

1 INTERVIEW WITH: Georgia M. Gabor

2 INTERVIEWER:

3 DATE:

4 PLACE:

5 TRANSCRIBER: Darlene C. Watne

6 + + + +

7 MRS. GABOR: I am Georgia M. Gabor. I was born
 8 in Budapest, Hungary, in 1930. I am a survivor of the
 9 Holocaust. I was 14 years old during the Holocaust in
 10 Hungary. My entire family was annihilated, and I just
 11 published about a year ago my book called My Destiny,
 12 Survivor of the Holocaust. That's my life story carrying
 13 me all the way through to the present times and the
 14 Holocaust experiences afterwards when we were "liberated*"
 15 by the Communists. I lived under that era for a year.
 16 And all the way through; my accomplishments coming to
 17 this country, getting married, raising children, and so
 18 forth.

19 But we were talking before about - - oh,
 20 well, let me slide back for a second. I was caught three
 21 times by the Nazis during the Holocaust and I escaped
 22 from them three times. I was taken twice into the ghetto,
 23 and I forged papers and came up with hair-raising schemes,
 24 acting at least as good as Zsa Zsa Gabor, and convinced the
 25 Nazis, the oppressors, of my story and managed to literally

*quotation marks dictated by speaker

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1 walk out of the ghetto. I even walked out of the ghetto
2 five days before the Russians so-called liberated the
3 ghetto - - which is, I think, quite unusual, literally
4 walked out.

5 INTERVIEWER: Could you tell us any more
6 details about those hair-raising schemes?

7 MRS. GABOR: Well, I give you perhaps a
8 description of one of the most horrendous experiences I
9 have had during the Holocaust, and that was in November
10 1944 when I was captured by the Nazis the first time for
11 being on the street when Jews were not allowed to be on the
12 street - -

13 INTERVIEWER: At a time of the day?

14 MRS. GABOR: At a time of the day. We were
15 allowed between one and three in the afternoon; and
16 because of a certain situation I had no other choice, I
17 had to be on the street. Escorted by a Hungarian soldier
18 at nine o'clock in the forenoon, obviously in front of the
19 Nazi house they noticed the star. The Nazi, the Hungarian
20 Nazi, now I'm talking the Arrow Cross member, grabbed me
21 by the arm, shoved me down into the cellar, went tumbling
22 down a flight of staircase, fell, literally fell, into the
23 arms of a high-ranking German Gestapo officer standing
24 right at the door who pinched my cheek and said, "What a
25 cute little Jew bitch come and visit me," and I knew

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1 exactly what my destination was. They had brothels to
2 please themselves. He put a Luger in my left rib, made
3 me sit down and watch the following scene.

4 The cellar contained approximately 100 men
5 and women. They were all facing the wall with their arms
6 raised. Men were whistling a tune and the women were
7 humming the same tune while both Hungarian and German
8 Nazis were walking between the rows with the cat-tail whip.
9 A cat-tail whip is braided, seven strips of leather
10 approximately a yard in length; and they were beating these
11 people to the rhythm of the melody. And I was watching
12 as these very, very sharp pieces of leather literally
13 sliced the flesh off the skeleton. I was sitting with the
14 loaded Luger in my rib and had to observe. There was a
15 woman standing in front of me. She was in a pool of blood,
16 of course. After I had noticed some other people around
17 her, a tip of the whip took out one eye. Another Nazis
18 whip literally sliced off the ear of a man standing nearby.
19 This woman turned towards us and said to the officer,
20 "Please let me sit down, just for a moment, officer." The
21 officer holding the gun at me rose, whipped her. She
22 collapsed. Kicked into her, then emptied his Luger. Six
23 bullets into her body. Reloaded. Sat down beside me,
24 put it back into my rib, and I had to continue watching
25 the scene.

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1 In the corner of the cellar was an old Jewish
2 man. It looked like praying from a prayer book or some-
3 thing. Two German Nazis, Gestapo officers, walked towards
4 him, one female and one male. The male picked up an
5 armchair, held it above the Jew's head, when the female
6 yelled in German, "Don't hit the Jew with this antique
7 chair. It's hand-carved and it is valuable." At which
8 point he landed the chair and I watched the skull open.

