36,810
And they put a bottle of wine
on the table and, of course,

765

00:37:36,810 --> 00:37:38,370
they poured themselves wine.

766

00:37:38,370 --> 00:37:39,570
I remember big glasses.

767

00:37:39,570 --> 00:37:40,965
They drank it like water.

768
00:37:40,965 --> 00:37:42,340
I couldn't manage
more than this.

769
00:37:42,340 --> 00:37:44,130
That was my portion.

770
00:37:44,130 --> 00:37:44,940
I couldn't.

771
00:37:44,940 --> 00:37:47,050
And my head started to spin.

772
00:37:47,050 --> 00:37:49,050
Anyway, I stayed there
about three or four days,

773
00:37:49,050 --> 00:37:53,145
and it was a wonderful reunion.

774
00:37:53,145 --> 00:37:58,770
These were the only
relations I have ever met,

775
00:37:58,770 --> 00:38:01,140
and they were all
communists, by the way.

776
00:38:01,140 --> 00:38:04,740
They were all convinced
communists, but in later years,

777
00:38:04,740 --> 00:38:07,170
when I lived in Israel already,
they all came to Israel.

778
00:38:07,170 --> 00:38:09,162
They had all
changed their minds.

779

00:38:09,162 --> 00:38:10,620

They had discarded
their communism.

780

00:38:10,620 --> 00:38:13,230

They all become very pro-Israel.

781

00:38:13,230 --> 00:38:15,780

In those days when
they talked to me,

782

00:38:15,780 --> 00:38:18,480

they only condemned Israel,
not Israel, Palestine

783

00:38:18,480 --> 00:38:20,730

in those days.

784

00:38:20,730 --> 00:38:24,900

But thank God, they all came
to visit me in later years.

785

00:38:24,900 --> 00:38:27,003

How did they happen to
survive if the same part

786

00:38:27,003 --> 00:38:28,170

where they lived in before--

787

00:38:28,170 --> 00:38:29,770

No.

788

00:38:29,770 --> 00:38:31,110

I don't know.

789

00:38:31,110 --> 00:38:34,550

I asked my uncle what made
him-- he went to Vichy, France,

790

00:38:34,550 --> 00:38:35,050

you know.

791

00:38:35,050 --> 00:38:38,880

France was divided into an
independent Vichy, France.

792

00:38:38,880 --> 00:38:42,550

And he took all his
family to Vichy, France,

793

00:38:42,550 --> 00:38:44,460

and there they lived on a farm.

794

00:38:44,460 --> 00:38:46,470

And some of his sons,
I think two sons,

795

00:38:46,470 --> 00:38:50,010

even joined the Maquis,
the French underground,

796

00:38:50,010 --> 00:38:51,810

and they survived.

797

00:38:51,810 --> 00:38:54,030

And then when the war was
over, they all came back.

798

00:38:54,030 --> 00:38:55,000

He paid the farmer.

799

00:38:55,000 --> 00:38:57,090

He told me that he paid
the farmer lots of money

800

00:38:57,090 --> 00:39:01,140

to hide him because
afterwards, the Germans took

801

00:39:01,140 --> 00:39:03,810

over that part of
France as well,

802

00:39:03,810 --> 00:39:08,640

and they did the
same things they did

803
00:39:08,640 --> 00:39:10,230
with the Jews of
Vichy, France, they

804
00:39:10,230 --> 00:39:11,730
did with the rest of France.

805
00:39:11,730 --> 00:39:14,280
But he was able to
hide, and he came back.

806
00:39:14,280 --> 00:39:17,250
And he came back to the
same apartment he lived in.

807
00:39:17,250 --> 00:39:20,490
But he told me that the
apartment he lived in,

808
00:39:20,490 --> 00:39:23,280
that wasn't really his apartment
but the apartment downstairs.

809
00:39:23,280 --> 00:39:24,678
It was very much bigger.

810
00:39:24,678 --> 00:39:26,220
But in later years,
he got that back.

811
00:39:26,220 --> 00:39:34,525

812
00:39:34,525 --> 00:39:36,400
Both of your parents
were from Poland, right?

813
00:39:36,400 --> 00:39:37,510
Yes.

814

00:39:37,510 --> 00:39:39,940

You said you heard some
horrible stories about Poland.

815

00:39:39,940 --> 00:39:43,030

What stories did you hear?

816

00:39:43,030 --> 00:39:47,200

My parents spoke very little
about their childhoods.

817

00:39:47,200 --> 00:39:50,920

818

00:39:50,920 --> 00:39:56,130

I gleaned from a
remark and some words,

819

00:39:56,130 --> 00:40:02,000

I gleaned that they had to start
work at the age of 11 or 12.

820

00:40:02,000 --> 00:40:04,437

They had no money.

821

00:40:04,437 --> 00:40:06,520

Their parents had no money
to send them to school.

822

00:40:06,520 --> 00:40:10,330

They could neither
read nor write.

823

00:40:10,330 --> 00:40:13,120

My father only knew
how to read and write

824

00:40:13,120 --> 00:40:17,740

in Hebrew, in the Hebrew
vernacular, the writing.

825

00:40:17,740 --> 00:40:19,720

But in Latin, he didn't know.

826

00:40:19,720 --> 00:40:23,840

I had to read all the
letters on newspapers.

827

00:40:23,840 --> 00:40:27,460

Both of them couldn't
read or write.

828

00:40:27,460 --> 00:40:31,390

And they told me that two or
three had to sleep in one bed,

829

00:40:31,390 --> 00:40:34,090

and the Poles always
used to taunt them

830

00:40:34,090 --> 00:40:37,050

and to antagonize them.

831

00:40:37,050 --> 00:40:41,350

The reason my father really
came to Poland, to Germany,

832

00:40:41,350 --> 00:40:44,530

was that his father,
my grandfather,

833

00:40:44,530 --> 00:40:46,960

my paternal grandfather
was a glazier.

834

00:40:46,960 --> 00:40:49,085

So he used to strap
some glass on his back,

835

00:40:49,085 --> 00:40:50,960

and he used to go through
the towns of Warsaw

836

00:40:50,960 --> 00:40:54,490

proclaiming that he

wants to repair windows.

837

00:40:54,490 --> 00:40:59,020

One day, a Pole came and beat
him up and broke all his glass.

838

00:40:59,020 --> 00:41:04,000

So my father heard about it,
and he went after this Pole,

839

00:41:04,000 --> 00:41:06,370

and he beat him so much he
thought he had killed him.

840

00:41:06,370 --> 00:41:09,543

So that night, he fled
Poland and went to Germany.

841

00:41:09,543 --> 00:41:10,960

And then he pulled
my mother over,

842

00:41:10,960 --> 00:41:12,890

and he married in Germany.

843

00:41:12,890 --> 00:41:18,460

So all this stories, terrible.

844

00:41:18,460 --> 00:41:20,740

It left a terrible
impression upon me,

845

00:41:20,740 --> 00:41:25,660

this life in Poland, this
poverty and the squalor

846

00:41:25,660 --> 00:41:27,730

and the ignorance.

847

00:41:27,730 --> 00:41:30,790

And it seemed very
black to me, Poland.

848

00:41:30,790 --> 00:41:35,210

In fact, to save my life one
day this concept of Poland--

849

00:41:35,210 --> 00:41:36,698

would you like me to tell this?

850

00:41:36,698 --> 00:41:39,630

851

00:41:39,630 --> 00:41:44,002

And it was in 1938 when--

852

00:41:44,002 --> 00:41:45,210

I might have told this story.

853

00:41:45,210 --> 00:41:46,885

I don't know about
Herschel Greenspan.

854

00:41:46,885 --> 00:41:47,760

Did I tell the story?

855

00:41:47,760 --> 00:41:50,370

Yeah, but tell it again.

856

00:41:50,370 --> 00:41:54,480

And the Germans decided to
take all the Polish nationals,

857

00:41:54,480 --> 00:42:01,860

the citizens, and evict
them from Germany to Poland.

858

00:42:01,860 --> 00:42:08,910

To cut a long story short,
I was on that transport.

859

00:42:08,910 --> 00:42:10,170

And I was sent to Poland.

860

00:42:10,170 --> 00:42:15,090
And the woman saw
me at the frontier,

861
00:42:15,090 --> 00:42:16,830
and she said, where
are your parents?

862
00:42:16,830 --> 00:42:18,330
And I said, my
parents aren't here.

863
00:42:18,330 --> 00:42:21,460
I came from this
hostel in Stettin.

864
00:42:21,460 --> 00:42:23,917
And she said, have
you got a passport?

865
00:42:23,917 --> 00:42:24,750
I said, I have none.

866
00:42:24,750 --> 00:42:27,810
And she said, well I'll
say that you are my son,

867
00:42:27,810 --> 00:42:29,220
and I'll take you
over the border

868
00:42:29,220 --> 00:42:31,920
and then you go to Warsaw and
you'll find your relations

869
00:42:31,920 --> 00:42:34,170
or even your parents
probably crossed the border

870
00:42:34,170 --> 00:42:37,060
at a different place.

871
00:42:37,060 --> 00:42:40,000

So I agreed.

872
00:42:40,000 --> 00:42:42,985
So she took me over,
and the official just

873
00:42:42,985 --> 00:42:43,860
stamped the passport.

874
00:42:43,860 --> 00:42:45,690
It didn't even count
her children and me,

875
00:42:45,690 --> 00:42:46,950
and I was over in Poland.

876
00:42:46,950 --> 00:42:49,770
And then all these
things came back to me,

877
00:42:49,770 --> 00:42:53,730
these memories of Poland,
these remarks by my parents,

878
00:42:53,730 --> 00:42:54,340
and so forth.

879
00:42:54,340 --> 00:42:55,840
And I went up to
her and said, look,

880
00:42:55,840 --> 00:42:57,007
I'm going back into Germany.

881
00:42:57,007 --> 00:42:58,740
I'm not going to go to Poland.

882
00:42:58,740 --> 00:43:01,270
And she said no, what's the
use of going back to Germany?

883
00:43:01,270 --> 00:43:01,870

Germany is no good.

884
00:43:01,870 --> 00:43:03,453
I said, no, I'm going
back to Germany.

885
00:43:03,453 --> 00:43:07,470
So I went back to
the frontier, and I

886
00:43:07,470 --> 00:43:12,300
spoke to the Polish official,
and I was sent back to Germany,

887
00:43:12,300 --> 00:43:14,730
to Stettin, but I came home.

888
00:43:14,730 --> 00:43:17,160
And eventually, I
was sent to England.

889
00:43:17,160 --> 00:43:18,900
If I would have
remained in Poland,

890
00:43:18,900 --> 00:43:20,980
I would have either ended
up in the Warsaw ghetto

891
00:43:20,980 --> 00:43:22,470
or in Auschwitz.

892
00:43:22,470 --> 00:43:26,280
So this decision saved my life
when I was only 13 years old.

893
00:43:26,280 --> 00:43:32,400

894
00:43:32,400 --> 00:43:35,430
Were you caught between the
two borders at any time?

895

00:43:35,430 --> 00:43:36,810
The German and Polish borders?

896

00:43:36,810 --> 00:43:37,380
No.

897

00:43:37,380 --> 00:43:41,857
The Germans-- there were a few
who didn't have any passports,

898

00:43:41,857 --> 00:43:43,440
and the Poles didn't
want to take them

899

00:43:43,440 --> 00:43:44,690
because they had no passports.

900

00:43:44,690 --> 00:43:46,592
The Germans took
them back, and they

901

00:43:46,592 --> 00:43:49,050
went back on the train from
the town, then from their homes

902

00:43:49,050 --> 00:43:50,130
where they came from.

903

00:43:50,130 --> 00:43:53,760
And we went back where we lived.

904

00:43:53,760 --> 00:43:57,360
But then, of course, soon after
was the Kristallnacht and then

905

00:43:57,360 --> 00:43:59,490
things started to
roll, you know.

906

00:43:59,490 --> 00:44:03,540
And after the Kristallnacht,
I was sent to England.

907
00:44:03,540 --> 00:44:07,504
How much time did this take,
this going to Poland and back?

908
00:44:07,504 --> 00:44:09,690
About 48 hours.

909
00:44:09,690 --> 00:44:12,580
Maybe 24 hours
because they took me--

910
00:44:12,580 --> 00:44:15,210
the Gestapo came about 2:00
o'clock in the morning,

911
00:44:15,210 --> 00:44:18,970
took me to the jail.

912
00:44:18,970 --> 00:44:19,920
Everybody was there.

913
00:44:19,920 --> 00:44:23,290
Next morning, we were sent
on a train to the border.

914
00:44:23,290 --> 00:44:24,450
So probably 24 hours.

915
00:44:24,450 --> 00:44:26,295
And that night I
came back again.

916
00:44:26,295 --> 00:44:28,620
I was sent back.

917
00:44:28,620 --> 00:44:29,860
Did they give you food?

918
00:44:29,860 --> 00:44:30,360
Yeah.

919

00:44:30,360 --> 00:44:33,780

They gave us sausage
and all being Polish.

920

00:44:33,780 --> 00:44:37,200

As I explained before, nobody
ate that nonkosher food,

921

00:44:37,200 --> 00:44:40,050

so nobody would touch it.

922

00:44:40,050 --> 00:44:44,040

I remember that German said,
when in need, even the devil

923

00:44:44,040 --> 00:44:46,050

eats flies, so you
better eat that sausage.

924

00:44:46,050 --> 00:44:48,870

But nobody would touch
it because all the Polish

925

00:44:48,870 --> 00:44:52,590

Jews in those days were
mostly religious or at least

926

00:44:52,590 --> 00:44:53,430

they kept kosher.

927

00:44:53,430 --> 00:44:56,190

928

00:44:56,190 --> 00:44:58,922

But I don't remember beside
that that we got any food.

929

00:44:58,922 --> 00:44:59,630

I don't think so.

930

00:44:59,630 --> 00:45:04,000

931
00:45:04,000 --> 00:45:06,970
How did people treat
you on the train

932
00:45:06,970 --> 00:45:08,350
with the other Jewish people?

933
00:45:08,350 --> 00:45:10,010
How did people treat you --

934
00:45:10,010 --> 00:45:10,510
Yeah.

935
00:45:10,510 --> 00:45:11,170
How was that [? train? ?]

936
00:45:11,170 --> 00:45:12,253
There were families there.

937
00:45:12,253 --> 00:45:13,850
I was by myself.

938
00:45:13,850 --> 00:45:15,130
I was by myself.

939
00:45:15,130 --> 00:45:16,990
They had food.

940
00:45:16,990 --> 00:45:18,430
I don't remember that I had --

941
00:45:18,430 --> 00:45:21,130
It's too long ago to
remember the small details.

942
00:45:21,130 --> 00:45:23,290
But there were
families, you know.

943
00:45:23,290 --> 00:45:25,930

Father, mother, and
their children and lots

944
00:45:25,930 --> 00:45:32,140
of crying and lots of confusion
and lots of unhappiness.

945
00:45:32,140 --> 00:45:34,720
People being taken
away from their homes,

946
00:45:34,720 --> 00:45:38,170
being sent to Poland where they
came from years ago, and full

947
00:45:38,170 --> 00:45:41,990
of premonitions
and full of fear.

948
00:45:41,990 --> 00:45:43,660
I remember there was
a lot of hysteria

949
00:45:43,660 --> 00:45:47,050
going on in that
train, lots of noise,

950
00:45:47,050 --> 00:45:48,880
and lots of crying and weeping.

951
00:45:48,880 --> 00:45:53,320

952
00:45:53,320 --> 00:45:56,140
Did any of the
children get together

953
00:45:56,140 --> 00:45:57,130
With children--

954
00:45:57,130 --> 00:45:58,900
Other children on the train?

955

00:45:58,900 --> 00:46:00,790

Oh, that's-- I don't remember.

956

00:46:00,790 --> 00:46:02,525

I cannot remember.

957

00:46:02,525 --> 00:46:04,150

There were lots of
children, I do know.

958

00:46:04,150 --> 00:46:10,700

But I was-- in a way I was
terrified by this action,

959

00:46:10,700 --> 00:46:11,200

you know?

960

00:46:11,200 --> 00:46:13,420

And I didn't feel too
much like playing.

961

00:46:13,420 --> 00:46:16,000

962

00:46:16,000 --> 00:46:18,010

I was concerned with
what's going to be.

963

00:46:18,010 --> 00:46:19,840

Where I'm going to
be and so forth.

964

00:46:19,840 --> 00:46:21,760

Besides, I was there by myself.

965

00:46:21,760 --> 00:46:23,890

I was the only one
who was by himself.

966

00:46:23,890 --> 00:46:27,120

The rest were all with families.

967

00:46:27,120 --> 00:46:29,440

Where was your mother
and your sister?

968

00:46:29,440 --> 00:46:31,240

Oh, they were also--

969

00:46:31,240 --> 00:46:35,350

later on, they were sent in
another frontier crossing,

970

00:46:35,350 --> 00:46:37,720

and they also had
no valid passport.

971

00:46:37,720 --> 00:46:40,597

So they also were sent back.

972

00:46:40,597 --> 00:46:42,430

They came back and then
they met me instead.

973

00:46:42,430 --> 00:46:43,990

They came to Stettin,
to that hostel,

974

00:46:43,990 --> 00:46:47,470

and then suddenly, the doorbell
rang and there she was.

975

00:46:47,470 --> 00:46:49,450

Only to be later sent
away to Auschwitz,

976

00:46:49,450 --> 00:46:52,930

but that's another story.

977

00:46:52,930 --> 00:46:57,085

How did the-- did the Poles
shout insults at you, or --

978

00:46:57,085 --> 00:46:59,107

No.

979

00:46:59,107 --> 00:47:00,190

You see it was a frontier.

980

00:47:00,190 --> 00:47:01,480

There were no Poles.

981

00:47:01,480 --> 00:47:06,602

But on the other side in Poland,
we went into a kind of an inn.

982

00:47:06,602 --> 00:47:08,560

And I don't think there
were any Poles in there

983

00:47:08,560 --> 00:47:14,020

except the owner who was selling
whatever tea or coffee or--

984

00:47:14,020 --> 00:47:14,860

I don't remember.

985

00:47:14,860 --> 00:47:15,693

Or sandwiches maybe.

986

00:47:15,693 --> 00:47:17,410

I don't remember that exactly.

987

00:47:17,410 --> 00:47:20,690

But there were no
Poles in that inn.

988

00:47:20,690 --> 00:47:23,050

It was filled with
the Jewish people

989

00:47:23,050 --> 00:47:26,080

who were being evicted
and waiting for the train

990

00:47:26,080 --> 00:47:27,100

to take them to Warsaw.

991

00:47:27,100 --> 00:47:29,945

992

00:47:29,945 --> 00:47:32,320

When you were on the train
with all these other families,

993

00:47:32,320 --> 00:47:34,982

did anybody kind of see that
you were alone and take you in?

994

00:47:34,982 --> 00:47:35,866

No.

995

00:47:35,866 --> 00:47:38,530

Only when we arrived
at the frontier.

996

00:47:38,530 --> 00:47:40,000

And I was standing
there by myself,

997

00:47:40,000 --> 00:47:44,094

and I must have looked
a miserable little--

998

00:47:44,094 --> 00:47:47,530

very, very sort
of pale and cold.

999

00:47:47,530 --> 00:47:48,888

And this woman took pity on me.

1000

00:47:48,888 --> 00:47:50,430

She came to me, and
she looked at me.

1001

00:47:50,430 --> 00:47:53,848

And when she looked at
me, she started to cry.

1002

00:47:53,848 --> 00:47:54,640

She started to cry.

1003

00:47:54,640 --> 00:47:57,132

She felt a lot of
compassion for me.

1004

00:47:57,132 --> 00:47:58,840

And she asked me,
where are your parents?

1005

00:47:58,840 --> 00:48:00,280

And told you this.

1006

00:48:00,280 --> 00:48:01,660

I said, they are not here.

1007

00:48:01,660 --> 00:48:02,680

Anybody you are with?

1008

00:48:02,680 --> 00:48:04,480

I said, no, nobody.

1009

00:48:04,480 --> 00:48:08,350

And then she offered to take
me over the border to Warsaw

1010

00:48:08,350 --> 00:48:11,080

and then maybe
find my relations.

1011

00:48:11,080 --> 00:48:14,185

And thank God I
came to a decision

1012

00:48:14,185 --> 00:48:16,917

not to continue to Warsaw.

1013

00:48:16,917 --> 00:48:18,250

Did you have any money with you?

1014

00:48:18,250 --> 00:48:19,570
No.

1015
00:48:19,570 --> 00:48:21,100
None.

1016
00:48:21,100 --> 00:48:22,870
How did you get the
train fare back?

1017
00:48:22,870 --> 00:48:24,490
The Germans did it.

1018
00:48:24,490 --> 00:48:26,710
The Germans put me on
the train, put me back.