9 The other corner of the cellar was boarded off
10 with planks of wood. I could see inbetween the planks.
11 There were three bodies nailed to the wall hanging upside-
12 down, nailed to the wall by their ankles. One was a male,
13 one was a female, both still wiggling. Their genital
14 organs were cut off and they were slowly bleeding to death
15 and they were still hanging upside-down and still alive.
16 The third one I could not identify because that body was
17 slashed from throat to groin. It was stiff. So I knew
18 what fate awaited me. And among the innumerable situations
19 I have been in when it took, literally, a miracle for me
20 to come out alive, I again prayed. I says, "Dear God, if
21 it's meant to be, then please perform a miracle. That's
22 what it takes to survive this particular situation." And
23 so many times the Lord answered my prayers. The air raid
24 siren sounded, which meant that the Nazis and the officers
25 upstairs had to come down to the cellar for shelter, which

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1 also meant that the Jews had to be evacuated from the
2 cellar. And while in the commotion they were herding us,
3 all these people, those who were still alive, through
4 literally a black hole in the wall. That's all I could see.
5 They were herding us through this black hole.

6 While in a momentary confusion, this Nazi
7 officer turned away so I was not covered by the gun. I
8 had roughly about sixty seconds to make a decision, carry
9 it out, and escape. I was wearing a reversible coat at
10 that time, light gray outside. I reversed it to the black
11 inside lining. My hair was braided, pulled out of my face.
12 I let it fall into my face, completely covering my face.
13 I got down on all fours, and inbetween the legs of the
14 people I proceeded to the black hole. By the time he
15 turned around, I gained about four, five feet from him. I
16 heard him cussing, but by that time I was reaching the
17 other side of the hole.

18 What was the other side? It was a tunnel, a
19 tunnel that the Jews previously had dug - - and, by the
20 way, I'm describing an incident that happened many, many
21 times a day in different parts of the city. That was a
22 common practice by the S.S. The other side, they had made
23 previous groups of Jews dig these tunnels. The tunnel was
24 not tall enough for us to stand erect. They packed us in,
25 literally, like sardines. If you can possibly imagine,

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1 which is almost impossible to even imagine it, but if you
2 can possibly imagine the excruciating pain that these people
3 suffered. Every single one of them had raw flesh exposed
4 on their body. Of course not I, but all the others. Any
5 movement they were rubbing their raw flesh against either
6 the unfinished walls of the cellar or the clothing of the
7 person before or behind them, because we were packed in.

8 The cries, the screams, I will never forget.
9 All I have to do is just close my eyes. I can describe
10 sizes, odors. I can recall colors. Everything to the
11 least detail because it made such a tremendous impression
12 on me. And slowly the sobs were subsiding as people
13 passed out or died from the pain, from the agony. And then
14 came the rats, another very common situation that I
15 experienced many times afterwards, by the thousands. First
16 of all, being in the cellar from the sewer, these rats
17 that had been starving, and because of the lack of food in
18 the city by that time in the general population, not just
19 the Jews, there was not enough food, therefore there was
20 not enough garbage. These rats came by the thousands. The
21 smell of fresh blood and flesh attracted them. And I
22 recall the hundreds and hundreds of rats running across
23 my body, my face, every part of me. People ask me, "Did
24 they ever bite you?" Of course not. Another miracle
25 among the many. Why should they? I didn't smell good to

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1 to them. They bit the person in front of me and behind me,
2 but not I. We were kept in that cellar for roughly a day.
3 I am estimating because I went unconscious also. Until the
4 next episode when we were able to crawl out and I was able
5 to crawl out and find out about 15 of us were still alive
6 out of over the 100 people that they pushed into this
7 tunnel. Next episode (laughing).

8 This is all documented in my book. That's
9 why I say that I feel that the Lord has protected me for
10 some reason, because I do believe that we are created - -
11 I'm not a very religious person, but I do believe that we
12 are created for some purpose. Each one of us has a
13 purpose. And I searched my soul, my mind, my heart, what
14 could possibly be my purpose on this earth? Why am I - -
15 I was totally orphaned, by the way. My entire family,
16 including cousins and second cousins, everybody annihilated.
17 Why was I spared? Why did the Lord look after me? And I
18 came to the conclusion, perhaps because I had the person-
19 ality, the survivor's personality. I have the guts. I am
20 willing to recall these memories for the martyrs; not for
21 myself, but for the martyrs and for, in hope of bettering
22 mankind. And I felt that it was my obligation to document
23 these experiences and hopefully mankind will learn from
24 the past. The thing that I want them to learn is that
25 man's inhumanity to man, that while we are making such

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1 tremendous progress in technological research and scientific
2 development, space, research, and so forth, yet human
3 nature has not changed for the ten thousands of years since
4 human beings could be living on this earth. And I think
5 that this should be the most important dedication and
6 obligation of mankind. Animals will kill but only to
7 survive. Men will kill for any ideological reason - - and
8 torture; not just kill, but torture for any ideological
9 reason.