1019
00:48:26,710 --> 00:48:30,250
In fact, when I arrived
back in Szczecin,

1020
00:48:30,250 --> 00:48:34,150
this office was still
open with the officials

1021
00:48:34,150 --> 00:48:35,410
who did the sending away.

1022
00:48:35,410 --> 00:48:36,785
They were still
sitting in there.

1023
00:48:36,785 --> 00:48:38,740
And I knocked on the
door, and I came in.

1024
00:48:38,740 --> 00:48:40,600
And he thought I
was a German child.

1025
00:48:40,600 --> 00:48:43,270
I mentioned before
I was very blond.

1026
00:48:43,270 --> 00:48:45,730
And when I told him that
I had been on this train,

1027
00:48:45,730 --> 00:48:47,600
he said, OK, you can go home.

1028
00:48:47,600 --> 00:48:50,470
I said, well, I'd like to phone.

1029
00:48:50,470 --> 00:48:53,650
And so he gave me few
pfennigs, and I phoned.

1030
00:48:53,650 --> 00:48:57,280
And this director of the school,
he was still up, you know.

1031
00:48:57,280 --> 00:48:58,580
He was so worried about me.

1032
00:48:58,580 --> 00:49:00,760
And when he heard my
voice on the phone,

1033
00:49:00,760 --> 00:49:02,170
he said he was so happy.

1034
00:49:02,170 --> 00:49:06,130
He said, you come towards the
hospital, and I'll meet you.

1035
00:49:06,130 --> 00:49:08,480
I'll come towards
the railway station.

1036
00:49:08,480 --> 00:49:13,120
So this German official gave
me some pfennigs and I phoned.

1037
00:49:13,120 --> 00:49:16,270

And so we met, and I
came back again home.

1038
00:49:16,270 --> 00:49:17,870
Excuse me.

1039
00:49:17,870 --> 00:49:19,070
Can I get some can I

1040
00:49:19,070 --> 00:49:19,780
Ask it

1041
00:49:19,780 --> 00:49:22,480
Start with that one.

1042
00:49:22,480 --> 00:49:25,720
Let's say at any time
or we're all set.

1043
00:49:25,720 --> 00:49:29,650
OK, so I was curious
because your memories

1044
00:49:29,650 --> 00:49:34,750
of the antisemitism in Poland
and from your parents' memories

1045
00:49:34,750 --> 00:49:39,580
is so scary and dark
and overwhelming

1046
00:49:39,580 --> 00:49:42,700
and yet the
antisemitism that you're

1047
00:49:42,700 --> 00:49:46,570
describing in
Germany at that time

1048
00:49:46,570 --> 00:49:54,720
was ongoing and daily
and very menacing.

1049

00:49:54,720 --> 00:49:57,450

And it's interesting,
that contrast.

1050

00:49:57,450 --> 00:50:00,390

1051

00:50:00,390 --> 00:50:07,500

My answer to that question
is that Germany was my life

1052

00:50:07,500 --> 00:50:08,640

and Germany must not--

1053

00:50:08,640 --> 00:50:11,400

1054

00:50:11,400 --> 00:50:13,260

we didn't suffer any poverty.

1055

00:50:13,260 --> 00:50:18,090

We had always-- we had
a good life materially.

1056

00:50:18,090 --> 00:50:20,160

My parents were well off.

1057

00:50:20,160 --> 00:50:20,870

We had a shop.

1058

00:50:20,870 --> 00:50:23,560

We always had enough to eat.

1059

00:50:23,560 --> 00:50:25,900

We had nice clothes.

1060

00:50:25,900 --> 00:50:29,530

And we had a nice house,
and the house was furnished.

1061

00:50:29,530 --> 00:50:32,160

It was our own house.

1062
00:50:32,160 --> 00:50:34,530
And I went to school.

1063
00:50:34,530 --> 00:50:40,230
And, as I explained
before, the antisemitism

1064
00:50:40,230 --> 00:50:44,440
that I encountered in Germany,
it was sort of part of my life.

1065
00:50:44,440 --> 00:50:46,320
I didn't know any difference.

1066
00:50:46,320 --> 00:50:49,770
But in contrast,
Poland it seemed

1067
00:50:49,770 --> 00:50:59,380
such a life full of
troubles, full of poorness.

1068
00:50:59,380 --> 00:51:01,490
People never had enough to eat.

1069
00:51:01,490 --> 00:51:03,490
There was no such thing
as a child going to work

1070
00:51:03,490 --> 00:51:05,020
in Germany at the age of 11.

1071
00:51:05,020 --> 00:51:09,760
The earliest a child could
go to work was the age of 14.

1072
00:51:09,760 --> 00:51:10,870
And, of course, schooling.

1073
00:51:10,870 --> 00:51:13,240

My parents had no schooling.

1074
00:51:13,240 --> 00:51:16,450
And Germany was a very
well-organized country,

1075
00:51:16,450 --> 00:51:20,680
and this whole antisemitism
wasn't so virulent.

1076
00:51:20,680 --> 00:51:25,840
It was here and there somebody
used to abuse you, insult you,

1077
00:51:25,840 --> 00:51:28,880
but it wasn't every day.

1078
00:51:28,880 --> 00:51:29,740
It wasn't every day.

1079
00:51:29,740 --> 00:51:32,280
Sometimes somebody and then--

1080
00:51:32,280 --> 00:51:33,880
And we had German
friends, too, who

1081
00:51:33,880 --> 00:51:35,260
used to come into our house.

1082
00:51:35,260 --> 00:51:37,870
And my mother used
to talk to neighbors.

1083
00:51:37,870 --> 00:51:40,030
And I used to go into shops.

1084
00:51:40,030 --> 00:51:45,240
So it seemed the kind of
an ordinary life we led.

1085
00:51:45,240 --> 00:51:49,875

So we knew the outburst of antisemitism, there was no--

1086
00:51:49,875 --> 00:51:50,750
how can I explain it?

1087
00:51:50,750 --> 00:51:57,180
There was no fear of anything happening to us in those days.

1088
00:51:57,180 --> 00:51:58,170
OK, it happened.

1089
00:51:58,170 --> 00:52:02,490
And my parents were even used to that sort of thing in Poland.

1090
00:52:02,490 --> 00:52:05,670
And I saw it in Germany but only from time to time.

1091
00:52:05,670 --> 00:52:07,110
It didn't happen every day.

1092
00:52:07,110 --> 00:52:10,290

1093
00:52:10,290 --> 00:52:12,690
But sometimes, things were pretty tough for me

1094
00:52:12,690 --> 00:52:14,340
in the German school, very tough.

1095
00:52:14,340 --> 00:52:16,330
I remember an incident.

1096
00:52:16,330 --> 00:52:19,590
One day, my mother went to Poland to visit her parents

1097

00:52:19,590 --> 00:52:21,480
and when she came
back, she brought

1098
00:52:21,480 --> 00:52:24,425
a sausage, a kosher sausage.

1099
00:52:24,425 --> 00:52:26,190
Did I tell you that story?

1100
00:52:26,190 --> 00:52:29,280
And it was a wonderful sausage,
and it was full of garlic

1101
00:52:29,280 --> 00:52:32,970
and I love that sausage
smell to high heaven.

1102
00:52:32,970 --> 00:52:36,000
So the next day,
my mother made me

1103
00:52:36,000 --> 00:52:37,380
sandwiches to take to school.

1104
00:52:37,380 --> 00:52:41,610
And she put a very
generous portion of garlic

1105
00:52:41,610 --> 00:52:44,040
on my sandwiches, and
I took it to school

1106
00:52:44,040 --> 00:52:45,720
and put it under my desk.

1107
00:52:45,720 --> 00:52:48,300
And that morning,
a kriegler came,

1108
00:52:48,300 --> 00:52:50,640
and he was our art teacher.

1109
00:52:50,640 --> 00:52:53,190
And he had a limp.

1110
00:52:53,190 --> 00:52:55,227
And he was wounded in
the First World War,

1111
00:52:55,227 --> 00:52:57,060
and he blamed the Jews
for having this limp.

1112
00:52:57,060 --> 00:53:03,670
They were the cause
of his infirmity.

1113
00:53:03,670 --> 00:53:06,660
So in the olden days, when
the teacher used to come in,

1114
00:53:06,660 --> 00:53:08,220
then all the children
used to get up

1115
00:53:08,220 --> 00:53:11,400
and we used to say in
unison, good morning,

1116
00:53:11,400 --> 00:53:13,948
Herr teacher, Herr
Lehrer, used to bow down,

1117
00:53:13,948 --> 00:53:14,740
that sort of thing.

1118
00:53:14,740 --> 00:53:18,460
But he was already
in SA uniform.

1119
00:53:18,460 --> 00:53:20,130
And when he came in,
he raised his hand,

1120

00:53:20,130 --> 00:53:22,050
and he was going to
say, Heil Hitler.

1121
00:53:22,050 --> 00:53:24,630
But he didn't quite manage the
Hitler because he said Heil

1122
00:53:24,630 --> 00:53:26,940
and then he smelled the garlic.

1123
00:53:26,940 --> 00:53:30,460
So he wasn't able to
finish the Hitler.

1124
00:53:30,460 --> 00:53:32,490
So he pulled his nose
up and he immediately

1125
00:53:32,490 --> 00:53:34,090
knew who was the perpetrator.

1126
00:53:34,090 --> 00:53:35,880
So he started to
play cat and mouse.

1127
00:53:35,880 --> 00:53:38,400
He went from desk
to desk to smell

1128
00:53:38,400 --> 00:53:40,080
and left me to the
very last, and I

1129
00:53:40,080 --> 00:53:41,970
was sitting there squirming.

1130
00:53:41,970 --> 00:53:47,730
At last he reached my desk and
then he looked under the desk.

1131
00:53:47,730 --> 00:53:50,340
He pulled out the

bag of sandwiches

1132
00:53:50,340 --> 00:53:54,255
and held it very
far from his body

1133
00:53:54,255 --> 00:53:56,790
so that he shouldn't be
contaminated by the garlic

1134
00:53:56,790 --> 00:53:59,160
because garlic was a
food the Germans said

1135
00:53:59,160 --> 00:54:00,930
is endemic to Jews.

1136
00:54:00,930 --> 00:54:04,080
They love garlic as if the
Germans didn't like it,

1137
00:54:04,080 --> 00:54:06,340
but that's a different story.

1138
00:54:06,340 --> 00:54:08,595
So he took those sandwiches
between his thumb

1139
00:54:08,595 --> 00:54:11,250
and his forefinger, and he took
me by the scruff of the neck

1140
00:54:11,250 --> 00:54:14,310
and propelled me to the
door, opened the door,

1141
00:54:14,310 --> 00:54:16,500
and kicked me with his
foot out of the door.

1142
00:54:16,500 --> 00:54:19,050
I slid across the
corridor against the wall,

1143
00:54:19,050 --> 00:54:20,430
and I held my head.

1144
00:54:20,430 --> 00:54:23,100
And he threw the
sandwiches after me.

1145
00:54:23,100 --> 00:54:27,990
So I cursed him, that
monster, under my breath.

1146
00:54:27,990 --> 00:54:31,000
And I went home, and I
told my mother this story.

1147
00:54:31,000 --> 00:54:35,790
So she took her hat, and
she took me by the hand

1148
00:54:35,790 --> 00:54:37,890
and hurried back
to school and had

1149
00:54:37,890 --> 00:54:40,150
an interview with the
director of the school.

1150
00:54:40,150 --> 00:54:42,130
And I remember
like today he said,

1151
00:54:42,130 --> 00:54:44,280
Frau Grossman, there's
nothing I can do.

1152
00:54:44,280 --> 00:54:46,560
We are living in hard times.

1153
00:54:46,560 --> 00:54:49,890
So that was a story
about the garlic sausage.

1154
00:54:49,890 --> 00:54:51,960
How old were you?

1155
00:54:51,960 --> 00:54:55,230
I was about 11, 11 and 1/2.

1156
00:54:55,230 --> 00:54:59,580
And from that day on, the
children in the school

1157
00:54:59,580 --> 00:55:01,890
used to accompany me home.

1158
00:55:01,890 --> 00:55:08,580
And they, in unison, used to
chant verses against the Jews,

1159
00:55:08,580 --> 00:55:11,790
you know, Jews with long noses
and long, dirty fingernails

1160
00:55:11,790 --> 00:55:12,580
and so forth.

1161
00:55:12,580 --> 00:55:15,180
And then the next morning, they
waited in front of my house

1162
00:55:15,180 --> 00:55:19,080
in order to accompany
me home again to school

1163
00:55:19,080 --> 00:55:20,950
and that went on
for quite a bit.

1164
00:55:20,950 --> 00:55:24,600
And then my mother
decided it's about time

1165
00:55:24,600 --> 00:55:28,050
to go to a Jewish school

because it was getting too much.

1166

00:55:28,050 --> 00:55:29,520

But that wasn't every day.

1167

00:55:29,520 --> 00:55:31,560

It was occurrences.

1168

00:55:31,560 --> 00:55:33,090

And we took it in our stride.

1169

00:55:33,090 --> 00:55:35,790

You know we were
conditioned to it.

1170

00:55:35,790 --> 00:55:38,580

Actually, I personally
didn't know any difference.

1171

00:55:38,580 --> 00:55:40,750

That's the way the world
went around with me.

1172

00:55:40,750 --> 00:55:43,490

I didn't know that
there was any--

1173

00:55:43,490 --> 00:55:45,420

I thought it was
the way Jews lived.

1174

00:55:45,420 --> 00:55:45,930

That's it.

1175

00:55:45,930 --> 00:55:47,430

We had to take it.

1176

00:55:47,430 --> 00:55:50,670

But then, of course, today
I've undergone a metamorphosis.

1177

00:55:50,670 --> 00:55:54,480

I wouldn't take
nobody from nothing.

1178
00:55:54,480 --> 00:55:57,810
I mean, even to think
that I would tolerate

1179
00:55:57,810 --> 00:56:02,430
any kind of treatment of
that sort is so alien to me

1180
00:56:02,430 --> 00:56:05,070
that I mean, it
wouldn't occur to me

1181
00:56:05,070 --> 00:56:07,830
that I should even tolerate
or agree to such treatment.

1182
00:56:07,830 --> 00:56:10,750
I mean, it won't happen to
me again or to my children

1183
00:56:10,750 --> 00:56:13,110
or to my grandchildren
to nobody, or to no Jew.

1184
00:56:13,110 --> 00:56:18,350

1185
00:56:18,350 --> 00:56:21,650
Last time you said something
about some antisemitic verses

1186
00:56:21,650 --> 00:56:23,420
kids in Poland yelled at you?

1187
00:56:23,420 --> 00:56:24,320
In Poland?

1188
00:56:24,320 --> 00:56:24,920
No.

1189

00:56:24,920 --> 00:56:27,290

I was never in Poland
except on the frontier.

1190

00:56:27,290 --> 00:56:28,470

Only in Germany.

1191

00:56:28,470 --> 00:56:29,660

OK.

1192

00:56:29,660 --> 00:56:35,010

I don't remember what it was
like, so I won't ask it now.

1193

00:56:35,010 --> 00:56:38,880

1194

00:56:38,880 --> 00:56:41,610

You mentioned about,
last time again,

1195

00:56:41,610 --> 00:56:45,540

about how there were two streets
your family lived on in Warsaw

1196

00:56:45,540 --> 00:56:47,670

that became famous.

1197

00:56:47,670 --> 00:56:48,930

Why did they become famous?

1198

00:56:48,930 --> 00:56:52,860

And I heard that my mother
lived in the Nalewki

1199

00:56:52,860 --> 00:56:58,140

and my father lived on the
Krochmalna I had, as a child,

1200

00:56:58,140 --> 00:57:00,420

my father used to
speak in Yiddish.

1201
00:57:00,420 --> 00:57:02,130
Then they spoke
Polish only when they

1202
00:57:02,130 --> 00:57:05,070
didn't want me to understand
what they were talking about.

1203
00:57:05,070 --> 00:57:07,680
But Yiddish, I speak and
understand very well.

1204
00:57:07,680 --> 00:57:10,290
Indeed, it's very
close to German.

1205
00:57:10,290 --> 00:57:14,910
So very often they talked about
the Nalewki and the Krochmalna

1206
00:57:14,910 --> 00:57:17,250
And I came across these
two streets later on,

1207
00:57:17,250 --> 00:57:21,060
and they were part
of the Warsaw ghetto.

1208
00:57:21,060 --> 00:57:24,030
And I read several books
on the Warsaw ghetto,

1209
00:57:24,030 --> 00:57:27,660
and I came and I saw maps
and there the two streets

1210
00:57:27,660 --> 00:57:28,900
were right in the ghetto.

1211
00:57:28,900 --> 00:57:31,830
So then I assumed
that my parents

1212
00:57:31,830 --> 00:57:36,720
lived in the Jewish district of
Warsaw, in the poorer district.

1213
00:57:36,720 --> 00:57:41,837
Even in films I sometimes
saw the streets, you know,

1214
00:57:41,837 --> 00:57:43,920
slums and the Warsaw ghetto,
so I recognized them.

1215
00:57:43,920 --> 00:57:49,310

1216
00:57:49,310 --> 00:57:51,020
What was life in
your family like?

1217
00:57:51,020 --> 00:57:57,820

1218
00:57:57,820 --> 00:58:01,090
I think my father had
a kind of frustration.

1219
00:58:01,090 --> 00:58:03,837
He wanted his children to
become doctors and lawyers.

1220
00:58:03,837 --> 00:58:05,170
I didn't think we could make it.

1221
00:58:05,170 --> 00:58:07,480
I didn't think we had it in us.

1222
00:58:07,480 --> 00:58:13,318
And besides, he was a simple
man as I described before.

1223
00:58:13,318 --> 00:58:14,860

He didn't know how
to read and write.

1224
00:58:14,860 --> 00:58:17,275
He never went to school
except maybe to trade

1225
00:58:17,275 --> 00:58:21,310
and to learn how to
read a prayer book.

1226
00:58:21,310 --> 00:58:24,960
But fundamentally, he
was not an educated man.

1227
00:58:24,960 --> 00:58:31,150
Neither was my mother, but
they had this cleverness

1228
00:58:31,150 --> 00:58:32,270
of simple people.

1229
00:58:32,270 --> 00:58:36,160
They knew how to shape their
lives and to make a good living

1230
00:58:36,160 --> 00:58:40,660
and they're very good,
in a way, good merchants.

1231
00:58:40,660 --> 00:58:43,510
And, you know, he
bought a house,

1232
00:58:43,510 --> 00:58:45,820
and he bought another house,
and he had a nice shop,

1233
00:58:45,820 --> 00:58:47,530
and he raised his family.

1234
00:58:47,530 --> 00:58:49,390
There was nothing

wrong with that.

1235
00:58:49,390 --> 00:58:52,870
But he never went to school,
but like all Jewish parents,

1236
00:58:52,870 --> 00:58:56,890
they wanted their children
to become something.

1237
00:58:56,890 --> 00:58:58,720
But we had some
kind of conditioning

1238
00:58:58,720 --> 00:59:01,930
because in the school,
my learning was stunting.

1239
00:59:01,930 --> 00:59:06,700
I couldn't even think of
learning because I was always

1240
00:59:06,700 --> 00:59:08,650
thinking of what is going
to happen next, what

1241
00:59:08,650 --> 00:59:10,480
is the teacher going
to be next, and what

1242
00:59:10,480 --> 00:59:12,940
are the children, my
fellow pupils, what

1243
00:59:12,940 --> 00:59:14,890
are they going to be next?

1244
00:59:14,890 --> 00:59:16,960
I could never really
concentrate on learning.

1245
00:59:16,960 --> 00:59:19,060
I was stunted completely.

1246
00:59:19,060 --> 00:59:22,480
My whole thoughts
were focused on only,

1247
00:59:22,480 --> 00:59:23,980
I hope it's going to be--

1248
00:59:23,980 --> 00:59:26,920
this class is going
to be over, and I'm

1249
00:59:26,920 --> 00:59:31,600
going to be able to get home
without my fellow pupils

1250
00:59:31,600 --> 00:59:34,030
accompanying me
home and shouting

1251
00:59:34,030 --> 00:59:35,630
these terrible verses after me.

1252
00:59:35,630 --> 00:59:38,410
And the next day again I
said, what is the teacher,

1253
00:59:38,410 --> 00:59:41,410
he always makes terrible
remarks about the Jews.

1254
00:59:41,410 --> 00:59:44,140
So my whole mind could
not be concentrated

1255
00:59:44,140 --> 00:59:44,980
on learning at all.

1256
00:59:44,980 --> 00:59:47,445
That's happened to my
two brothers as well.

1257

00:59:47,445 --> 00:59:49,195

My sister, I don't
know, I don't remember.

1258

00:59:49,195 --> 00:59:51,760

1259

00:59:51,760 --> 00:59:56,170

It followed me very long
in life since I didn't have

1260

00:59:56,170 --> 01:00:00,010

the fundamentals of learning.

1261

01:00:00,010 --> 01:00:02,590

Any child, I think, it's
the most important years

1262

01:00:02,590 --> 01:00:05,810

of his life and he gets
the rudiments of learning,

1263

01:00:05,810 --> 01:00:06,970

which I didn't have.

1264

01:00:06,970 --> 01:00:09,520

I just couldn't study.

1265

01:00:09,520 --> 01:00:11,290

But in later years,
thank God, I think

1266

01:00:11,290 --> 01:00:14,920

I got a little bit of
wisdom, maybe [INAUDIBLE]..

1267

01:00:14,920 --> 01:00:16,900

In fact, I educated
myself, I think.

1268

01:00:16,900 --> 01:00:22,930

I read a lot and what
I do is I think a lot.

1269
01:00:22,930 --> 01:00:28,300
So I'm always thinking,
so I read a lot.

1270
01:00:28,300 --> 01:00:31,390
And thank God I think
I'm late bloomer

1271
01:00:31,390 --> 01:00:36,040
so I got some knowledge
and some wisdom,

1272
01:00:36,040 --> 01:00:37,630
so to speak, in later life.

1273
01:00:37,630 --> 01:00:42,190
But I was never able to
fulfill the dreams of my father

1274
01:00:42,190 --> 01:00:44,200
to become something.

1275
01:00:44,200 --> 01:00:46,690
So I think my father was
a little bit frustrated.

1276
01:00:46,690 --> 01:00:48,520
He saw that his
children couldn't be

1277
01:00:48,520 --> 01:00:52,270
that what he wanted them to be.

1278
01:00:52,270 --> 01:00:54,880
He was also an impetuous man.

1279
01:00:54,880 --> 01:00:57,580
He was quick tempered, but he
never touched his children.

1280
01:00:57,580 --> 01:01:03,700

But I think the whole
question of livelihood

1281
01:01:03,700 --> 01:01:05,680
under those circumstances
were a strain on him.

1282
01:01:05,680 --> 01:01:08,340

1283
01:01:08,340 --> 01:01:13,110
But we had nice Shabbatot,
and we had nice holy holidays

1284
01:01:13,110 --> 01:01:14,190
and so forth.

1285
01:01:14,190 --> 01:01:17,010
On the festivals, you know,
we all went to synagogue

1286
01:01:17,010 --> 01:01:17,640
and so forth.

1287
01:01:17,640 --> 01:01:20,040
My father sat down
with us in order

1288
01:01:20,040 --> 01:01:24,435
to learn a little bit of the
Tanakh of the Old Testament.

1289
01:01:24,435 --> 01:01:26,310
Although I don't think
he was such an expert,

1290
01:01:26,310 --> 01:01:27,393
but he wanted us to learn.

1291
01:01:27,393 --> 01:01:30,840
But it was a
middle-class family.

1292

01:01:30,840 --> 01:01:32,550

It was lots of
love in our family.

1293

01:01:32,550 --> 01:01:35,230

1294

01:01:35,230 --> 01:01:39,370

I think there was nothing
out of the ordinary.

1295

01:01:39,370 --> 01:01:42,430

It was enough within the
framework of our family

1296

01:01:42,430 --> 01:01:47,620

except of course the
surroundings were tough.

1297

01:01:47,620 --> 01:01:50,073

In fact, I know when
I told you I went--

1298

01:01:50,073 --> 01:01:51,490

last year, I went
back to the town

1299

01:01:51,490 --> 01:01:54,620

I was born in after 50 years.

1300

01:01:54,620 --> 01:01:56,410

And I looked around
and all those memories

1301

01:01:56,410 --> 01:01:58,840

came flooding back to me,
and I saw the same streets.

1302

01:01:58,840 --> 01:01:59,980

They hadn't changed.

1303

01:01:59,980 --> 01:02:01,840

Same cobblestones.

1304
01:02:01,840 --> 01:02:04,090
In fact, I saw the same people.

1305
01:02:04,090 --> 01:02:06,370
I saw, of course, there
was a new generation there.

1306
01:02:06,370 --> 01:02:08,890
And there were people of my age.

1307
01:02:08,890 --> 01:02:12,220
I went to the school
in order to find out--

1308
01:02:12,220 --> 01:02:14,950
pupils, you know,
fellow students.

1309
01:02:14,950 --> 01:02:18,880
But I wasn't able to because
the records were not there

1310
01:02:18,880 --> 01:02:22,165
and it was too long.

1311
01:02:22,165 --> 01:02:26,000
The contemporary director,
principal of the school,

1312
01:02:26,000 --> 01:02:29,080
he said he didn't
have any records of--

1313
01:02:29,080 --> 01:02:31,720
I was trying to find
somebody to speak to him

1314
01:02:31,720 --> 01:02:34,600
and maybe remind them
of what they did to me.

1315

01:02:34,600 --> 01:02:38,020

Anyway, I wasn't
able to, but people

1316

01:02:38,020 --> 01:02:39,927

didn't look any
different to me, and I

1317

01:02:39,927 --> 01:02:42,010

don't know whether I'm
wrong or whether I'm right.

1318

01:02:42,010 --> 01:02:44,350

Given the same
circumstances, I think

1319

01:02:44,350 --> 01:02:46,370

nothing has changed in Germany.

1320

01:02:46,370 --> 01:02:47,470

It could happen again.

1321

01:02:47,470 --> 01:02:50,920

It happened before
not so long ago.

1322

01:02:50,920 --> 01:02:53,500

But, you know, no
change except in myself.

1323

01:02:53,500 --> 01:02:54,610

I was a changed person.

1324

01:02:54,610 --> 01:02:58,415

I was-- in the olden days,
when somebody used to speak,

1325

01:02:58,415 --> 01:02:59,290

hushed Jewish people.

1326

01:02:59,290 --> 01:03:00,850

They used to say,

don't talk so loud.

1327

01:03:00,850 --> 01:03:02,380

You're making [NON-ENGLISH].

1328

01:03:02,380 --> 01:03:05,290

The word [NON-ENGLISH] means
you're creating antisemitism.

1329

01:03:05,290 --> 01:03:08,800

Don't dress too ostentatiously.

1330

01:03:08,800 --> 01:03:10,892

Don't do this and don't
do that, you know.

1331

01:03:10,892 --> 01:03:13,120

We were a frightened people.

1332

01:03:13,120 --> 01:03:16,495

And I was motorcycle
racing in the two days

1333

01:03:16,495 --> 01:03:17,620

I was in my friend's house.

1334

01:03:17,620 --> 01:03:20,095

My friend took me there.

1335

01:03:20,095 --> 01:03:21,220

And I looked at the people.

1336

01:03:21,220 --> 01:03:24,010

I was the only Jew
who had ever come back

1337

01:03:24,010 --> 01:03:27,130

to the town, the only person.

1338

01:03:27,130 --> 01:03:29,590

And I looked-- you know, he
didn't know what he was talking

1339
01:03:29,590 --> 01:03:31,060
to me about, motorcycle racing.

1340
01:03:31,060 --> 01:03:32,440
But I'd seen once or twice.

1341
01:03:32,440 --> 01:03:35,590
That was enough for me but
again and again, it had--

1342
01:03:35,590 --> 01:03:36,200
nothing to me.

1343
01:03:36,200 --> 01:03:38,680
You've seen once,
you've seen them all.

1344
01:03:38,680 --> 01:03:42,880
So my mind was one thing.

1345
01:03:42,880 --> 01:03:45,790
And then I saw my
parents and, you know,

1346
01:03:45,790 --> 01:03:48,190
those memories came
flooding back into my mind.

1347
01:03:48,190 --> 01:03:49,960
And I looked at these people.

1348
01:03:49,960 --> 01:03:52,480
When the races were over, there
were a million beer bottles

1349
01:03:52,480 --> 01:03:55,240
lying there, all
pointed towards me.

1350
01:03:55,240 --> 01:03:57,880
And I said, my God,

I said, you just

1351

01:03:57,880 --> 01:04:01,270

tell these people the Jews are
the cause of all your troubles.

1352

01:04:01,270 --> 01:04:03,370

For 50 years, you had communism.

1353

01:04:03,370 --> 01:04:06,600

And for 50 years, you were
deprived of the good things

1354

01:04:06,600 --> 01:04:07,720

the West did.

1355

01:04:07,720 --> 01:04:10,870

And you have no work,
and you have no state,

1356

01:04:10,870 --> 01:04:14,290

and you've got these terrible
Trabant cars you're driving.

1357

01:04:14,290 --> 01:04:16,000

And there you see in
the West that they

1358

01:04:16,000 --> 01:04:19,270

drive those beautiful cars, and
they make a wonderful living.

1359

01:04:19,270 --> 01:04:20,800

It's Jews.

1360

01:04:20,800 --> 01:04:24,242

It's the Jews who had
fought, so I felt that and--

1361

01:04:24,242 --> 01:04:26,200

Did you actually hear
that when you went there?

1362

01:04:26,200 --> 01:04:26,710

No.

1363

01:04:26,710 --> 01:04:29,740

No, there is a phenomena there.

1364

01:04:29,740 --> 01:04:31,600

I met a friend.

1365

01:04:31,600 --> 01:04:33,070

Actually, a friend
of my brother's.

1366

01:04:33,070 --> 01:04:33,862

He was older as me.

1367

01:04:33,862 --> 01:04:36,430

He lives opposite our house.

1368

01:04:36,430 --> 01:04:40,060

And you know, seeing
each other was

1369

01:04:40,060 --> 01:04:41,860

a tremendous experience for me.

1370

01:04:41,860 --> 01:04:44,560

And he was very close
to the Jewish community

1371

01:04:44,560 --> 01:04:47,143

there because his father was a
kind of a socialist communist,

1372

01:04:47,143 --> 01:04:49,060

and he always played
with the Jewish children.

1373

01:04:49,060 --> 01:04:50,980

And he brought back so many--

1374

01:04:50,980 --> 01:04:54,250
he had so much knowledge
about the Jewish community

1375
01:04:54,250 --> 01:04:56,650
and what we did as children.

1376
01:04:56,650 --> 01:04:58,690
He amazed me, what he knew.

1377
01:04:58,690 --> 01:05:01,660
I only thought that I knew them.

1378
01:05:01,660 --> 01:05:06,190
But he came out with such
things, you know, I was amazed.

1379
01:05:06,190 --> 01:05:08,290
Really, truly, I
was amazed what he

1380
01:05:08,290 --> 01:05:10,990
knew, that he should
have kept these memories

1381
01:05:10,990 --> 01:05:12,670
because to me, they were close.

1382
01:05:12,670 --> 01:05:15,580
And to him they must have been
just sort of not important.

1383
01:05:15,580 --> 01:05:18,310
But he knew them all.

1384
01:05:18,310 --> 01:05:21,320
So what did you ask me?

1385
01:05:21,320 --> 01:05:22,870
Oh, if you had actually heard--

1386
01:05:22,870 --> 01:05:23,890

Oh, yes.

1387

01:05:23,890 --> 01:05:25,300

Well, he introduced me--

1388

01:05:25,300 --> 01:05:27,230

he's a well-known
personality there.

1389

01:05:27,230 --> 01:05:28,750

Everybody knows him.

1390

01:05:28,750 --> 01:05:31,570

And he introduced me
practically to maybe a hundred,

1391

01:05:31,570 --> 01:05:32,650

a hundred-fifty people.

1392

01:05:32,650 --> 01:05:37,300

He said, this is Ali Grossman,
and he was born in this town,

1393

01:05:37,300 --> 01:05:41,890

and he is an Israeli, and he
lives at the moment in America.

1394

01:05:41,890 --> 01:05:44,230

You know, there wasn't
a single question.

1395

01:05:44,230 --> 01:05:45,370

Really?

1396

01:05:45,370 --> 01:05:46,480

How is America?

1397

01:05:46,480 --> 01:05:47,650

How is Israel?

1398

01:05:47,650 --> 01:05:48,790

When did you leave?

1399

01:05:48,790 --> 01:05:50,860

When did you come back?

1400

01:05:50,860 --> 01:05:54,760

There was no reaction whatsoever
on part of the Germans.

1401

01:05:54,760 --> 01:05:56,260

And he must have
introduced me, as I

1402

01:05:56,260 --> 01:05:57,970

said, to many, many people.

1403

01:05:57,970 --> 01:06:00,790

They just said, hi.

1404

01:06:00,790 --> 01:06:04,480

In fact, he introduced me to
an elderly man whom he told me

1405

01:06:04,480 --> 01:06:08,890

he had been in prison for about
15 years for killing people,

1406

01:06:08,890 --> 01:06:10,810

Jews maybe.

1407

01:06:10,810 --> 01:06:13,780

But he said, well,
you know, maybe--

1408

01:06:13,780 --> 01:06:16,570

he tried to excuse him, but
I was standing right next

1409

01:06:16,570 --> 01:06:18,340

to that man.

1410

01:06:18,340 --> 01:06:20,950

And he looked an ordinary

man to me and ordinary face,

1411

01:06:20,950 --> 01:06:25,690
and then he was for 50 years
in prison for murdering Jews.

1412

01:06:25,690 --> 01:06:27,478
And I was standing
right next to him,

1413

01:06:27,478 --> 01:06:29,020
and he had been
released from prison.

1414

01:06:29,020 --> 01:06:30,940
He had served his time.

1415

01:06:30,940 --> 01:06:34,060
And he introduced me to him,
and there was no reaction.

1416

01:06:34,060 --> 01:06:36,970
He wasn't frightened, he
wasn't embarrassed, nothing.

1417

01:06:36,970 --> 01:06:41,920
But one incident I'd
like to tell you about.

1418

01:06:41,920 --> 01:06:47,550
The day I left, I had
rented a car in Hamburg

1419

01:06:47,550 --> 01:06:52,380
and driven with that car
to this East German town.

1420

01:06:52,380 --> 01:06:55,200
And it had West German
marking, of course, on the car.

1421

01:06:55,200 --> 01:06:59,850
You know, the-- and

I had it in front

1422
01:06:59,850 --> 01:07:02,160
of the inn I was staying
in, a kind of a hotel,

1423
01:07:02,160 --> 01:07:03,420
kind of a family hotel.

1424
01:07:03,420 --> 01:07:06,750
And I was lugging my
suitcases out and stowing away

1425
01:07:06,750 --> 01:07:10,170
into the boot when two
elderly men passed,

1426
01:07:10,170 --> 01:07:13,830
and they saw this West
German sign on my car.

1427
01:07:13,830 --> 01:07:16,615
One came up to me, took hold
of my hand, and shook my hand,

1428
01:07:16,615 --> 01:07:17,490
says, where you from?

1429
01:07:17,490 --> 01:07:18,060
From Munich?

1430
01:07:18,060 --> 01:07:18,685
From Frankfurt?

1431
01:07:18,685 --> 01:07:19,860
From Hamburg?

1432
01:07:19,860 --> 01:07:21,360
I said no, I'm from Jerusalem.

1433
01:07:21,360 --> 01:07:22,530
In German, of course.

1434
01:07:22,530 --> 01:07:25,355
He said-- went like this,
in an elderly way says,

1435
01:07:25,355 --> 01:07:25,980
where you from?

1436
01:07:25,980 --> 01:07:27,960
I said, [SPEAKING GERMAN]
Jerusalem.

1437
01:07:27,960 --> 01:07:28,950
I'm from Jerusalem.

1438
01:07:28,950 --> 01:07:30,660
He said, [SPEAKING GERMAN].

1439
01:07:30,660 --> 01:07:33,720
I said, I repeated again,
[SPEAKING GERMAN] Jerusalem.

1440
01:07:33,720 --> 01:07:37,120
I'm from Jerusalem, Israel.

1441
01:07:37,120 --> 01:07:41,580
So he turned to his companion
and said, [SPEAKING GERMAN]..

1442
01:07:41,580 --> 01:07:44,070
He's crazy, he's nuts.

1443
01:07:44,070 --> 01:07:44,850
And he walked on.

1444
01:07:44,850 --> 01:07:47,250
He thought I was nuts.

1445
01:07:47,250 --> 01:07:52,770
So that was the only reaction I
had from being introduced to--

1446

01:07:52,770 --> 01:07:54,570

Why do you think he
thought you were nuts?

1447

01:07:54,570 --> 01:07:55,650

I don't know.

1448

01:07:55,650 --> 01:08:00,150

It was so incongruous
to him that somebody

1449

01:08:00,150 --> 01:08:06,120

should come from a country
like Israel to this town.

1450

01:08:06,120 --> 01:08:08,430

For the last 60, 55
years, there had been

1451

01:08:08,430 --> 01:08:09,900

no single Jew in that town.

1452

01:08:09,900 --> 01:08:13,680

I was the only one,
the only person

1453

01:08:13,680 --> 01:08:16,290

ever to have returned
to that town.

1454

01:08:16,290 --> 01:08:21,060

And when that happened,
he was also a younger man.

1455

01:08:21,060 --> 01:08:24,000

And I know it went on
his head that anybody

1456

01:08:24,000 --> 01:08:28,899

should be still alive and come
back to the town, I don't know.

1457

01:08:28,899 --> 01:08:29,790
I have no idea.

1458
01:08:29,790 --> 01:08:32,439

1459
01:08:32,439 --> 01:08:34,899
But an interesting thing, I
wrote a letter to the mayor.

1460
01:08:34,899 --> 01:08:36,060
I didn't bring that letter.

1461
01:08:36,060 --> 01:08:38,430
I promised to bring it
last time and pictures,

1462
01:08:38,430 --> 01:08:40,080
but could be another time.

1463
01:08:40,080 --> 01:08:41,580
You know, complaining
about the fact

1464
01:08:41,580 --> 01:08:44,010
that he knew I was
coming because I asked

1465
01:08:44,010 --> 01:08:46,410
him to arrange lodging for me.

1466
01:08:46,410 --> 01:08:48,899
And he had done it, and he
knew the day I was coming.

1467
01:08:48,899 --> 01:08:52,950
And I really thought that he
would invite me to his office

1468
01:08:52,950 --> 01:08:53,720
and speak to me.

1469

01:08:53,720 --> 01:08:54,220
Welcome.

1470
01:08:54,220 --> 01:08:56,399
We'll send the press,
even, you know.

1471
01:08:56,399 --> 01:08:58,170
After all, no Jew
had ever come back.

1472
01:08:58,170 --> 01:09:00,689
It's an occurrence.

1473
01:09:00,689 --> 01:09:01,899
Well, it didn't happen.

1474
01:09:01,899 --> 01:09:03,060
So I wrote a letter.

1475
01:09:03,060 --> 01:09:04,800
I have also translated
it into English.

1476
01:09:04,800 --> 01:09:06,569
Maybe it would be
interesting to read.

1477
01:09:06,569 --> 01:09:08,130
Anyway, that letter
was published

1478
01:09:08,130 --> 01:09:13,090
in the local newspaper in
German and a maid of ours--

1479
01:09:13,090 --> 01:09:15,630
she must be 90 now--

1480
01:09:15,630 --> 01:09:17,069
read that letter.

1481

01:09:17,069 --> 01:09:22,050
And one of her children
wrote me in tearful letter.

1482
01:09:22,050 --> 01:09:23,130
You know that she--

1483
01:09:23,130 --> 01:09:25,470
before she died,
she wants to see me.

1484
01:09:25,470 --> 01:09:30,270
So that was the only kind of
reaction I can tell you about.

1485
01:09:30,270 --> 01:09:34,620
So as if would have been
no Jewish community there.

1486
01:09:34,620 --> 01:09:38,580
Not a single person who had
known any Jew or my parents

1487
01:09:38,580 --> 01:09:41,670
except, of course, my
friend who lived opposite.

1488
01:09:41,670 --> 01:09:42,930
But, really, nobody.

1489
01:09:42,930 --> 01:09:45,600
Did he talk to you about
the war in those times?

1490
01:09:45,600 --> 01:09:47,910
Yes, he talked a lot about it.

1491
01:09:47,910 --> 01:09:50,600
What kind of-- what was the--

1492
01:09:50,600 --> 01:09:52,350
what kind of relationship
did you develop?

1493
01:09:52,350 --> 01:09:54,690
What kind of things
did he talk about?

1494
01:09:54,690 --> 01:09:58,440
Oh, he, first of all, talked
about his army service,

1495
01:09:58,440 --> 01:10:01,830
that he was a mechanic,
and he served in Italy.

1496
01:10:01,830 --> 01:10:03,720
And then he was captured
by the Americans

1497
01:10:03,720 --> 01:10:06,060
and incarcerated in some--

1498
01:10:06,060 --> 01:10:08,220
and then he came back.

1499
01:10:08,220 --> 01:10:14,790
And he hated the
Communist regime.