10 Now, I want to mention something about my
11 book. It does carry my whole life story, not only during
12 the Nazi era, but also under the Communist era - - which
13 was almost as horrible. Different way. Oh, they were
14 very equalitarians. They were equally miserable to both
15 Jews and gentiles (laughing). So I escaped from them, too,
16 naturally (laughing). As a matter of fact, I escaped, I
17 joined the Nazi - - oh, golly! - - I joined the Zionist
18 group; and with one leader from Palestine, five of us
19 teenagers, we managed to smuggle out 93 children from
20 behind the Iron Curtain. And that's another story. Don't
21 ask me (laughing). There is so many.

22 But I have been lecturing. Since the
23 publication of my book I have been lecturing about it at
24 universities and various kinds of groups, and I am always
25 asked a question I want to give a rhetoric answer to, if I

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1 may. But first I want to read my dedication in the book
2 because I think there is something that we, especially the
3 Jewish people, are leaving out. I hear so much about
4 Holocaust survivors, always focusing on the six million
5 Jews that died, who died, which I think that it is very
6 important that we talk about it. But what about the five
7 million gentiles who also died? And I would say that
8 perhaps one or two million or more of those only crime was
9 that they were hiding a Jewish family or maybe feeding a
10 Jewish family and they were caught. And I feel that they
11 should be commemorated, too. Not just a few handfulls of
12 righteous gentiles, but I am talking about the millions
13 who have helped just because they were human and humane
14 and they willingly sacrificed their safety for that.

15 So, in my dedication I say, "I dedicate
16 this book to the millions of innocent souls, be they Jew
17 or gentile, who were tortured and annihilated by the Nazis
18 during the World War II Holocaust and to those still in
19 captivity, in labor camps, victims of Communist regimes."
20 I shall come back to that in a moment too. "I also
21 dedicate this book to the living, to those who will never
22 forget the martyrs, who will forever strive to prevent and
23 make necessary sacrifices to conquer any form of
24 totalitarianism. Be it their destiny." Now, what I am
25 pointing out here, hopefully, is that Holocaust, per se, the

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1 Nazi Holocaust, ceased. Although we are seeing neo-Nazi
2 uprisings, there is an anti-Semitic air that is gaining
3 more and more proportion as time goes on. And I am
4 noticing it, of course, being a Jew and Holocaust
5 survivor even more so perhaps than the general population;
6 but I am not so much afraid of another Hitler rising and
7 the neo-Nazis. But it is called today the Communists or
8 totalitarians or P.L.O. What difference does it make what
9 name we call them? These are the same brutal, inhuman
10 behavior patterns being displayed. Look what's happening
11 in Siberia. We hear about these people in the Communist
12 labor camps, concentration camps. Their fate today is
13 not much better than during the Holocaust. And why?
14 Because they perhaps want to go to Palestine? Or because
15 they say something that "I don't like this particular
16 Communist party member"? Okay, look at Cambodia. Look at
17 China. Nearly eighty million people when Mao Tse Tung
18 goes to power. Vietnam, the boat people tell us.
19 Afgahnistan, we hear about it. The Lebanon situation
20 more recently. Cubans came on the boat and tell us about
21 the atrocities being committed against innocent people.
22 El Salvador, Nicaragua. We could go on and on and on.
23 Again, innocent people. For what reason? Why? It is
24 something that has to cease because we are going to
25 annihilate our own selves. We don't have to worry about

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1 nuclear war. We are doing a marvelous job just with our own
2 bigotries, with our own self-centered, self-focused
3 interests.

4 Now, I hope I am doing all this talking and
5 this writing because - - I mentioned T.V. I was on a news
6 media tour for two months during the summertime, and I
7 have been speaking to more than ten million people, reach-
8 ing more than ten million people, and I say these things,
9 that we, the few of us who have lived those horrors, who
10 have the empathy for other people, not just our own but for
11 other people who are suffering, we must, we must talk about
12 it if we can, if we are capable. But we must talk about
13 it and try to wake up the people, to say, "Do something!"
14 because the world tends to say like we said. I remember
15 my brilliant father who was a prominent attorney in
16 Hungary just a few months before the Nazis came in. Oh,
17 wow, those horrors that we hear about - - and we did hear
18 about some. It can happen. Poland. Czechoslovakia.
19 In Czechoslovakia, in Ukrainia, but not to us. I mean,
20 the Hungarian Jews are assimilated. It is not going to
21 happen to us. Hungarians won't stand for it. The govern-
22 ment won't stand for it. I hear that same philosophy
23 here in the United States.

24 We hear about these boat people and these
25 people who tell us their stories and we give, we donate

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1 money maybe or clothing and then go off and play golf and
2 tennis and pursue our own interests, and we don't give a
3 second thought that yes, anything can happen to anybody
4 anywhere. And think about it. What about if it would
5 happen to your brother? And what can you do? What could
6 we do when we were oppressed by the Nazis? The answer is:
7 Nothing.