1500
01:10:14,790 --> 01:10:17,250
In fact, one of his sons
tried to flee East Germany

1501
01:10:17,250 --> 01:10:18,760
to get into West Germany.

1502
01:10:18,760 --> 01:10:21,400
And he was caught at the
border, and he was imprisoned

1503
01:10:21,400 --> 01:10:23,260
3 or 4 years for that.

1504
01:10:23,260 --> 01:10:26,700

So he really hated
the communists.

1505
01:10:26,700 --> 01:10:31,440
But otherwise, in a way,
he was a kind of a patriot.

1506
01:10:31,440 --> 01:10:39,090
He took me to a museum, and
there was a local sculpture.

1507
01:10:39,090 --> 01:10:44,460
And he showed a sort of
pride that the sculptor

1508
01:10:44,460 --> 01:10:46,330
was born in this city.

1509
01:10:46,330 --> 01:10:49,290
So I felt that he had
some pride of his town.

1510
01:10:49,290 --> 01:10:50,910
After all he lived all his life.

1511
01:10:50,910 --> 01:10:53,910

1512
01:10:53,910 --> 01:10:56,340
But otherwise, I--

1513
01:10:56,340 --> 01:11:00,130
Did he express compassion for
what had happened to the Jews?

1514
01:11:00,130 --> 01:11:00,810
No.

1515
01:11:00,810 --> 01:11:03,420
You know, I have
sometimes spoken

1516

01:11:03,420 --> 01:11:09,120
to people about what was
done to my people very often,

1517
01:11:09,120 --> 01:11:17,310
and I spoke vehemently about
it, you know, accusingly.

1518
01:11:17,310 --> 01:11:19,050
And it always turned out sour.

1519
01:11:19,050 --> 01:11:20,430
Nobody liked it.

1520
01:11:20,430 --> 01:11:22,230
Nobody liked it when
I spoke, you know,

1521
01:11:22,230 --> 01:11:25,740
when I expressed
myself forcefully.

1522
01:11:25,740 --> 01:11:28,860
I said, you know,
the time of reckoning

1523
01:11:28,860 --> 01:11:31,488
hasn't yet come between
the Jews and the Germans.

1524
01:11:31,488 --> 01:11:32,280
The time will come.

1525
01:11:32,280 --> 01:11:35,340
The Jews have a long arm,
and we have a long memory.

1526
01:11:35,340 --> 01:11:36,870
We shall never forgive.

1527
01:11:36,870 --> 01:11:38,040
And don't you worry.

1528

01:11:38,040 --> 01:11:39,748

Your time-- you know,
that sort of thing.

1529

01:11:39,748 --> 01:11:40,800

I was very, very--

1530

01:11:40,800 --> 01:11:43,350

and I felt I was in his
home, and he took me

1531

01:11:43,350 --> 01:11:47,070

to his children's home, and
they avoided talking about it.

1532

01:11:47,070 --> 01:11:50,130

And I felt that I had made
this mistake of people --

1533

01:11:50,130 --> 01:11:51,960

and I estranged people for that.

1534

01:11:51,960 --> 01:11:54,060

I mean, not that I care
so much, but sometimes,

1535

01:11:54,060 --> 01:11:57,690

you are together with
people, it's, in fact--

1536

01:11:57,690 --> 01:11:59,610

but let me put it this way.

1537

01:11:59,610 --> 01:12:02,880

I was in-- after the Six-Day
War, I went to Germany.

1538

01:12:02,880 --> 01:12:04,800

And I went into a
traveling agency

1539

01:12:04,800 --> 01:12:09,360

and then, of course, the
whole world was behind Israel.

1540
01:12:09,360 --> 01:12:13,560
You know the Six-Day War,
they admired the Israeli army

1541
01:12:13,560 --> 01:12:15,540
and what this little
Israel had done to beat

1542
01:12:15,540 --> 01:12:18,130
so many armies in six days.

1543
01:12:18,130 --> 01:12:20,762
So the man, I asked him
about the fare to Israel.

1544
01:12:20,762 --> 01:12:21,970
He said, are you from Israel?

1545
01:12:21,970 --> 01:12:22,500
I said, yes.

1546
01:12:22,500 --> 01:12:25,770
And he was so
enthusiastic about Israel.

1547
01:12:25,770 --> 01:12:29,353
And then I started this
tirade against Germany.

1548
01:12:29,353 --> 01:12:31,020
And he said, you know,
I understand you,

1549
01:12:31,020 --> 01:12:34,020
but Israel needs friends.

1550
01:12:34,020 --> 01:12:37,050
But it you talk like that,
you will estrange people.

1551
01:12:37,050 --> 01:12:38,040
It taught me a lesson.

1552
01:12:38,040 --> 01:12:39,130
I can't do much.

1553
01:12:39,130 --> 01:12:42,730
I mean, if I would give a
speech or I have an audience,

1554
01:12:42,730 --> 01:12:44,790
then I can say what I want.

1555
01:12:44,790 --> 01:12:46,860
But I felt the man was right.

1556
01:12:46,860 --> 01:12:48,720
It's no use just
letting myself go

1557
01:12:48,720 --> 01:12:50,190
and giving vent to my feelings.

1558
01:12:50,190 --> 01:12:52,680
And it won't get me nowhere.

1559
01:12:52,680 --> 01:12:55,015
So there I was in his home.

1560
01:12:55,015 --> 01:12:56,640
And there I was in
his children's home.

1561
01:12:56,640 --> 01:13:00,120
And the children were
even born after the war.

1562
01:13:00,120 --> 01:13:02,010
And I know he was a good man.

1563
01:13:02,010 --> 01:13:04,330

I know his father
was a good man.

1564
01:13:04,330 --> 01:13:05,850
His father was
always for the Jews.

1565
01:13:05,850 --> 01:13:08,700
He never put in his window,
for instance, the sign which

1566
01:13:08,700 --> 01:13:11,400
everybody had, we do
not serve Jews or dogs

1567
01:13:11,400 --> 01:13:13,420
or something of that sort.

1568
01:13:13,420 --> 01:13:16,680
So something can be
said for his family.

1569
01:13:16,680 --> 01:13:19,782
So if I would have brought up
the subject of the Holocaust,

1570
01:13:19,782 --> 01:13:21,240
I think I would
have estranged him.

1571
01:13:21,240 --> 01:13:26,203
I would have brought in
an aura of embarrassment.

1572
01:13:26,203 --> 01:13:28,620
You're talking about the friend
back in your hometown now?

1573
01:13:28,620 --> 01:13:29,460
Yeah, yeah.

1574
01:13:29,460 --> 01:13:32,450
I think it was an

opportunity to talk to him.

1575

01:13:32,450 --> 01:13:35,010

1576

01:13:35,010 --> 01:13:37,020

I felt that he was
a patriot, you know.

1577

01:13:37,020 --> 01:13:38,610

After all, he grew
up in the town,

1578

01:13:38,610 --> 01:13:40,230

and his children
were born there.

1579

01:13:40,230 --> 01:13:45,570

However bad it is, you have
a feeling for your country.

1580

01:13:45,570 --> 01:13:47,070

I think it's a good
thing, actually.

1581

01:13:47,070 --> 01:13:50,670

But I never spoke to
him about the Holocaust.

1582

01:13:50,670 --> 01:13:52,487

He asked me where's your mother?

1583

01:13:52,487 --> 01:13:53,070

Where's Tzili?

1584

01:13:53,070 --> 01:13:53,903

Where's your sister?

1585

01:13:53,903 --> 01:13:56,550

And I said, they
died in Auschwitz.

1586

01:13:56,550 --> 01:13:58,320
And he said, your
mother was so beautiful.

1587
01:13:58,320 --> 01:14:00,105
You know, she liked him.

1588
01:14:00,105 --> 01:14:01,230
She always gave him to eat.

1589
01:14:01,230 --> 01:14:01,867
She called him.

1590
01:14:01,867 --> 01:14:02,700
She called him Bubi.

1591
01:14:02,700 --> 01:14:04,740
He said, I didn't remember that.

1592
01:14:04,740 --> 01:14:08,580
She sent him sometimes
to the ritual slaughter

1593
01:14:08,580 --> 01:14:10,180
to take a chicken
to be slaughtered.

1594
01:14:10,180 --> 01:14:14,610
He explained to me how he
slaughtered the chickens.

1595
01:14:14,610 --> 01:14:18,930
And he explained it so well
exactly how it happened.

1596
01:14:18,930 --> 01:14:24,270
Anyway, I felt that it wouldn't
serve any purpose at all

1597
01:14:24,270 --> 01:14:26,160
to speak to him
about the Holocaust.

1598

01:14:26,160 --> 01:14:28,980

I did speak to a
pastor about it.

1599

01:14:28,980 --> 01:14:31,105

A pastor was very
interested to meet me.

1600

01:14:31,105 --> 01:14:31,980

He left me a message.

1601

01:14:31,980 --> 01:14:36,120

He heard that I was in town,
and he had a very nice church.

1602

01:14:36,120 --> 01:14:38,680

And we had long
discussions about this.

1603

01:14:38,680 --> 01:14:40,360

And then I accused Germany.

1604

01:14:40,360 --> 01:14:43,317

And he was a very
compassionate man.

1605

01:14:43,317 --> 01:14:44,400

I think he was a just man.

1606

01:14:44,400 --> 01:14:47,340

And he was also too
young to have taken part

1607

01:14:47,340 --> 01:14:49,980

in the Holocaust definitely.

1608

01:14:49,980 --> 01:14:52,980

But he was a child and maybe
a little bit younger than me.

1609

01:14:52,980 --> 01:14:55,548

But definitely not at

the age where he could

1610
01:14:55,548 --> 01:14:56,340
have done anything.

1611
01:14:56,340 --> 01:14:59,160
And he was full of compassion.

1612
01:14:59,160 --> 01:15:04,530
He tried very much to
resurrect the memory

1613
01:15:04,530 --> 01:15:06,540
of the Jewish
community, to put up

1614
01:15:06,540 --> 01:15:11,460
a monument to resurrect where
the synagogue used to stand.

1615
01:15:11,460 --> 01:15:13,230
It was burned, of course.

1616
01:15:13,230 --> 01:15:15,180
Part of the cemetery
is still standing

1617
01:15:15,180 --> 01:15:23,580
and where they used to bring
the dead people to be washed.

1618
01:15:23,580 --> 01:15:26,220
What is it called in English?

1619
01:15:26,220 --> 01:15:29,100
[INAUDIBLE]

1620
01:15:29,100 --> 01:15:30,840
Not-- be ready--

1621
01:15:30,840 --> 01:15:35,290
in Jewish custom, a

person who is dead

1622

01:15:35,290 --> 01:15:36,930
is being prepared for burial.

1623

01:15:36,930 --> 01:15:41,670
He's washed completely and
then a shroud is put on him.

1624

01:15:41,670 --> 01:15:43,800
And a man gets a tallis
and he's prepared.

1625

01:15:43,800 --> 01:15:46,260
So they have in the
synagogue, in the cemetery

1626

01:15:46,260 --> 01:15:50,160
they have a kind of a building.

1627

01:15:50,160 --> 01:15:53,900
So he gave me pictures of all
these things, which I have.

1628

01:15:53,900 --> 01:15:57,830
But my friend told me the
following story, which

1629

01:15:57,830 --> 01:16:01,730
I have written in the
letter to the mayor,

1630

01:16:01,730 --> 01:16:04,430
that after the
Kristallnacht you know

1631

01:16:04,430 --> 01:16:09,860
the Night of the
Broken Glass, they

1632

01:16:09,860 --> 01:16:12,710
took all the Jews, the
remaining Jews of the town,

1633
01:16:12,710 --> 01:16:16,040
and put them on
the Jewish hearse.

1634
01:16:16,040 --> 01:16:17,720
He said, you had a
beautiful hearse.

1635
01:16:17,720 --> 01:16:19,550
I don't even remember
a hearse which

1636
01:16:19,550 --> 01:16:23,060
was towed by horses
to the cemetery

1637
01:16:23,060 --> 01:16:29,060
from the synagogue where the
dead person was put before,

1638
01:16:29,060 --> 01:16:30,680
you know, for every--
to pay respects

1639
01:16:30,680 --> 01:16:32,240
and then it was
put on the hearse,

1640
01:16:32,240 --> 01:16:35,210
and it was transported
to the cemetery.

1641
01:16:35,210 --> 01:16:39,440
So they put all the Jews, the
remaining Jews, on the hearse

1642
01:16:39,440 --> 01:16:44,060
and had the two most prominent
Jews put instead of the horses

1643
01:16:44,060 --> 01:16:45,980
and made them pull

it to the town

1644

01:16:45,980 --> 01:16:48,860
while all the population
jeered and cheered.

1645

01:16:48,860 --> 01:16:50,060
He told me that story.

1646

01:16:50,060 --> 01:16:51,650
I wasn't present
then, of course.

1647

01:16:51,650 --> 01:16:56,310

1648

01:16:56,310 --> 01:16:59,100
So what kind of things
did the pastor say?

1649

01:16:59,100 --> 01:17:03,840

1650

01:17:03,840 --> 01:17:05,820
What did he say?

1651

01:17:05,820 --> 01:17:09,928
First, he wanted
me to recount all

1652

01:17:09,928 --> 01:17:11,970
I knew about the Jewish
community, which was very

1653

01:17:11,970 --> 01:17:13,720
little because I was too young.

1654

01:17:13,720 --> 01:17:15,340
But I remembered
most of the names.

1655

01:17:15,340 --> 01:17:18,300

But he had all the
lists of all that,

1656
01:17:18,300 --> 01:17:20,370
including the names
of my parents,

1657
01:17:20,370 --> 01:17:23,520
which he had taken out of
the marriage certificates all

1658
01:17:23,520 --> 01:17:25,710
the taxes but I don't
know, he got them all out.

1659
01:17:25,710 --> 01:17:27,210
And he gave me that list.

1660
01:17:27,210 --> 01:17:28,740
And he had pictures
of the synagogue

1661
01:17:28,740 --> 01:17:30,167
from the inside and the outside.

1662
01:17:30,167 --> 01:17:31,500
He had pictures of the cemetery.

1663
01:17:31,500 --> 01:17:34,830
He had pictures of that
building where the dead are

1664
01:17:34,830 --> 01:17:36,360
prepared for burial.

1665
01:17:36,360 --> 01:17:41,250
And, in fact, I
wrote my letter--

1666
01:17:41,250 --> 01:17:45,503
I wrote to the mayor,
and he asked the mayor

1667

01:17:45,503 --> 01:17:46,920

for an interview
because he wanted

1668

01:17:46,920 --> 01:17:50,880

to speak to him to get funds
in order to put up a monument

1669

01:17:50,880 --> 01:17:54,090

or even to get Russian Jews
to settle in that town.

1670

01:17:54,090 --> 01:17:56,920

He was going to do something.

1671

01:17:56,920 --> 01:17:59,910

So when he came to the mayor,
the mayor showed him my letter.

1672

01:17:59,910 --> 01:18:02,070

He didn't know that
I wrote that letter,

1673

01:18:02,070 --> 01:18:05,143

so he was very much
touched by my letter.

1674

01:18:05,143 --> 01:18:06,810

I will, maybe if
there's an opportunity,

1675

01:18:06,810 --> 01:18:08,280

I will bring that
letter next time.

1676

01:18:08,280 --> 01:18:09,960

I'll show it to you.

1677

01:18:09,960 --> 01:18:13,890

And he spoke to me about
the terrible crimes

1678

01:18:13,890 --> 01:18:18,570
the Germans had committed,
which is unforgiving.

1679
01:18:18,570 --> 01:18:21,600
He was, in my opinion,
a true Christian

1680
01:18:21,600 --> 01:18:24,630
in the very true sense of the
word, a man of compassion,

1681
01:18:24,630 --> 01:18:30,360
a man of forgiveness, a man of
deep thought, profound thought.

1682
01:18:30,360 --> 01:18:37,380
And his biggest wish was to
visit the state of Israel, he

1683
01:18:37,380 --> 01:18:39,720
and his wife.

1684
01:18:39,720 --> 01:18:43,690
And he knew also
about, of course,

1685
01:18:43,690 --> 01:18:45,570
all the details
about the Holocaust.

1686
01:18:45,570 --> 01:18:50,280
And he couldn't forgive
himself what his people

1687
01:18:50,280 --> 01:18:51,640
had done to my people.

1688
01:18:51,640 --> 01:18:55,680
In fact, he wrote
me several letters

1689
01:18:55,680 --> 01:18:58,290

after I returned to America.

1690

01:18:58,290 --> 01:19:00,810

He went to one of the
West German towns,

1691

01:19:00,810 --> 01:19:02,790

and he went to a synagogue.

1692

01:19:02,790 --> 01:19:04,270

And he took part in the service.

1693

01:19:04,270 --> 01:19:08,925

He was very much moved and
touched by the service.

1694

01:19:08,925 --> 01:19:14,220

The letter was full of his
experience in that synagogue.

1695

01:19:14,220 --> 01:19:18,420

1696

01:19:18,420 --> 01:19:21,000

A most curious
incident happened when

1697

01:19:21,000 --> 01:19:22,770

I had this interview with him.

1698

01:19:22,770 --> 01:19:24,007

It took me a few hours.

1699

01:19:24,007 --> 01:19:26,340

I went back to my friend's
home and just when I entered,

1700

01:19:26,340 --> 01:19:27,780

the telephone rang.

1701

01:19:27,780 --> 01:19:31,020

And he phoned and he

spoke to my friend.

1702

01:19:31,020 --> 01:19:33,840

I didn't know what
he was talking about.

1703

01:19:33,840 --> 01:19:35,650

And my friend turned
to me and said, look,

1704

01:19:35,650 --> 01:19:37,420

the pastor wants
to see you again.

1705

01:19:37,420 --> 01:19:39,240

It's very important.

1706

01:19:39,240 --> 01:19:42,300

Could I come tomorrow
at 10:00, 11 o'clock?

1707

01:19:42,300 --> 01:19:44,460

I said, well, you know
I'm leaving tomorrow

1708

01:19:44,460 --> 01:19:45,850

at about 12:00.

1709

01:19:45,850 --> 01:19:49,350

I'm going towards Hamburg again
to catch a plane to Israel

1710

01:19:49,350 --> 01:19:52,980

and return my car, but at
10 o'clock for half an hour,

1711

01:19:52,980 --> 01:19:55,530

it'll be fine.

1712

01:19:55,530 --> 01:20:00,450

So and he told him that I'd
be coming at 10 o'clock.

1713

01:20:00,450 --> 01:20:02,460

So on the way there,
I saw a flower shop,

1714

01:20:02,460 --> 01:20:05,610

and I bought some
flowers for his wife.

1715

01:20:05,610 --> 01:20:08,880

That was part because I felt
that he was a decent man,

1716

01:20:08,880 --> 01:20:13,480

and I also wanted to show
to him that, I don't know,

1717

01:20:13,480 --> 01:20:18,850

I have the feeling that if such
things can be done to people,

1718

01:20:18,850 --> 01:20:20,850

there must be something
wrong with those people.

1719

01:20:20,850 --> 01:20:22,470

Maybe they have horns.

1720

01:20:22,470 --> 01:20:26,700

Maybe I had to
prove to him that I

1721

01:20:26,700 --> 01:20:31,350

have at least the same
culture as he has,

1722

01:20:31,350 --> 01:20:34,470

and part of that culture is
to bring flowers to his wife.

1723

01:20:34,470 --> 01:20:37,950

I needed to prove that to
him, that I'm a human being.

1724

01:20:37,950 --> 01:20:39,480

Maybe it's a negative
kind of view.

1725

01:20:39,480 --> 01:20:41,280

I don't know, but I
needed to prove to him

1726

01:20:41,280 --> 01:20:43,560

that we have the
same mannerisms,

1727

01:20:43,560 --> 01:20:47,310

same culture, as they have had.

1728

01:20:47,310 --> 01:20:48,690

Maybe he'd forgotten about it.

1729

01:20:48,690 --> 01:20:52,140

Maybe because of all the
things he has read and heard,

1730

01:20:52,140 --> 01:20:54,160

there must be something
peculiar about this.

1731

01:20:54,160 --> 01:20:56,340

I want to show them that
I'm an ordinary person

1732

01:20:56,340 --> 01:20:59,880

with ordinary manners,
and I look the same

1733

01:20:59,880 --> 01:21:04,290

as he does, and I don't,
as I said, grow any horns

1734

01:21:04,290 --> 01:21:06,870

because some people have
the understanding that Jews

1735

01:21:06,870 --> 01:21:09,000
have horns, something
wrong with them.

1736
01:21:09,000 --> 01:21:12,330
Anyway, I came there and I
brought flowers to his wife.

1737
01:21:12,330 --> 01:21:16,687
And she was very moved by it,
that I bought her flowers.

1738
01:21:16,687 --> 01:21:18,270
And she said to me,
look I have to ask

1739
01:21:18,270 --> 01:21:21,120
you a very important question.

1740
01:21:21,120 --> 01:21:22,593
But I could answer.

1741
01:21:22,593 --> 01:21:24,510
I said, well, you haven't
asked, I don't know.

1742
01:21:24,510 --> 01:21:29,070
I'm really not an expert
on the Jewish religion.

1743
01:21:29,070 --> 01:21:34,060
I have a general knowledge
about it, but please ask.

1744
01:21:34,060 --> 01:21:38,250
She said, look, we
intend to go to Israel.

1745
01:21:38,250 --> 01:21:39,750
We will be saving
to go to Israel.

1746
01:21:39,750 --> 01:21:43,960

The first thing we'll do,
we want to go to Israel.

1747
01:21:43,960 --> 01:21:46,860
But my father is
Jewish, she said.

1748
01:21:46,860 --> 01:21:50,790
He lives in a village nearby,
and he also survived the war.

1749
01:21:50,790 --> 01:21:52,620
And, of course, I'm Christian.

1750
01:21:52,620 --> 01:21:54,900
I'm the wife of the pastor.

1751
01:21:54,900 --> 01:21:57,590
How is Israel going
to receive me?

1752
01:21:57,590 --> 01:21:59,180
And well, that was
a simple answer.

1753
01:21:59,180 --> 01:22:01,430
I said, Israel is going to
respect you and receive you

1754
01:22:01,430 --> 01:22:02,940
like any decent human being.

1755
01:22:02,940 --> 01:22:06,510
It makes no difference in Israel
what color, creed, or religion

1756
01:22:06,510 --> 01:22:08,640
you are.

1757
01:22:08,640 --> 01:22:11,580
Absolutely, this question
is I can answer you 100%,

1758

01:22:11,580 --> 01:22:14,070

you come to Israel,
if you want to mention

1759

01:22:14,070 --> 01:22:16,398

that your father's Jewish
and that you are Christian

1760

01:22:16,398 --> 01:22:17,940

and that you are
married to a pastor,

1761

01:22:17,940 --> 01:22:21,330

we treat you with complete
deference and respect.

1762

01:22:21,330 --> 01:22:24,580

There'll be absolutely no
discrimination against you.

1763

01:22:24,580 --> 01:22:26,890

And if you don't want to
mention it, it's also fine.

1764

01:22:26,890 --> 01:22:28,590

Nobody will ask you.

1765

01:22:28,590 --> 01:22:32,368

So she was very pleased, and
she gave me a kind of a--

1766

01:22:32,368 --> 01:22:34,160

from the scriptures,
from the New Testament

1767

01:22:34,160 --> 01:22:37,040

and kind of for the journey,
some kind of a prayer.

1768

01:22:37,040 --> 01:22:39,210

She said, I haven't got
anything else to give you,

1769

01:22:39,210 --> 01:22:40,987

so I would like
to give you this.

1770

01:22:40,987 --> 01:22:42,570

I said, this is more
precious than any

1771

01:22:42,570 --> 01:22:44,400

present you could have
given me, your wish

1772

01:22:44,400 --> 01:22:46,050

that I have a safe journey.

1773

01:22:46,050 --> 01:22:48,750

So she embraced and kissed me,
and he embraced and kissed me.

1774

01:22:48,750 --> 01:22:50,100

So it was very, very moving.

1775

01:22:50,100 --> 01:22:57,080

1776

01:22:57,080 --> 01:22:59,875

When you said
that, I don't know,

1777

01:22:59,875 --> 01:23:01,542

when you talked about
those beer bottles

1778

01:23:01,542 --> 01:23:04,940

all pointing towards you and you
said that you just felt like,

1779

01:23:04,940 --> 01:23:08,660

when you were in East Germany in
this town, that the same thing,

1780

01:23:08,660 --> 01:23:11,120

just how the Holocaust
could happen all over again,

1781
01:23:11,120 --> 01:23:12,980
what gave you--

1782
01:23:12,980 --> 01:23:15,800
did they talk, did you
hear anything antisemitic?

1783
01:23:15,800 --> 01:23:16,860
No, none.

1784
01:23:16,860 --> 01:23:18,110
What gave you that impression?

1785
01:23:18,110 --> 01:23:21,370
None because I was reminiscing.

1786
01:23:21,370 --> 01:23:26,990
I was thinking back of
days of yonder, and I was--

1787
01:23:26,990 --> 01:23:29,600
And they looked the
same, the children there

1788
01:23:29,600 --> 01:23:32,025
and the young people, the
young girls and the young men,

1789
01:23:32,025 --> 01:23:32,900
they looked the same.

1790
01:23:32,900 --> 01:23:34,170
They looked no different.

1791
01:23:34,170 --> 01:23:37,460
They were blond and
clean and everything.

1792
01:23:37,460 --> 01:23:42,452

And a little incident.

1793

01:23:42,452 --> 01:23:46,160

I had too much of this
motorcycle racing,

1794

01:23:46,160 --> 01:23:47,870

so I went to the
side somewhere--

1795

01:23:47,870 --> 01:23:50,770

there were some trees, and I
laid down, and I fell asleep.

1796

01:23:50,770 --> 01:23:51,770

I felt I was very tired.

1797

01:23:51,770 --> 01:23:54,490

I couldn't sleep at night
there because of the memory

1798

01:23:54,490 --> 01:23:56,360

and because of the bad food.

1799

01:23:56,360 --> 01:23:58,460

I didn't eat any meat
there, only the cheese.

1800

01:23:58,460 --> 01:24:00,890

But the cheese was so bad.

1801

01:24:00,890 --> 01:24:02,600

It's unbelievable
that cheese could

1802

01:24:02,600 --> 01:24:03,770

be made in such a fashion.

1803

01:24:03,770 --> 01:24:09,673

Anyway, I had a tough time
there with sleeping and eating.

1804

01:24:09,673 --> 01:24:10,340
And I lay there.

1805
01:24:10,340 --> 01:24:12,470
And suddenly, a
policeman came up to me

1806
01:24:12,470 --> 01:24:14,480
and knocked me with his foot.

1807
01:24:14,480 --> 01:24:16,460
He said, get up.

1808
01:24:16,460 --> 01:24:17,420
And I opened my eyes.

1809
01:24:17,420 --> 01:24:19,880
I didn't know where I was from.

1810
01:24:19,880 --> 01:24:22,190
I had fallen asleep.

1811
01:24:22,190 --> 01:24:24,020
And he said, get up.

1812
01:24:24,020 --> 01:24:26,297
He probably thought I might
have been drunk and fallen

1813
01:24:26,297 --> 01:24:27,380
asleep in under the trees.

1814
01:24:27,380 --> 01:24:31,460
And I got up and said in
German, what do you want?

1815
01:24:31,460 --> 01:24:33,830
He said, [SPEAKING GERMAN]
where are your papers?

1816
01:24:33,830 --> 01:24:36,530
I said, what do you

want my papers for?

1817
01:24:36,530 --> 01:24:38,660
You know, it is
customary that a German,

1818
01:24:38,660 --> 01:24:41,240
if he's asked for papers,
then he shows his papers,

1819
01:24:41,240 --> 01:24:42,740
by another German.

1820
01:24:42,740 --> 01:24:45,650
And I don't take any nonsense
of that sort of thing, you know.

1821
01:24:45,650 --> 01:24:48,170
I'm an Israeli.

1822
01:24:48,170 --> 01:24:49,660
He said, I want your papers.

1823
01:24:49,660 --> 01:24:51,960
I said, well, I have no papers.

1824
01:24:51,960 --> 01:24:53,360
He said, what have you got?

1825
01:24:53,360 --> 01:24:56,300
I said, I've got a passport.

1826
01:24:56,300 --> 01:24:57,470
You show it to me.

1827
01:24:57,470 --> 01:24:58,940
Very curt sort of thing.

1828
01:24:58,940 --> 01:25:01,190
Well, I pulled out
my Israeli passport,

1829

01:25:01,190 --> 01:25:02,570
and he looked at the side.

1830

01:25:02,570 --> 01:25:03,320
It's on one side.

1831

01:25:03,320 --> 01:25:05,713
It's in Hebrew and the
other is in English.

1832

01:25:05,713 --> 01:25:07,380
And he said, what is
this, what it this?

1833

01:25:07,380 --> 01:25:09,713
I said, well, have a look on
the other side, you'll see.

1834

01:25:09,713 --> 01:25:13,160
I was very sort of gotten
annoyed with him on purpose.

1835

01:25:13,160 --> 01:25:15,440
And he said, Israel?

1836

01:25:15,440 --> 01:25:16,282
I said, Yes.

1837

01:25:16,282 --> 01:25:17,490
He said, what you doing here?

1838

01:25:17,490 --> 01:25:18,920
I said, I don't understand.

1839

01:25:18,920 --> 01:25:20,628
What's your business
what I'm doing here?

1840

01:25:20,628 --> 01:25:22,130
You see I have a visa?

1841

01:25:22,130 --> 01:25:23,960
I'll do what I want.

1842
01:25:23,960 --> 01:25:26,145
So he called another policeman.

1843
01:25:26,145 --> 01:25:27,645
And they talked,
[SPEAKING GERMAN]..

1844
01:25:27,645 --> 01:25:30,080
He's in Israel.

1845
01:25:30,080 --> 01:25:30,860
Leave him.

1846
01:25:30,860 --> 01:25:32,060
And they walked off.

1847
01:25:32,060 --> 01:25:36,890
You know so very
reminiscent of the treatment

1848
01:25:36,890 --> 01:25:39,290
by the Nazi regime,
also that sort of thing.

1849
01:25:39,290 --> 01:25:42,190
They just, you know--

1850
01:25:42,190 --> 01:25:48,430
But all these small things,
in fact, this motor racing

1851
01:25:48,430 --> 01:25:50,440
was also done when
I was a child.

1852
01:25:50,440 --> 01:25:52,480
That was the only
diversion there.

1853

01:25:52,480 --> 01:25:57,505
There was one cinema there, no
nothing, no theater, no nothing

1854
01:25:57,505 --> 01:25:58,120
there.

1855
01:25:58,120 --> 01:25:59,950
I don't know what
the young people do.

1856
01:25:59,950 --> 01:26:01,970
I don't know.

1857
01:26:01,970 --> 01:26:04,780
I asked my friend,
what do they do?

1858
01:26:04,780 --> 01:26:05,530
What can you do?

1859
01:26:05,530 --> 01:26:07,390
They go to the bars and drink.

1860
01:26:07,390 --> 01:26:11,250
Now when you go to the bars and
drink, what goes in, you know,

1861
01:26:11,250 --> 01:26:13,360
comes out.

1862
01:26:13,360 --> 01:26:14,980
When you drink and
you drink enough,

1863
01:26:14,980 --> 01:26:17,230
and you run out of money,
and the beer isn't just

1864
01:26:17,230 --> 01:26:19,190
good quality the
way it should be,

1865

01:26:19,190 --> 01:26:22,780

then you have to
find a scapegoat.

1866

01:26:22,780 --> 01:26:25,060

So all this, I saw in my life.

1867

01:26:25,060 --> 01:26:27,650

Hopefully, nothing
will ever happen.

1868

01:26:27,650 --> 01:26:32,500

But then I'm susceptible
to very much on my guard

1869

01:26:32,500 --> 01:26:36,490

concerning Holocaust
and security.

1870

01:26:36,490 --> 01:26:39,400

And in Israel, we are
only thinking of security.

1871

01:26:39,400 --> 01:26:43,080

So my whole being is conditioned
on these things, you know?

1872

01:26:43,080 --> 01:26:45,580

What will happen when I have
children, I have grandchildren,

1873

01:26:45,580 --> 01:26:47,350

and my sons go to the army?

1874

01:26:47,350 --> 01:26:49,223

And time to come,
my grandchildren

1875

01:26:49,223 --> 01:26:50,390

will have to go to the army.

1876

01:26:50,390 --> 01:26:53,930

So my whole concern is about--

1877

01:26:53,930 --> 01:26:56,090

it's about security
and about antisemitism,

1878

01:26:56,090 --> 01:26:59,240

which is a very important
factor in my life.

1879

01:26:59,240 --> 01:27:02,240

So when I looked
at these people,

1880

01:27:02,240 --> 01:27:06,590

hopefully nothing will
happen, but my parents

1881

01:27:06,590 --> 01:27:09,110

said that can never happen.

1882

01:27:09,110 --> 01:27:11,460

The Americans say
it can never happen.

1883

01:27:11,460 --> 01:27:13,580

I don't think it will happen.

1884

01:27:13,580 --> 01:27:17,690

But Germany was as good a
country as America, liberal.

1885

01:27:17,690 --> 01:27:19,890

It was an enlightened country.

1886

01:27:19,890 --> 01:27:24,200

It was a wonderful
country to live in.

1887

01:27:24,200 --> 01:27:27,860

Jews were tremendously
rich, tremendously educated.

1888

01:27:27,860 --> 01:27:32,060

They gave so much
of their intellect

1889

01:27:32,060 --> 01:27:36,320

and of their skills to Germany
as a state and as a society

1890

01:27:36,320 --> 01:27:39,800

that it was not feasible
even to think that Germany

1891

01:27:39,800 --> 01:27:41,840

would do what they did.

1892

01:27:41,840 --> 01:27:43,100

So what can I say?

1893

01:27:43,100 --> 01:27:46,460

I say, I have to be strong.

1894

01:27:46,460 --> 01:27:47,420

I have to be united.

1895

01:27:47,420 --> 01:27:52,550

I have to believe in my own
destiny, in my own strength,

1896

01:27:52,550 --> 01:27:56,010

and I can't rely
upon anybody else.

1897

01:27:56,010 --> 01:27:59,540

I don't think any
agreement or any pact

1898

01:27:59,540 --> 01:28:03,710

is worth the paper
it's written on.

1899

01:28:03,710 --> 01:28:04,830

We have to be strong.

1900

01:28:04,830 --> 01:28:06,500

We have to be united.

1901

01:28:06,500 --> 01:28:08,510

And we have to take
care of ourselves

1902

01:28:08,510 --> 01:28:11,810

fundamentally,
that's what I think.

1903

01:28:11,810 --> 01:28:14,960

When you were in the East
Germany when you went to visit,

1904

01:28:14,960 --> 01:28:16,790

what was your impression
of the difference

1905

01:28:16,790 --> 01:28:19,250

between East and West Germany?

1906

01:28:19,250 --> 01:28:21,950

That's a very nice question.

1907

01:28:21,950 --> 01:28:27,240

You see, when I passed the
frontier into East Germany,

1908

01:28:27,240 --> 01:28:31,590

and I drove that Volkswagen,
West German Volkswagen,

1909

01:28:31,590 --> 01:28:34,150

and I had the music
on, it was German.

1910

01:28:34,150 --> 01:28:36,600

The commentator was
talking in German,

1911

01:28:36,600 --> 01:28:38,497
and they were even
talking in Platt,

1912
01:28:38,497 --> 01:28:40,830
which is the vernacular which
I used to talk as a child.

1913
01:28:40,830 --> 01:28:44,340
Platt German, they speak
that in Mecklenburg.

1914
01:28:44,340 --> 01:28:46,350
You won't, if somebody
speaks German,

1915
01:28:46,350 --> 01:28:48,060
he will not understand that.

1916
01:28:48,060 --> 01:28:51,360
It is almost a strange language.

1917
01:28:51,360 --> 01:28:52,780
So it came back to me.

1918
01:28:52,780 --> 01:28:55,470
It came flooding back to me, and
I saw the trees and the woods.

1919
01:28:55,470 --> 01:28:58,080
And those trees who didn't
even speak when this

1920
01:28:58,080 --> 01:28:59,850
was happening to my people.

1921
01:28:59,850 --> 01:29:03,960
All these familiar
surroundings came

1922
01:29:03,960 --> 01:29:10,050
flooding back into my
mind, and I was shaken

1923
01:29:10,050 --> 01:29:11,850
by my approaching my town.

1924
01:29:11,850 --> 01:29:19,020
And I saw very soon the signs,
30 kilometers took us 25

1925
01:29:19,020 --> 01:29:21,240
minutes to GÃ¼strow
and then 10 k --

1926
01:29:21,240 --> 01:29:23,670
And I had always
recurring dreams

1927
01:29:23,670 --> 01:29:25,770
that I would be returning.

1928
01:29:25,770 --> 01:29:27,640
And I would come
to my front door,

1929
01:29:27,640 --> 01:29:31,080
and I was about to
enter our house.

1930
01:29:31,080 --> 01:29:31,980
And I always woke up.

1931
01:29:31,980 --> 01:29:35,430
I was never ever able
to enter my home.

1932
01:29:35,430 --> 01:29:37,270
And then I was
approaching it, you know.

1933
01:29:37,270 --> 01:29:39,420
I was approaching
it, and I said,

1934

01:29:39,420 --> 01:29:42,300
either you'll have an accident,
or you'll have a heart attack.

1935
01:29:42,300 --> 01:29:44,220
You will never do it.

1936
01:29:44,220 --> 01:29:47,730
And I came-- suddenly I
saw GÃ¼strow, the sign.

1937
01:29:47,730 --> 01:29:52,320
That was a sign of the town
where I was born, educated.

1938
01:29:52,320 --> 01:29:56,900
So I got out and took my camera,
and I photographed the sign

1939
01:29:56,900 --> 01:30:00,000
said GÃ¼strow, you know,
[INAUDIBLE] Schwerin.

1940
01:30:00,000 --> 01:30:03,240
Saw a woman pass, and I
said, where is the center

1941
01:30:03,240 --> 01:30:05,820
of the town, the Marktplatz?

1942
01:30:05,820 --> 01:30:11,070
That's where the city
hall is and the church.

1943
01:30:11,070 --> 01:30:12,660
You know, the
center of the town.

1944
01:30:12,660 --> 01:30:14,760
She said about a hundred meters.

1945
01:30:14,760 --> 01:30:15,850
I couldn't believe it.

1946
01:30:15,850 --> 01:30:19,110
I said, now when I go in the
car, the car won't start.

1947
01:30:19,110 --> 01:30:20,910
So I went in the
car, and it started.

1948
01:30:20,910 --> 01:30:23,130
It was a beautiful, new car.

1949
01:30:23,130 --> 01:30:25,540
Two minutes later, I was
in the center of the city,

1950
01:30:25,540 --> 01:30:29,430
and I looked around,
and everything is just

1951
01:30:29,430 --> 01:30:32,910
the way it was, cobblestones
and the old houses, only

1952
01:30:32,910 --> 01:30:38,130
more decrepit, everything no
paint, everything was peeling.

1953
01:30:38,130 --> 01:30:40,010
And I didn't quite--

1954
01:30:40,010 --> 01:30:45,180
and the street from our house
is just a minute from there.

1955
01:30:45,180 --> 01:30:47,670
But I didn't quite know
how to approach it.

1956
01:30:47,670 --> 01:30:49,440
So I asked a man
passing by, tell me

1957

01:30:49,440 --> 01:30:50,533
where is the Baustrasse?

1958

01:30:50,533 --> 01:30:51,450
He said, just go here.

1959

01:30:51,450 --> 01:30:52,590
It's right there.

1960

01:30:52,590 --> 01:30:55,330
So I went, drove my car
around, and there it was.

1961

01:30:55,330 --> 01:30:58,140
I saw Baustrasse] in
this Gothic script.

1962

01:30:58,140 --> 01:31:00,510
You know how the Germans write.

1963

01:31:00,510 --> 01:31:01,330
Baustrasse, I said.

1964

01:31:01,330 --> 01:31:02,122
I can't believe it.

1965

01:31:02,122 --> 01:31:03,900
I'm in Baustrasse.

1966

01:31:03,900 --> 01:31:08,550
So I drove along the
street to the very end,

1967

01:31:08,550 --> 01:31:11,190
and I didn't see our house.

1968

01:31:11,190 --> 01:31:12,240
Didn't see our house.

1969

01:31:12,240 --> 01:31:13,930
I couldn't, I didn't see it.

1970

01:31:13,930 --> 01:31:15,900

I said, my God.

1971

01:31:15,900 --> 01:31:20,880

But our house was right next to
a big, huge commercial school

1972

01:31:20,880 --> 01:31:23,580

and opposite was
the fire brigade.

1973

01:31:23,580 --> 01:31:24,930

How do you say it in English?

1974

01:31:24,930 --> 01:31:26,200

Fire station.

1975

01:31:26,200 --> 01:31:29,760

I didn't see the fire
station with its big doors

1976

01:31:29,760 --> 01:31:34,710

where the truck used to drive
out, an old Daimler-Benz.

1977

01:31:34,710 --> 01:31:35,850

And I didn't see that.

1978

01:31:35,850 --> 01:31:37,045

I didn't see it.

1979

01:31:37,045 --> 01:31:38,670

So I went back and
didn't see it again.

1980

01:31:38,670 --> 01:31:40,128

And there was a
man standing there.

1981

01:31:40,128 --> 01:31:42,478

I said, I thought I might

have made a mistake.

1982

01:31:42,478 --> 01:31:43,770

I said, where's the Baustrasse?

1983

01:31:43,770 --> 01:31:45,062

From where to where does it go?

1984

01:31:45,062 --> 01:31:47,070

He said, from right
where you stand

1985

01:31:47,070 --> 01:31:51,600

to where your eye can see,
not far, maybe 400, 500 feet.

1986

01:31:51,600 --> 01:31:53,790

It's, you know, not
a very long street.

1987

01:31:53,790 --> 01:31:55,500

I said, but there
was a fire station.

1988

01:31:55,500 --> 01:31:57,412

He said, well, it's right there.

1989

01:31:57,412 --> 01:31:58,995

I said, there was a
commercial school.

1990

01:31:58,995 --> 01:31:59,980

But didn't you see it?

1991

01:31:59,980 --> 01:32:01,290

It's right there.

1992

01:32:01,290 --> 01:32:04,543

And I sat down, and I
put my hands in my--

1993

01:32:04,543 --> 01:32:05,460

my face into my hands.

1994

01:32:05,460 --> 01:32:06,930

I said, like, take
care of yourself

1995

01:32:06,930 --> 01:32:09,390

because my heart was
sobbing into my throat.

1996

01:32:09,390 --> 01:32:14,130

I was so moved by
this being there.

1997

01:32:14,130 --> 01:32:15,300

I'd reached it, you know.

1998

01:32:15,300 --> 01:32:18,270

It's as if you'd reached
Mount Everest or something.

1999

01:32:18,270 --> 01:32:22,080

So I went slowly and there
I saw the fire station.

2000

01:32:22,080 --> 01:32:24,090

There was this big
gates, and I said, well,

2001

01:32:24,090 --> 01:32:27,360

just diagonally across
must be our house.

2002

01:32:27,360 --> 01:32:29,070

And there it was.

2003

01:32:29,070 --> 01:32:29,872

Number 34.

2004

01:32:29,872 --> 01:32:30,756

I saw 34.

2005

01:32:30,756 --> 01:32:31,680
I said, Oh, my God.

2006
01:32:31,680 --> 01:32:34,350
This is the house
where we lived in.

2007
01:32:34,350 --> 01:32:36,840
But the show window
had been taken out

2008
01:32:36,840 --> 01:32:41,340
and two windows, all of them
in the living room were put in.

2009
01:32:41,340 --> 01:32:45,600
And I parked my car opposite,
and I looked at that house.

2010
01:32:45,600 --> 01:32:50,910
The same handle, and I
remember we had a huge key

2011
01:32:50,910 --> 01:32:53,700
to open the door, these
old-fashioned keys.

2012
01:32:53,700 --> 01:32:55,600
And the same lock was there.

2013
01:32:55,600 --> 01:32:58,140
And I said, look, my
parents had touched this,

2014
01:32:58,140 --> 01:33:00,450
and I touched this as a child.

2015
01:33:00,450 --> 01:33:02,580
And I saw two people
were living there.

2016
01:33:02,580 --> 01:33:05,280
There were two

bells and two names.

2017

01:33:05,280 --> 01:33:07,560

So I rang and rang,
and nobody answered.

2018

01:33:07,560 --> 01:33:09,220

I rang the second.

2019

01:33:09,220 --> 01:33:10,890

Nobody answered.

2020

01:33:10,890 --> 01:33:13,318

Suddenly, a young woman came
up, and she started to ring.

2021

01:33:13,318 --> 01:33:14,610

I said, you don't have to ring.

2022

01:33:14,610 --> 01:33:16,320

Nobody's rang.

2023

01:33:16,320 --> 01:33:18,840

And she said, who are you?

2024

01:33:18,840 --> 01:33:22,770

Well, I said, this is my house.

2025

01:33:22,770 --> 01:33:25,690

I was born in this house, and I
lived here until the age of 11.

2026

01:33:25,690 --> 01:33:26,850

She said, who are you?

2027

01:33:26,850 --> 01:33:28,360

I said, I'm from Israel.

2028

01:33:28,360 --> 01:33:29,520

And I'm Jewish.

2029

01:33:29,520 --> 01:33:32,610
This is the house of my parents.

2030
01:33:32,610 --> 01:33:34,360
So she said, yes.

2031
01:33:34,360 --> 01:33:36,630
She said, you've come back.

2032
01:33:36,630 --> 01:33:39,570
As if she were saying,
you're still alive.

2033
01:33:39,570 --> 01:33:42,300
She might have thought
every Jew was dead.

2034
01:33:42,300 --> 01:33:44,580
I said, yes.

2035
01:33:44,580 --> 01:33:47,790
I'd like to see inside.

2036
01:33:47,790 --> 01:33:48,540
Who's living here?

2037
01:33:48,540 --> 01:33:50,430
And she said, well,
there's a girl

2038
01:33:50,430 --> 01:33:52,172
with a child living
downstairs and a girl

2039
01:33:52,172 --> 01:33:53,380
with a child living upstairs.

2040
01:33:53,380 --> 01:33:57,343
We had about eight or nine
homes upstairs and downstairs.

2041
01:33:57,343 --> 01:33:58,510

And I said, and who are you?

2042

01:33:58,510 --> 01:34:00,300

And she said, oh, I'm
an insurance agent.

2043

01:34:00,300 --> 01:34:02,970

I need to see those people.

2044

01:34:02,970 --> 01:34:05,140

And then she suddenly
started to cry.

2045

01:34:05,140 --> 01:34:06,522

And I said, I'm
so sorry for you.

2046

01:34:06,522 --> 01:34:07,480

I said, don't be sorry.

2047

01:34:07,480 --> 01:34:09,150

Why should you be sorry for me?

2048

01:34:09,150 --> 01:34:12,840

What we Germans did to the
Jewish people, she said to me.

2049

01:34:12,840 --> 01:34:14,880

You know she must
have been about 28,

2050

01:34:14,880 --> 01:34:16,140

30.

2051

01:34:16,140 --> 01:34:19,960

I said, well, what can we do?

2052

01:34:19,960 --> 01:34:22,190

There's nothing we
can do about it now.

2053

01:34:22,190 --> 01:34:25,210

Maybe you should teach your children to be concerned

2054

01:34:25,210 --> 01:34:30,190
and not to practice any of the things your parents did.

2055

01:34:30,190 --> 01:34:31,960
I said, you know this street?

2056

01:34:31,960 --> 01:34:34,190
I used to play in this street.

2057

01:34:34,190 --> 01:34:36,610
This was my street.

2058

01:34:36,610 --> 01:34:39,040
And you see all the surrounding?

2059

01:34:39,040 --> 01:34:40,270
This was mine.

2060

01:34:40,270 --> 01:34:42,610
I said that's where i grew up.

2061

01:34:42,610 --> 01:34:45,010
You know, she really cried, tears

2062

01:34:45,010 --> 01:34:46,900
were running down her cheeks.

2063

01:34:46,900 --> 01:34:49,688
I said, you know my heart is full of terrible memories here.

2064

01:34:49,688 --> 01:34:50,980
My parents went into Auschwitz.

2065

01:34:50,980 --> 01:34:51,520
They died.

2066

01:34:51,520 --> 01:34:54,160

My little sister died.

2067

01:34:54,160 --> 01:34:57,430

But I said to her, well, the
only thing you can do now

2068

01:34:57,430 --> 01:35:01,853

is to educate your children
towards understanding

2069

01:35:01,853 --> 01:35:03,520

towards the Jewish
people and to make up

2070

01:35:03,520 --> 01:35:06,020

to the Jewish people what the
Germans, what you Germans have

2071

01:35:06,020 --> 01:35:06,730

done.

2072

01:35:06,730 --> 01:35:12,360

Anyway, that [INAUDIBLE]
answers your question.

2073

01:35:12,360 --> 01:35:13,650

Did you get inside the house?

2074

01:35:13,650 --> 01:35:14,610

Oh, yes.

2075

01:35:14,610 --> 01:35:15,930

But it took me two days.

2076

01:35:15,930 --> 01:35:16,800

Then I went back.

2077

01:35:16,800 --> 01:35:19,170

Then I only went to the inn.

2078

01:35:19,170 --> 01:35:21,600
Then I went to the inn.

2079
01:35:21,600 --> 01:35:23,670
And the woman, I had
written her that I

2080
01:35:23,670 --> 01:35:25,860
had delayed my coming
for a little bit

2081
01:35:25,860 --> 01:35:26,820
because it was Pesach.

2082
01:35:26,820 --> 01:35:28,330
I made a mistake.

2083
01:35:28,330 --> 01:35:30,720
So I wrote, I'll be
coming three days later

2084
01:35:30,720 --> 01:35:35,760
than the established date
which we had fixed upon.

2085
01:35:35,760 --> 01:35:39,190
And when I came in, she
asked me, who are you?

2086
01:35:39,190 --> 01:35:42,000
And I said, my name
is Adolf Grossman.

2087
01:35:42,000 --> 01:35:44,960
Oh, she said, yes, yes.

2088
01:35:44,960 --> 01:35:48,450
We reserved a home for
you, but unfortunately, we

2089
01:35:48,450 --> 01:35:50,280
have only a home
now with two beds.

2090
01:35:50,280 --> 01:35:51,280
You'll have to pay more.

2091
01:35:51,280 --> 01:35:52,710
I said, there's no problem.

2092
01:35:52,710 --> 01:35:53,940
It was so cheap.

2093
01:35:53,940 --> 01:35:56,610
I supposed East Germany, then it
turned out it was West Germany.

2094
01:35:56,610 --> 01:35:58,500
Even then, it was so cheap.

2095
01:35:58,500 --> 01:36:00,030
So I said, no problem.

2096
01:36:00,030 --> 01:36:02,790
But why didn't you
answer my letter?

2097
01:36:02,790 --> 01:36:04,470
She said to me,
you know how long

2098
01:36:04,470 --> 01:36:06,337
it takes to receive a letter?

2099
01:36:06,337 --> 01:36:07,420
I didn't quite believe it.

2100
01:36:07,420 --> 01:36:10,140
But when I sent picture
postcards from my town

2101
01:36:10,140 --> 01:36:13,230
to various people here, it
took about two months to reach.

2102

01:36:13,230 --> 01:36:14,070

It's crazy.

2103

01:36:14,070 --> 01:36:16,740

There's something wrong
with the whole system.

2104

01:36:16,740 --> 01:36:24,420

Anyway, so I went into
the shower to shower.

2105

01:36:24,420 --> 01:36:30,210

I had been from San Francisco
to Germany to Frankfurt and from

2106

01:36:30,210 --> 01:36:32,490

Frankfurt to Hamburg and
from Hamburg to GÄ¼strow.

2107

01:36:32,490 --> 01:36:35,580

I was 24 hours on the
way and, you know,

2108

01:36:35,580 --> 01:36:37,950

I wasn't exhausted because
I was full of excitement.

2109

01:36:37,950 --> 01:36:41,130

But I need to shower, so I
said, have you got a bathroom?

2110

01:36:41,130 --> 01:36:42,165

She said, yeah, here.

2111

01:36:42,165 --> 01:36:43,540

So I went in there
and undressed.

2112

01:36:43,540 --> 01:36:48,150

I'm in the shower and opened the
water, and two drops came out.

2113

01:36:48,150 --> 01:36:50,560
So I dressed and I said,
what's wrong with your shower?

2114
01:36:50,560 --> 01:36:53,160
She said, Herr Grossman,
that's what we've got.

2115
01:36:53,160 --> 01:36:55,560
We got no materials.

2116
01:36:55,560 --> 01:37:00,330
We have no craftsmen, no
people who can repair anything.

2117
01:37:00,330 --> 01:37:01,920
You see those tiles?

2118
01:37:01,920 --> 01:37:04,590
We waited seven years
for those tiles.

2119
01:37:04,590 --> 01:37:07,313
But you have a little bit more
cold water, she says to me.

2120
01:37:07,313 --> 01:37:08,730
If you can wash
cold, that's fine.

2121
01:37:08,730 --> 01:37:10,340
So again, I washed with cold.

2122
01:37:10,340 --> 01:37:11,340
There was no hot there.

2123
01:37:11,340 --> 01:37:13,050
Two drops only.

2124
01:37:13,050 --> 01:37:15,570
So I changed clothes.

2125

01:37:15,570 --> 01:37:19,860
And I left my car there, and
I walked towards our house.

2126
01:37:19,860 --> 01:37:21,930
On the way, I went
into a restaurant.

2127
01:37:21,930 --> 01:37:23,040
I said, I'll eat a bit.

2128
01:37:23,040 --> 01:37:25,590
I'll find something to eat.

2129
01:37:25,590 --> 01:37:26,730
And I looked at the menu.

2130
01:37:26,730 --> 01:37:28,200
It was all in
marks, and I didn't

2131
01:37:28,200 --> 01:37:29,695
have any East
German marks on me,

2132
01:37:29,695 --> 01:37:32,070
but I only had dollars and a
few West German marks, which

2133
01:37:32,070 --> 01:37:33,720
I had from my previous trip.

2134
01:37:33,720 --> 01:37:35,170
I had some West German mark.

2135
01:37:35,170 --> 01:37:36,420
I said, do you accept dollars?

2136
01:37:36,420 --> 01:37:39,030
She said, no, no dollars.

2137
01:37:39,030 --> 01:37:41,520

I said, well, do you
accept West German marks?

2138
01:37:41,520 --> 01:37:43,710
She said, oh, yes.

2139
01:37:43,710 --> 01:37:45,330
So it said, maybe a meal.

2140
01:37:45,330 --> 01:37:48,150
I said have you got
anything vegetarian?

2141
01:37:48,150 --> 01:37:50,220
So she gave me potatoes
and some cheese

2142
01:37:50,220 --> 01:37:53,760
and some vegetables,
really awful food.

2143
01:37:53,760 --> 01:37:58,410
And when it came to paying,
I gave her West German marks,

2144
01:37:58,410 --> 01:38:00,870
but West German marks
are three times as much

2145
01:38:00,870 --> 01:38:05,070
as one East German mark,
but she cheated me there.

2146
01:38:05,070 --> 01:38:06,552
I was pleased that
she cheated me.

2147
01:38:06,552 --> 01:38:08,760
It only showed to me it's
not only the Jews who cheat

2148
01:38:08,760 --> 01:38:10,980
but also the Germans.

2149
01:38:10,980 --> 01:38:13,410
So it wasn't really very much.

2150
01:38:13,410 --> 01:38:18,900
So after I had eaten, I went
to the house of my friend,

2151
01:38:18,900 --> 01:38:22,960
and I knocked on the door and,
you know, nobody answered.

2152
01:38:22,960 --> 01:38:26,910
So I opened the front door
and there was a hallway there.

2153
01:38:26,910 --> 01:38:33,160
The plaster was
falling off the walls.

2154
01:38:33,160 --> 01:38:35,520
The banister was
hanging in the --

2155
01:38:35,520 --> 01:38:38,190
And the stairs were all crooked.

2156
01:38:38,190 --> 01:38:40,950
So I walked up, and
there was a door,

2157
01:38:40,950 --> 01:38:42,210
and his name was on there.

2158
01:38:42,210 --> 01:38:44,700
[SPEAKING GERMAN]
And right next door

2159
01:38:44,700 --> 01:38:46,660
was an outhouse,
kind of the toilet.

2160

01:38:46,660 --> 01:38:48,840
It was terribly primitive.

2161
01:38:48,840 --> 01:38:50,700
So I knocked on the
door and a woman's voice

2162
01:38:50,700 --> 01:38:53,840
said, who's there?

2163
01:38:53,840 --> 01:38:57,710
And I said, I did
not-- what shall I say?

2164
01:38:57,710 --> 01:38:59,150
And then she opened the door.

2165
01:38:59,150 --> 01:39:00,067
I said, can I come in?

2166
01:39:00,067 --> 01:39:01,650
She said, yeah, I
opened the door now.

2167
01:39:01,650 --> 01:39:03,180
And there she was,
an elderly woman.

2168
01:39:03,180 --> 01:39:04,580
She was cooking.

2169
01:39:04,580 --> 01:39:08,240
And there was a sink,
a cast-iron sink

2170
01:39:08,240 --> 01:39:13,910
with a cold-water tap and a
little geyser for hot water.

2171
01:39:13,910 --> 01:39:16,490
A little geyser for hot water.

2172

01:39:16,490 --> 01:39:17,560
You know the geysers?

2173
01:39:17,560 --> 01:39:19,280
It's a hot-water heater.

2174
01:39:19,280 --> 01:39:20,720
It's called a geyser.

2175
01:39:20,720 --> 01:39:22,863
And by the way, I asked
him later, tell me,

2176
01:39:22,863 --> 01:39:23,780
have you got a shower?

2177
01:39:23,780 --> 01:39:24,480
He said no.

2178
01:39:24,480 --> 01:39:27,020
For 50 years, I've been washing
over that cast-iron sink

2179
01:39:27,020 --> 01:39:29,330
with the geyser.

2180
01:39:29,330 --> 01:39:34,820
So I said to the woman,
[SPEAKING GERMAN]..

2181
01:39:34,820 --> 01:39:37,100
She said, I'm Frau
[Personal name]

2182
01:39:37,100 --> 01:39:40,040
She said, well is your
husband [Personal name] Yeah.

2183
01:39:40,040 --> 01:39:42,300
Well, could I speak to him?

2184
01:39:42,300 --> 01:39:46,730

So she said, [Personal name]
And I heard a gruff voice

2185
01:39:46,730 --> 01:39:48,690
from the living room.

2186
01:39:48,690 --> 01:39:51,050
What do you want,
[SPEAKING GERMAN],, he said.

2187
01:39:51,050 --> 01:39:52,310
[SPEAKING GERMAN]

2188
01:39:52,310 --> 01:39:54,200
You have a visitor.

2189
01:39:54,200 --> 01:39:56,975
He said, I got no
lots of visitors.

2190
01:39:56,975 --> 01:39:57,590
I hear him.

2191
01:39:57,590 --> 01:39:59,690
You know, he was
fed up with life.

2192
01:39:59,690 --> 01:40:02,270
He said, but he wants
to speak to you.

2193
01:40:02,270 --> 01:40:03,410
[SPEAKING GERMAN]

2194
01:40:03,410 --> 01:40:04,875
Leave me in peace.

2195
01:40:04,875 --> 01:40:07,250
He said, [Personal name] come,
somebody wants to see you.

2196
01:40:07,250 --> 01:40:10,640

So suddenly he appears in
the doorway of the kitchen.

2197
01:40:10,640 --> 01:40:12,638
He was dressed in
physical training shorts,

2198
01:40:12,638 --> 01:40:13,680
what you call the shorts.

2199
01:40:13,680 --> 01:40:16,190
And he had a vest on,
a sleeveless vest,

2200
01:40:16,190 --> 01:40:17,400
horn-rimmed glasses.

2201
01:40:17,400 --> 01:40:20,750
And he looks and
looks and looks at me.

2202
01:40:20,750 --> 01:40:22,610
And he says, Ari.

2203
01:40:22,610 --> 01:40:25,070
He recognized me.

2204
01:40:25,070 --> 01:40:27,500
I can't believe it,
Ari, he said like that.

2205
01:40:27,500 --> 01:40:29,720
We were children when
we had seen each other.

2206
01:40:29,720 --> 01:40:33,020
I was 11, and he was about 14.

2207
01:40:33,020 --> 01:40:36,440
He took me, and he lifted me
up, embraced me and kissed me,

2208

01:40:36,440 --> 01:40:39,300
and he carried me like
this into the living room.

2209
01:40:39,300 --> 01:40:40,688
I don't believe it.

2210
01:40:40,688 --> 01:40:41,480
I can't believe it.

2211
01:40:41,480 --> 01:40:42,470
I can't believe it.

2212
01:40:42,470 --> 01:40:44,730
I sat down on that
decrepit sofa.

2213
01:40:44,730 --> 01:40:46,250
It was all worn out.

2214
01:40:46,250 --> 01:40:50,040
It was a horrible living
room, like a poor person.

2215
01:40:50,040 --> 01:40:53,780
And they had a shop a
repair bicycle shop, I mean.

2216
01:40:53,780 --> 01:40:56,570
But everything was
in disrepair there.

2217
01:40:56,570 --> 01:40:59,980
So we talked, and we talked, and
we talked, and he made a plan.

2218
01:40:59,980 --> 01:41:03,680
He gave me a book where he
wrote me, you know, dedication.

2219
01:41:03,680 --> 01:41:06,800
And he wrote at the end,
shalom and so forth, you know.

2220
01:41:06,800 --> 01:41:08,450
And then he suddenly burst out.

2221
01:41:08,450 --> 01:41:12,140
He said, the only decent people
still around in this world

2222
01:41:12,140 --> 01:41:13,950
are the Jewish people.

2223
01:41:13,950 --> 01:41:15,080
He hated everybody.

2224
01:41:15,080 --> 01:41:17,990
He hated everybody, all the
Christians and all the--

2225
01:41:17,990 --> 01:41:20,210
everybody, the communists,
and the socialists,

2226
01:41:20,210 --> 01:41:21,050
and the capitalists.

2227
01:41:21,050 --> 01:41:24,710
The only decent people in this
world are the Jewish people.

2228
01:41:24,710 --> 01:41:26,060
But he meant it.

2229
01:41:26,060 --> 01:41:26,660
He meant it.

2230
01:41:26,660 --> 01:41:29,810
I mean, you could see that he
was annoyed with everybody.

2231
01:41:29,810 --> 01:41:31,960
So he made me a plan.

2232

01:41:31,960 --> 01:41:34,460

And I went home to
the-- very excited.

2233

01:41:34,460 --> 01:41:35,690

I couldn't sleep.

2234

01:41:35,690 --> 01:41:37,880

It is [? second ?] that night.

2235

01:41:37,880 --> 01:41:39,620

I was staring at the ceiling.

2236

01:41:39,620 --> 01:41:42,700

I saw the Jewish community
pass and my parents

2237

01:41:42,700 --> 01:41:43,970

in front of my eyes.

2238

01:41:43,970 --> 01:41:47,030

It was-- I just
couldn't fall asleep.

2239

01:41:47,030 --> 01:41:50,570

And then the stomach
juices came up from the--

2240

01:41:50,570 --> 01:41:52,520

essence came out from
the terrible food

2241

01:41:52,520 --> 01:41:54,423

that people are conditioned to.

2242

01:41:54,423 --> 01:41:55,340

[INAUDIBLE] that food.

2243

01:41:55,340 --> 01:41:55,910

I wasn't.

2244

01:41:55,910 --> 01:41:58,910
I'm used to good food.

2245
01:41:58,910 --> 01:42:02,802
So the next day,
we went everywhere.

2246
01:42:02,802 --> 01:42:04,760
And then I said, you
know, I'd like to take out

2247
01:42:04,760 --> 01:42:05,720
a birth certificate.

2248
01:42:05,720 --> 01:42:08,210
My birth certificate,
which I have still,

2249
01:42:08,210 --> 01:42:10,240
has a swastika on it.

2250
01:42:10,240 --> 01:42:11,240
On my birth certificate.

2251
01:42:11,240 --> 01:42:12,980
I don't want a swastika.

2252
01:42:12,980 --> 01:42:17,090
So we went to the ministry
of whatever it is where they

2253
01:42:17,090 --> 01:42:19,310
take our birth certificates.

2254
01:42:19,310 --> 01:42:21,800
And there was a stamp of
the East German on it.

2255
01:42:21,800 --> 01:42:25,200
It's a kind of a compass with
the hammer, whatever it is.

2256

01:42:25,200 --> 01:42:28,095
So my birth certificate
number hundredth.

2257
01:42:28,095 --> 01:42:29,720
She found it
straightaway, and she gave

2258
01:42:29,720 --> 01:42:32,030
it and she said I want 5 marks.

2259
01:42:32,030 --> 01:42:34,010
I said, you'll get
no 5 marks from me.

2260
01:42:34,010 --> 01:42:35,060
She says, why not?

2261
01:42:35,060 --> 01:42:38,000
I said, well, if you wouldn't
have done what you did to me,

2262
01:42:38,000 --> 01:42:39,318
I need no birth certificate.

2263
01:42:39,318 --> 01:42:40,860
You better give it
to me for nothing.

2264
01:42:40,860 --> 01:42:41,750
You can have it.

2265
01:42:41,750 --> 01:42:43,410
I didn't pay for it.

2266
01:42:43,410 --> 01:42:46,070
I mean, 5 marks is nothing,
maybe \$0.60, \$0.70.

2267
01:42:46,070 --> 01:42:49,070
It's just a question
of annoying them.

2268

01:42:49,070 --> 01:42:52,580

So we went everywhere
all day, and he

2269

01:42:52,580 --> 01:42:53,930

said you see this meadow here?

2270

01:42:53,930 --> 01:42:56,360

And I didn't think
even that he knew.

2271

01:42:56,360 --> 01:42:58,730

You remember where those
cows were and the milk that's

2272

01:42:58,730 --> 01:42:59,930

used to milk the cows?

2273

01:42:59,930 --> 01:43:01,900

And we used to come
with cups, and they

2274

01:43:01,900 --> 01:43:03,395

used to put the milk in there.

2275

01:43:03,395 --> 01:43:04,520

And we used to drink a lot.

2276

01:43:04,520 --> 01:43:06,290

You remember that?

2277

01:43:06,290 --> 01:43:10,640

He remembered the smallest
nuances, the smallest details,

2278

01:43:10,640 --> 01:43:13,820

the things I thought I wouldn't
even mention to him because--

2279

01:43:13,820 --> 01:43:16,460

then he mentioned, you
know who lived there?

2280
01:43:16,460 --> 01:43:17,210
I said, no.

2281
01:43:17,210 --> 01:43:20,600
He said, you know the
Members of Parrot?

2282
01:43:20,600 --> 01:43:23,285
Oh, I'd forgotten about
that Members of Parrot.

2283
01:43:23,285 --> 01:43:25,160
We used to live in--
there was a kind of-- we

2284
01:43:25,160 --> 01:43:27,170
had to pass in a
kind of a passageway

2285
01:43:27,170 --> 01:43:29,575
where we used to
play hide and seek.

2286
01:43:29,575 --> 01:43:30,950
And every time we
passed the door

2287
01:43:30,950 --> 01:43:35,003
of that lonely old man,
the parrot used to shout

2288
01:43:35,003 --> 01:43:36,170
[SPEAKING GERMAN] in German.

2289
01:43:36,170 --> 01:43:37,150
Halt, who goes there?

2290
01:43:37,150 --> 01:43:38,680
Halt, who goes there?

2291
01:43:38,680 --> 01:43:41,810

Such a shrieking, squeaky
voice like a parrot.

2292

01:43:41,810 --> 01:43:44,450

From time to time, I
used to go into the man,

2293

01:43:44,450 --> 01:43:45,980

and I used to run
errands for him.

2294

01:43:45,980 --> 01:43:49,160

So he used to give me
some sticky candies, which

2295

01:43:49,160 --> 01:43:51,230

I used to exchange
with my friends

2296

01:43:51,230 --> 01:43:54,030

for marbles and frogs
and bugs and so on.

2297

01:43:54,030 --> 01:43:57,870

Anyway, I said, my God, I'd
forgotten about that parrot.

2298

01:43:57,870 --> 01:44:01,260

And then he reminded
me of so many things

2299

01:44:01,260 --> 01:44:03,762

which were latent in my mind.

2300

01:44:03,762 --> 01:44:05,970

But many things I remembered,
didn't want to mention,

2301

01:44:05,970 --> 01:44:07,830

and he mentioned them.

2302

01:44:07,830 --> 01:44:11,790

He remembered every Jewish

person in that town.

2303

01:44:11,790 --> 01:44:13,998

Amazing memory, but the
fact that he remembered

2304

01:44:13,998 --> 01:44:16,290

the things which were close
to me and not close to him,

2305

01:44:16,290 --> 01:44:20,190

that amazed me completely.

2306

01:44:20,190 --> 01:44:22,520

So I stayed there for five days.

2307

01:44:22,520 --> 01:44:24,990

They were eventful days.

2308

01:44:24,990 --> 01:44:31,530

And the only trouble is I
couldn't express myself.

2309

01:44:31,530 --> 01:44:32,490

I was numbed.

2310

01:44:32,490 --> 01:44:38,121

Usually, I'm fully [? tired. ?]
I can speak, I can explain,

2311

01:44:38,121 --> 01:44:39,613

I can think.

2312

01:44:39,613 --> 01:44:40,780

I was completely numb there.

2313

01:44:40,780 --> 01:44:41,520

I couldn't speak.

2314

01:44:41,520 --> 01:44:42,540

I couldn't think.

2315

01:44:42,540 --> 01:44:46,800

I was-- as if my
head was in a vise.

2316

01:44:46,800 --> 01:44:49,834

A kind of euphoria
in the bad sense.

2317

01:44:49,834 --> 01:44:50,620

In shock.

2318

01:44:50,620 --> 01:44:51,120

Pardon?

2319

01:44:51,120 --> 01:44:52,530

In shock.

2320

01:44:52,530 --> 01:44:56,347

It wasn't real shock, but
there was a numbness about me.

2321

01:44:56,347 --> 01:44:57,930

And then I walked
through the streets,

2322

01:44:57,930 --> 01:45:01,380

and I saw hundreds of
people walking there.

2323

01:45:01,380 --> 01:45:03,540

And I said, these people
live in this town?

2324

01:45:03,540 --> 01:45:05,430

People going to work,
coming from home,

2325

01:45:05,430 --> 01:45:07,590

going shopping,
standing in line for

2326

01:45:07,590 --> 01:45:10,840

those ridiculous supermarkets.

2327

01:45:10,840 --> 01:45:14,440

There's terrible wares in
them, terrible food in there.

2328

01:45:14,440 --> 01:45:17,700

In fact, one morning I went--

2329

01:45:17,700 --> 01:45:20,580

I always went for
five days to his home

2330

01:45:20,580 --> 01:45:21,930

to eat breakfast with him.

2331

01:45:21,930 --> 01:45:23,638

I didn't really want
to, but he insisted.

2332

01:45:23,638 --> 01:45:25,815

2333

01:45:25,815 --> 01:45:26,940

It was really a good thing.

2334

01:45:26,940 --> 01:45:28,290

Where could you eat?

2335

01:45:28,290 --> 01:45:29,670

There's no facilities.

2336

01:45:29,670 --> 01:45:32,550

Like, you can't
even compare it to--

2337

01:45:32,550 --> 01:45:37,240

I mean, if I compare it to
America, there's no comparison.

2338

01:45:37,240 --> 01:45:42,017

So one day, I went

into a kind of a store.

2339

01:45:42,017 --> 01:45:43,350

I wanted to bring him something.

2340

01:45:43,350 --> 01:45:46,020

I didn't want to come
empty handed, always eat.

2341

01:45:46,020 --> 01:45:48,360

And I bought things
and I was really--

2342

01:45:48,360 --> 01:45:49,630

I looked at these wares.

2343

01:45:49,630 --> 01:45:51,990

There were a few things
from the West like yogurt

2344

01:45:51,990 --> 01:45:55,440

and a little bit of cream
and so on, you know.

2345

01:45:55,440 --> 01:45:56,670

Bread was gray.

2346

01:45:56,670 --> 01:45:58,800

It was-- butter wasn't butter.

2347

01:45:58,800 --> 01:46:01,290

So I bought quite a
few things, and when

2348

01:46:01,290 --> 01:46:05,490

I paid for it, she said, why
don't you take the things?

2349

01:46:05,490 --> 01:46:06,990

I said, well, haven't
you got a bag?

2350

01:46:06,990 --> 01:46:10,470
She said, no, you've got
to bring your own bag.

2351
01:46:10,470 --> 01:46:12,120
I said, I haven't got a bag.

2352
01:46:12,120 --> 01:46:13,920
So I man said next to
me, buy a newspaper

2353
01:46:13,920 --> 01:46:15,087
and put it in the newspaper.

2354
01:46:15,087 --> 01:46:17,850
I bought a newspaper and
put it in the newspaper.

2355
01:46:17,850 --> 01:46:20,310
So it boggles the mind to think.

2356
01:46:20,310 --> 01:46:21,978
You can't compare
it to the West.

2357
01:46:21,978 --> 01:46:23,270
You can't compare it to Israel.

2358
01:46:23,270 --> 01:46:24,062
Israel is the West.

2359
01:46:24,062 --> 01:46:25,950
I mean, you get,
like here in America,

2360
01:46:25,950 --> 01:46:31,670
you get wonderful foods and
the things, the bags you put in

2361
01:46:31,670 --> 01:46:34,260
is the standard of America.

2362

01:46:34,260 --> 01:46:37,600
And they got these
ridiculous machines

2363
01:46:37,600 --> 01:46:40,170
where they punch in the
money, and the bell dings,

2364
01:46:40,170 --> 01:46:43,890
and these ornament
things like 50 years ago.

2365
01:46:43,890 --> 01:46:46,776
They haven't got these
computers they have today.

2366
01:46:46,776 --> 01:46:48,900
Doesn't exist.

2367
01:46:48,900 --> 01:46:51,960
And one morning, I didn't
want to come so early,

2368
01:46:51,960 --> 01:46:56,640
so I went to a baker shop.

2369
01:46:56,640 --> 01:46:59,580
I went to a baker shop to have
a cup of coffee and a cake.

2370
01:46:59,580 --> 01:47:02,880
And I just want to remember
the days I had those cakes.

2371
01:47:02,880 --> 01:47:05,680
There was a sponge
cake, and napoleons,

2372
01:47:05,680 --> 01:47:09,000
those German cakes which
were wonderful in those days.

2373
01:47:09,000 --> 01:47:11,310

And I opened the door, and
I went in, and I sat down,

2374
01:47:11,310 --> 01:47:12,420
and nobody came up to me.

2375
01:47:12,420 --> 01:47:14,940
There were four girls
sitting at a table smoking.

2376
01:47:14,940 --> 01:47:16,620
Everything was smoking.

2377
01:47:16,620 --> 01:47:18,733
In America, one doesn't
really smoke anymore.

2378
01:47:18,733 --> 01:47:19,650
And they were smoking.

2379
01:47:19,650 --> 01:47:21,100
They didn't come up to me.

2380
01:47:21,100 --> 01:47:23,990
And I said, after I
was sitting there 5,

2381
01:47:23,990 --> 01:47:26,540
6 minutes, nobody came
up to me, I said, can I

2382
01:47:26,540 --> 01:47:28,770
have some service, in German.

2383
01:47:28,770 --> 01:47:31,050
She said, not 8 o'clock yet.

2384
01:47:31,050 --> 01:47:34,230
So the door was opened by
mistake, so I didn't know.

2385
01:47:34,230 --> 01:47:36,220

Only at exactly 8
o'clock, one got up

2386
01:47:36,220 --> 01:47:37,470
and said, what would you like?

2387
01:47:37,470 --> 01:47:41,123
I said, well, can I have a
cup of coffee and a cake?

2388
01:47:41,123 --> 01:47:42,540
So she brought me
a cup of coffee.

2389
01:47:42,540 --> 01:47:43,870
You should have
seen that coffee.

2390
01:47:43,870 --> 01:47:45,162
You should have seen that cake.

2391
01:47:45,162 --> 01:47:46,770
It was maybe a week old.

2392
01:47:46,770 --> 01:47:48,450
So I went up to
said, This is stale.

2393
01:47:48,450 --> 01:47:50,740
She said, well, we
only bake once a week.

2394
01:47:50,740 --> 01:47:52,440
What do you want?

2395
01:47:52,440 --> 01:47:53,340
Said, I want nothing.

2396
01:47:53,340 --> 01:47:53,840
It's fine.

2397
01:47:53,840 --> 01:47:55,440

How much do I owe you?

2398

01:47:55,440 --> 01:47:57,397

So that was East Germany.

2399

01:47:57,397 --> 01:47:58,230

It's coming to them.

2400

01:47:58,230 --> 01:47:59,220

It's OK.

2401

01:47:59,220 --> 01:47:59,880

I don't care.

2402

01:47:59,880 --> 01:48:02,770

2403

01:48:02,770 --> 01:48:06,000

So these were eventful days.

2404

01:48:06,000 --> 01:48:08,260

I swore to myself

I'd never go back.

2405

01:48:08,260 --> 01:48:12,690

But since I received a letter
from this maid of ours,

2406

01:48:12,690 --> 01:48:19,230

so maybe I will
revisit this town.

2407

01:48:19,230 --> 01:48:21,120

When did you make this trip?

2408

01:48:21,120 --> 01:48:23,160

Exactly a year ago.

2409

01:48:23,160 --> 01:48:25,170

Was that before
the reunification?

2410

01:48:25,170 --> 01:48:25,950

Yes.

2411

01:48:25,950 --> 01:48:27,270

I needed a visa.

2412

01:48:27,270 --> 01:48:30,630

I needed a visa to get
in there, and a visa

2413

01:48:30,630 --> 01:48:32,400

could be taken out
in San Francisco.

2414

01:48:32,400 --> 01:48:35,880

There's a travel agency
who dealt with visas.

2415

01:48:35,880 --> 01:48:40,770

It was quite a business to get
a visa because you could not,

2416

01:48:40,770 --> 01:48:46,140

in those days, go to any
countries of the Eastern Bloc

2417

01:48:46,140 --> 01:48:47,900

without having accommodations.

2418

01:48:47,900 --> 01:48:52,020

And that's why I wrote to the
burgermeister, to the mayor,

2419

01:48:52,020 --> 01:48:52,950

to arrange, to make--

2420

01:48:52,950 --> 01:48:56,430

I told him that I
was born in the city.

2421

01:48:56,430 --> 01:49:00,270

It's difficult for me to

make arrangements for a hotel

2422

01:49:00,270 --> 01:49:01,903
because I don't know any hotels.

2423

01:49:01,903 --> 01:49:04,570
But then, of course, a traveling
agent, he could have done that.

2424

01:49:04,570 --> 01:49:06,360
It would have taken a long time.

2425

01:49:06,360 --> 01:49:07,560
So he arranged it.

2426

01:49:07,560 --> 01:49:11,040
He gave it to one of his--

2427

01:49:11,040 --> 01:49:13,740
in office who deals
with tourists.

2428

01:49:13,740 --> 01:49:16,650
And she wrote me and said, we
have made arrangements for you

2429

01:49:16,650 --> 01:49:19,650
to come to this and this
inn in the Feldstrasse.

2430

01:49:19,650 --> 01:49:20,460
And so he knew.

2431

01:49:20,460 --> 01:49:22,830
I told him I'd be coming
from this on this date.

2432

01:49:22,830 --> 01:49:24,518
So he knew when I was coming.

2433

01:49:24,518 --> 01:49:26,310
In fact, when I wrote

him the letter, which

2434

01:49:26,310 --> 01:49:27,200

I mentioned already--

2435

01:49:27,200 --> 01:49:28,920

I'd like to show you--

2436

01:49:28,920 --> 01:49:30,240

I received an answer from him.

2437

01:49:30,240 --> 01:49:33,540

It was a scathing
letter against the man.

2438

01:49:33,540 --> 01:49:38,460

And I received a
response from him.

2439

01:49:38,460 --> 01:49:41,320

He answered that letter.

2440

01:49:41,320 --> 01:49:44,430

And he, in fact, he said that
because of the reunification,

2441

01:49:44,430 --> 01:49:46,290

his mind was taking off.

2442

01:49:46,290 --> 01:49:49,380

And he set my letter
aside in order

2443

01:49:49,380 --> 01:49:52,410

to answer at a later date,
and he forgot about it.

2444

01:49:52,410 --> 01:49:55,240

And he was very
touched by my letter,

2445

01:49:55,240 --> 01:49:56,780

and he wishes to apologize.

2446

01:49:56,780 --> 01:49:59,880

The next time I come,
then he will receive me.

2447

01:49:59,880 --> 01:50:02,140

I thought maybe he would
name a street in my name,

2448

01:50:02,140 --> 01:50:04,950

but to receive me, I'm
not even interested

2449

01:50:04,950 --> 01:50:06,900

that he should receive me.

2450

01:50:06,900 --> 01:50:07,896

Did you think--

2451

01:50:07,896 --> 01:50:11,544

2452

01:50:11,544 --> 01:50:12,480

[INAUDIBLE]

2453

01:50:12,480 --> 01:50:15,090

[INAUDIBLE]

2454

01:50:15,090 --> 01:50:17,520

Got 5 seconds time
before you go--

2455

01:50:17,520 --> 01:50:22,330

2456

01:50:22,330 --> 01:50:24,240

OK.

2457

01:50:24,240 --> 01:50:33,450

I was just going to go
back to your childhood

2458
01:50:33,450 --> 01:50:40,560
before the time of Kristallnacht
when the armies were marching,

2459
01:50:40,560 --> 01:50:43,320
the SS were already
marching in the street

2460
01:50:43,320 --> 01:50:47,430
and singing the Nazi
songs and the fervor.

2461
01:50:47,430 --> 01:50:50,550
And I was just
wondering, you know,

2462
01:50:50,550 --> 01:50:52,860
when you were with
the other Jewish kids

2463
01:50:52,860 --> 01:50:55,710
if there were incidents
of antisemitism

2464
01:50:55,710 --> 01:51:00,840
or with the Nazis marching
in the streets, what were

2465
01:51:00,840 --> 01:51:03,660
your attitudes with each other?

2466
01:51:03,660 --> 01:51:07,410
Did you talk about it or
say anything about it or--

2467
01:51:07,410 --> 01:51:12,210
How did-- how did it affect
your relation, you know,

2468
01:51:12,210 --> 01:51:15,340
how you acted with each other?

2469

01:51:15,340 --> 01:51:19,320

I mentioned before that all
these events and occurrences

2470

01:51:19,320 --> 01:51:23,220

were a natural phenomena.

2471

01:51:23,220 --> 01:51:27,540

Nazis walking down the streets
and parades and bands and flag

2472

01:51:27,540 --> 01:51:30,030

waving were part of our life.

2473

01:51:30,030 --> 01:51:33,450

And usually when
that happened, we

2474

01:51:33,450 --> 01:51:35,640

did not dare go
out in the streets

2475

01:51:35,640 --> 01:51:38,730

because our parents told
us to go inside and not

2476

01:51:38,730 --> 01:51:39,720

be seen outside.

2477

01:51:39,720 --> 01:51:44,280

Those were the times when
usually the population was

2478

01:51:44,280 --> 01:51:46,700

in a state of
fervor and upheaval,

2479

01:51:46,700 --> 01:51:50,370

and they were being made to--

2480

01:51:50,370 --> 01:51:53,190

2481
01:51:53,190 --> 01:51:55,770
they were told, you know--
so then it all came up,

2482
01:51:55,770 --> 01:51:58,200
this whole thing of
the antisemitism,

2483
01:51:58,200 --> 01:51:59,190
of the propaganda.

2484
01:51:59,190 --> 01:52:00,990
Then it really took hold.

2485
01:52:00,990 --> 01:52:03,210
So the best thing
for us was always

2486
01:52:03,210 --> 01:52:05,910
not to be seen in
the streets usually.

2487
01:52:05,910 --> 01:52:08,430
But sometimes, there were
parades by the Wehrmacht,

2488
01:52:08,430 --> 01:52:13,680
by the Army, so those things
were a usual occurrence.

2489
01:52:13,680 --> 01:52:18,010
But when the Nazi, the
SS, or the stormtroopers,

2490
01:52:18,010 --> 01:52:21,150
the SA, those are
by the Brownshirts.

2491
01:52:21,150 --> 01:52:23,525
The SS were dressed
in black, but they

2492

01:52:23,525 --> 01:52:24,900

used to march
through the streets

2493

01:52:24,900 --> 01:52:28,560

and usually went into our
homes, and we locked the doors

2494

01:52:28,560 --> 01:52:33,540

and locked the windows and
tried to keep a low profile.

2495

01:52:33,540 --> 01:52:39,330

So when the incident
happened that you really

2496

01:52:39,330 --> 01:52:44,250

felt that inside, you made
the decision that there

2497

01:52:44,250 --> 01:52:50,790

needed to be a
Jewish state and did

2498

01:52:50,790 --> 01:52:54,780

you ever talk with friends about
those ideas and those feelings?

2499

01:52:54,780 --> 01:52:59,280

Well, we used to belong
to a Zionist youth

2500

01:52:59,280 --> 01:53:01,320

movement called the Maccabi.

2501

01:53:01,320 --> 01:53:03,615

It was also a sports
kind of movement.

2502

01:53:03,615 --> 01:53:06,750

2503

01:53:06,750 --> 01:53:09,540
This movement transcended
all other movements.

2504
01:53:09,540 --> 01:53:12,720
It had no political
affiliation except for the fact

2505
01:53:12,720 --> 01:53:16,650
that all the Jewish
children took part in it.

2506
01:53:16,650 --> 01:53:19,650
It was a kind of a movement
for Jewish children,

2507
01:53:19,650 --> 01:53:22,680
and it was a Zionist movement
without any affiliation

2508
01:53:22,680 --> 01:53:28,650
to any kind of specific
political trend.

2509
01:53:28,650 --> 01:53:34,020
So we used to go on outings
and sit around a bonfire,

2510
01:53:34,020 --> 01:53:37,800
and we used to talk and somebody
used to give the leader I

2511
01:53:37,800 --> 01:53:39,600
gave a talk about.

2512
01:53:39,600 --> 01:53:42,930
Lead, I hate that word for
the lack of another word,

2513
01:53:42,930 --> 01:53:45,090
the person in charge of us.

2514
01:53:45,090 --> 01:53:48,090

And he used to talk
about Eretz Israel.

2515
01:53:48,090 --> 01:53:50,120
He might have been
once in Eretz Israel,

2516
01:53:50,120 --> 01:53:53,640
and he came back with stories,
which were beautiful to us

2517
01:53:53,640 --> 01:53:57,510
because it showed us a life in
Eretz Israel, the free life.

2518
01:53:57,510 --> 01:54:01,350
And he talked about
the agriculture

2519
01:54:01,350 --> 01:54:06,480
and Jews' first time working
physically which was also

2520
01:54:06,480 --> 01:54:08,790
a phenomena to me
because I didn't know

2521
01:54:08,790 --> 01:54:12,360
any single person, a Jewish
person, who worked as a laborer

2522
01:54:12,360 --> 01:54:13,450
or as a craftsman.

2523
01:54:13,450 --> 01:54:16,110
They were all middle-class,
all intellectuals

2524
01:54:16,110 --> 01:54:20,220
like lawyers and doctors and
so forth, and shopkeepers.

2525
01:54:20,220 --> 01:54:24,270

But there, we suddenly heard
that people work the land.

2526
01:54:24,270 --> 01:54:27,870
They work in factories, which
was completely alien to me.

2527
01:54:27,870 --> 01:54:32,400
So he explained to us,
I remember like today,

2528
01:54:32,400 --> 01:54:37,920
that the social structure is
like a pyramid, the very point

2529
01:54:37,920 --> 01:54:41,130
at the top and a broad base
at the bottom, the broad base

2530
01:54:41,130 --> 01:54:45,570
being the proletariat and in
the middle, the middle class,

2531
01:54:45,570 --> 01:54:48,900
and on the top, very
top, the intellectuals.

2532
01:54:48,900 --> 01:54:52,230
But with the Jewish people,
it was the other way around.

2533
01:54:52,230 --> 01:54:57,415
It stood on its point, with the
proletariat at the bottom, very

2534
01:54:57,415 --> 01:54:59,040
few, and then the
middle class and then

2535
01:54:59,040 --> 01:55:01,440
the intellectuals,
the very broad base.

2536

01:55:01,440 --> 01:55:04,440
So he told us that it should be
turned around the natural way,

2537
01:55:04,440 --> 01:55:06,150
that it should stand
on its broad base,

2538
01:55:06,150 --> 01:55:08,820
that people must work the land.

2539
01:55:08,820 --> 01:55:11,370
By working, they get
attached to the land,

2540
01:55:11,370 --> 01:55:13,860
and they love the land,
and they build up the land.

2541
01:55:13,860 --> 01:55:19,950
And so that is maybe one of
the reasons we [INAUDIBLE]

2542
01:55:19,950 --> 01:55:21,420
to go to universities.

2543
01:55:21,420 --> 01:55:24,190
There might have been an
opportunity at some time.

2544
01:55:24,190 --> 01:55:26,460
But there was a philosopher
called A.D. Gordon

2545
01:55:26,460 --> 01:55:30,300
in Israel, in
Palestine, not Israel,

2546
01:55:30,300 --> 01:55:31,890
and he was a philosopher.

2547
01:55:31,890 --> 01:55:33,030
And he preached this.

2548
01:55:33,030 --> 01:55:39,030
That was his theory, that a
Jew must be tied to the land

2549
01:55:39,030 --> 01:55:41,850
and work the land and
work in factories in order

2550
01:55:41,850 --> 01:55:44,400
to be a natural people.

2551
01:55:44,400 --> 01:55:48,145
And we listened to
those stories and were

2552
01:55:48,145 --> 01:55:49,270
enchanted by those stories.

2553
01:55:49,270 --> 01:55:51,420
We listened very
carefully, and we

2554
01:55:51,420 --> 01:55:55,343
wanted all to go to Palestine
and build up the land.

2555
01:55:55,343 --> 01:55:56,760
We're sort of
building up the land

2556
01:55:56,760 --> 01:56:00,300
like sitting around the bonfire
and singing beautiful songs.

2557
01:56:00,300 --> 01:56:03,300
Didn't really occur
to us how hard,

2558
01:56:03,300 --> 01:56:05,520
backbreaking work
it really is to work

2559

01:56:05,520 --> 01:56:10,860
in the orchards and
the orange groves.

2560

01:56:10,860 --> 01:56:13,190
But I suppose we
built up a country,

2561

01:56:13,190 --> 01:56:14,190
and it's a good country.

2562

01:56:14,190 --> 01:56:17,627

2563

01:56:17,627 --> 01:56:19,210
You know when you
were talking earlier

2564

01:56:19,210 --> 01:56:21,700
about being in school, about
how it was hard for you

2565

01:56:21,700 --> 01:56:26,770
to study because you
were always thinking

2566

01:56:26,770 --> 01:56:28,930
of what was going to
happen to you next

2567

01:56:28,930 --> 01:56:31,690
and how could you kind
of avoid it maybe.

2568

01:56:31,690 --> 01:56:34,565
Does that mean like with this
and all of the grade school,

2569

01:56:34,565 --> 01:56:36,190
like, did you have
several teachers who

2570

01:56:36,190 --> 01:56:37,330
would torment you or--

2571
01:56:37,330 --> 01:56:41,110

2572
01:56:41,110 --> 01:56:44,560
Not all teachers were
virulent antisemites,

2573
01:56:44,560 --> 01:56:51,266
but they were all inclined
to, if not positively but--

2574
01:56:51,266 --> 01:56:54,100
and not actively, but
they would sort have

2575
01:56:54,100 --> 01:57:00,980
a kind of a dislike for us.

2576
01:57:00,980 --> 01:57:04,430
And even if they
didn't have this,

2577
01:57:04,430 --> 01:57:07,670
they couldn't show any
affection for us or special--

2578
01:57:07,670 --> 01:57:12,320
so they didn't pay
special attention to us.

2579
01:57:12,320 --> 01:57:17,470
They behaved in such a manner
as to be not aware of us,

2580
01:57:17,470 --> 01:57:19,220
so to speak.

2581
01:57:19,220 --> 01:57:20,600
When you say they
couldn't behave

2582
01:57:20,600 --> 01:57:23,510
with affection towards
you, was that political?

2583
01:57:23,510 --> 01:57:24,290
Definitely.

2584
01:57:24,290 --> 01:57:29,930
They couldn't show any kind
of kindness towards us even

2585
01:57:29,930 --> 01:57:32,000
or attention towards us.

2586
01:57:32,000 --> 01:57:33,313
That was impossible.

2587
01:57:33,313 --> 01:57:34,730
If they would have
done that, they

2588
01:57:34,730 --> 01:57:37,220
would have been
called Jew lovers.

2589
01:57:37,220 --> 01:57:39,420
They couldn't do that.

2590
01:57:39,420 --> 01:57:42,770
In fact, I remember
a specific case

2591
01:57:42,770 --> 01:57:45,980
where a teacher didn't
treat me so well in school,

2592
01:57:45,980 --> 01:57:49,250
but he came in the evening
to apologize to my parents,

2593
01:57:49,250 --> 01:57:53,030

and he said these are the
times there's nothing I can do.

2594

01:57:53,030 --> 01:57:55,670

At least he had a kind
of a conscience about it,

2595

01:57:55,670 --> 01:57:59,840

and he knew that he
was not treating me

2596

01:57:59,840 --> 01:58:02,000

the way he was treating
the other children so he

2597

01:58:02,000 --> 01:58:05,960

came and felt that he had
to explain why that is.

2598

01:58:05,960 --> 01:58:09,140

He said that he could
do nothing about it.

2599

01:58:09,140 --> 01:58:11,030

What were the
differences between how

2600

01:58:11,030 --> 01:58:13,520

he and other teachers
would treat you

2601

01:58:13,520 --> 01:58:17,510

and how they'll
treat other children?

2602

01:58:17,510 --> 01:58:28,690

Well, the non-Jewish
children were always

2603

01:58:28,690 --> 01:58:30,660

treated in a sort
of different way.

2604

01:58:30,660 --> 01:58:33,430

2605

01:58:33,430 --> 01:58:35,630

It's very difficult to
explain but, for instance,

2606

01:58:35,630 --> 01:58:39,700

when school was over, when
the vacation time came along,

2607

01:58:39,700 --> 01:58:42,550

there was always a
ceremony in the yard

2608

01:58:42,550 --> 01:58:46,435

where the Nazi flag was raised.

2609

01:58:46,435 --> 01:58:49,510

2610

01:58:49,510 --> 01:58:51,430

Then the "Horst Wessel"
song, the Nazi song,

2611

01:58:51,430 --> 01:58:54,220

and "Deutschland,
Deutschland \ddot{A} ber alles,"

2612

01:58:54,220 --> 01:58:58,820

the German national song was
sung and everybody raised his

2613

01:58:58,820 --> 01:58:59,320

hand.

2614

01:58:59,320 --> 01:59:01,410

And we, of course, did
not raise our hands.

2615

01:59:01,410 --> 01:59:03,790

We were not allowed to, even
if-- we didn't even want to,

2616
01:59:03,790 --> 01:59:05,560
but we were not allowed to.

2617
01:59:05,560 --> 01:59:10,610
And we could not partake in the
singing of it, so for a child

2618
01:59:10,610 --> 01:59:14,040
not to be able to
take part even in that

2619
01:59:14,040 --> 01:59:19,410
is being discriminated against
and we felt that all the time.

2620
01:59:19,410 --> 01:59:21,860
The Christian children,
the non-Jewish children,

2621
01:59:21,860 --> 01:59:23,840
were treated as
ordinary children.

2622
01:59:23,840 --> 01:59:25,700
If he was a good
pupil, probably he

2623
01:59:25,700 --> 01:59:28,520
was treated better
than the next.

2624
01:59:28,520 --> 01:59:30,890
But we were all
treated with some kind

2625
01:59:30,890 --> 01:59:37,382
of dissent, some kind of a--

2626
01:59:37,382 --> 01:59:40,250
it's a little
difficult to explain,

2627

01:59:40,250 --> 01:59:43,850

but I can't say that
every teacher really

2628

01:59:43,850 --> 01:59:46,640

treated us intentionally badly.

2629

01:59:46,640 --> 01:59:52,020

2630

01:59:52,020 --> 01:59:53,520

Can you think of
anything specific

2631

01:59:53,520 --> 01:59:56,370

that you recall besides
the sausage incident?

2632

01:59:56,370 --> 02:00:00,900

2633

02:00:00,900 --> 02:00:02,400

Let me just think a minute.

2634

02:00:02,400 --> 02:00:07,500

2635

02:00:07,500 --> 02:00:14,490

There are not too many
incidents except that one day,

2636

02:00:14,490 --> 02:00:22,980

I had a fight with another
pupil, and I broke his leg.

2637

02:00:22,980 --> 02:00:26,790

And then I knew that I
was in great trouble,

2638

02:00:26,790 --> 02:00:30,720

so I ran away to the woods
and only very late evening I

2639
02:00:30,720 --> 02:00:31,330
returned home.

2640
02:00:31,330 --> 02:00:34,710
I was very hungry, and I
made my way into the house.

2641
02:00:34,710 --> 02:00:37,860
And there my parents were
waiting, and they were waiting,

2642
02:00:37,860 --> 02:00:39,280
they were frightened.

2643
02:00:39,280 --> 02:00:42,150
I don't know exactly
how we overcame this,

2644
02:00:42,150 --> 02:00:53,690
but I know that the
mood was terrible.

2645
02:00:53,690 --> 02:00:56,070
I don't recollect today
exactly what happened,

2646
02:00:56,070 --> 02:00:59,070
but nothing good came of it.

2647
02:00:59,070 --> 02:01:02,120
I don't remember exactly
how the whole thing ended.

2648
02:01:02,120 --> 02:01:09,180

2649
02:01:09,180 --> 02:01:11,550
What kind of things would
the children taunt you with?

2650
02:01:11,550 --> 02:01:13,760

What did they say to you?

2651
02:01:13,760 --> 02:01:17,520

2652
02:01:17,520 --> 02:01:21,420
Besides what I told you
about taking me, you know,

2653
02:01:21,420 --> 02:01:26,490
accompanying me home
or from home to school,

2654
02:01:26,490 --> 02:01:30,150
not always but from time to time
they used to call us a dirty

2655
02:01:30,150 --> 02:01:33,900
Jew, or they used to call us
what they said [NON-ENGLISH],,

2656
02:01:33,900 --> 02:01:36,660
which means pig Jew.

2657
02:01:36,660 --> 02:01:39,180
Well, I can't say that
they always did it.

2658
02:01:39,180 --> 02:01:42,000
I mean, we used
to play together.

2659
02:01:42,000 --> 02:01:43,830
And we used to go,
in the schoolyard,

2660
02:01:43,830 --> 02:01:46,500
we used to, during
the recession,

2661
02:01:46,500 --> 02:01:49,380
we used to sort of have games.

2662

02:01:49,380 --> 02:01:53,880

So it only came up at times
when maybe a report appeared

2663

02:01:53,880 --> 02:01:55,740

in the local newspaper
that some Jew had

2664

02:01:55,740 --> 02:02:01,380

done this or something
of another sort,

2665

02:02:01,380 --> 02:02:07,830

but not always did they taunt
me because we were children,

2666

02:02:07,830 --> 02:02:09,690

and children play.

2667

02:02:09,690 --> 02:02:11,340

And we used to play
marbles, and we

2668

02:02:11,340 --> 02:02:14,520

used to exchange all kinds of
valuables like all children do.

2669

02:02:14,520 --> 02:02:17,490

So I can't really say
that this was constant.

2670

02:02:17,490 --> 02:02:20,670

It was only at times.

2671

02:02:20,670 --> 02:02:23,090

Did adults ever insult you
when you were on the street?

2672

02:02:23,090 --> 02:02:26,190

2673

02:02:26,190 --> 02:02:29,930

Eh, I remember one particular case.

2674
02:02:29,930 --> 02:02:34,440
There was a neighbor, a little 3, 4 streets away,

2675
02:02:34,440 --> 02:02:39,060
and all the shops after the--

2676
02:02:39,060 --> 02:02:40,440
I don't know exactly when it was,

2677
02:02:40,440 --> 02:02:44,150
but the shops, all the stores had in their shop windows

2678
02:02:44,150 --> 02:02:47,610
a sign which said, we do not serve Jews.

2679
02:02:47,610 --> 02:02:49,200
So we couldn't go into shops.

2680
02:02:49,200 --> 02:02:53,010
It was, I don't know how we managed to get food

2681
02:02:53,010 --> 02:02:57,180
into our house, but one day, my mother said to me,

2682
02:02:57,180 --> 02:03:02,370
go to the bakery and get some bread.

2683
02:03:02,370 --> 02:03:05,370
So I went and then when I was just buying the bread,

2684
02:03:05,370 --> 02:03:08,430
this neighbor came in, and

he ignored me completely.

2685
02:03:08,430 --> 02:03:10,450
And he spoke to the
shopkeeper and said,

2686
02:03:10,450 --> 02:03:11,820
I thought you don't serve Jews.

2687
02:03:11,820 --> 02:03:15,540
So she started to stutter
and then I was taken aback.

2688
02:03:15,540 --> 02:03:16,680
And she said to me, you go.

2689
02:03:16,680 --> 02:03:18,600
No, we don't serve Jews.

2690
02:03:18,600 --> 02:03:20,940
So I walked home, and
I said to my mother,

2691
02:03:20,940 --> 02:03:24,210
she won't sell me bread.

2692
02:03:24,210 --> 02:03:27,090
It is difficult to
recollect exactly how we

2693
02:03:27,090 --> 02:03:32,520
got all these foods, but after
time, I think it was lifted,

2694
02:03:32,520 --> 02:03:37,950
and we were able to go to
the shops again and buy food.

2695
02:03:37,950 --> 02:03:40,620
Oh, yes, I remember
down the street

2696

02:03:40,620 --> 02:03:43,560
on the opposite side was
a man, and his name was

2697
02:03:43,560 --> 02:03:48,540
[Personal name] And he
used to erect fences.

2698
02:03:48,540 --> 02:03:51,180
And he had a big old
Alsatian dog, a German dog.

2699
02:03:51,180 --> 02:03:53,010
At exactly 2 o'clock
every day, he

2700
02:03:53,010 --> 02:03:55,290
used to take his
dog by the leash,

2701
02:03:55,290 --> 02:03:59,950
and he used to pass the
houses of the Jewish people,

2702
02:03:59,950 --> 02:04:03,500
and they used to stand
in the doorway sometime.

2703
02:04:03,500 --> 02:04:04,000