8 What could they have done? Number one, I am so
9 often asked that question. Get into the war sooner?
10 Perhaps. Although I am against war, naturally. I suffered
11 enough. I say "peace," but not at any price. There is a
12 limit where I would stop and say, "It is not worthwhile
13 living if I don't gain anything emotional satisfaction out
14 of existing in this world." Now, what could we have done
15 outside of war? For example, what prevented us from
16 allowing many, many volunteers to fly over those concentra-
17 tion camps and ghettos and drop food packages, medical
18 packages? Very nominal in this respect to the cost of the
19 war efforts we have put in. And, weapons. These Jews
20 perhaps would have died themselves so that they would have
21 taken many Nazis with them, and perhaps they could have
22 stopped the annihilation of several millions. Then the
23 Nazis could not afford Jews riseup against them. And all
24 it would have cost the United States or the free world is
25 a drop in the bucket as far as money is concerned and would

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have prevented a lot of American lives because it was those Nazis that turned around and shot them; our boys, American boys. That's number one.

But number two: The absolute minimal that we should have done - - and mind you, the United States had enough documentation, the United States government was fully aware from 1938 on what was happening and we kept it from the news media, our State Department kept it from the news media. They were afraid that the American population is going to have uprisings and trouble and so forth and split opinion and demand from them, so rather hush it up. The other thing I say, the minimum we should have done is England, who depended on our help, we could have said, Roosevelt could have said to Churchill, "Open your gates to Palestine. Let those Jews take in their brethren." Illegal immigration. What a big - - what a big thing. It wouldn't have in any way affected England. There was no reason why they have to be so cruel as to torpedo the ships carrying a few hundred or a few thousand hopeless, homeless and hopeless, refugees. We didn't even do that much! And we cruelly - - we, the free people, cruelly - - allowed England and other countries to torpedo those ships or not allow those people to go on shore. That's inhumanity, that a nation that - - like the United States - - I'm a very, very patriotic American and I feel very ashamed

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1 of saying that this country that I admire so much didn't
2 even do that much for the people.

3 And what are they doing today about all those
4 millions? Nothing. They are negotiating. We are
5 disarming. Do you think for one moment that the
6 Communists are going to stick with their words if we make
7 any kind of treaty with them? We have seen time in and
8 time out they break any treaty that is not advantageous to
9 them. I lived under them. I was indoctrinated in the
10 Communists philosophy for nearly one whole year. I know
11 what I am talking about. They are going to sign eventually
12 any treaty that they want. What difference does it make?
13 And turn around and do what they want. Then we are
14 disarmed. All they will have to do is just threaten us
15 and we will fall. We cannot afford being defenseless.
16 I am not saying, "Attack." No. I am against wars, I said.
17 But don't ever leave yourself defenseless. Because if the
18 Jews had the arms, if we would not have had a legal law
19 against possessing any arms - - and again, I am against
20 gun control for this reason - - because if the Jews would
21 have had weapons they would not have gone to the slaughter
22 house. But when the Nazis came, and both Hungarian and
23 German, with submachine guns and all we could fight back
24 with was kitchen knives and scissors, believe me, we were
25 not very likely to try to even protect our own lives. We

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1 prayed and hoped. And, therefore, six million of us and
2 five million gentiles died. So what are we doing here in
3 America? How naïve can we get, not realizing the big
4 picture? All right, there will be some innocent people
5 perhaps. The criminals are always going to get bounced;
6 but the innocent people, if any totalitarian ever has a
7 chance of rising to power in the United States, that will
8 be the first thing to do.

9 INTERVIEWER: So how did you feel about ending
10 up living in the United States? Did you come here, then,
11 to escape the Communism in Hungary?

12 MRS. GABOR: I escaped from behind the Iron
13 Curtain, as I mentioned to you, with the Zionists. Yes,
14 I did, that was on tape. And then I went to D.P. camps in
15 Germany and I met a very wonderful person. She was
16 working for the Un-rah at that time and I was translating
17 for her and helping her. And she suggested that since I
18 had to wait for a legal immigration to Israel, I was under
19 16 years of age and after a year and-a-half my number
20 still did not come up, she suggested she might be able to
21 help me. The United States Congress just passed a bill
22 to sponsor 500 children. We came as wards of the United
23 States Government. Very unusual. There was just 500 of
24 us. And I was sent to Boston, to the Jewish Family
25 Children's Service, and foster home to foster home, to

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1 orphanage and so forth, until I got married and started
2 my life. I raised two wonderful children, a daughter and
3 a son. And, of course, all that is in my book. Then I
4 became - - after I raised my children I began my college
5 education. I now have a Bachelor in Mathematics and a
6 Master's in Educational Psychology from U.C.L.A. I've got
7 about five more courses to go for my doctorate. If I ever
8 bothered to go for that piece of toilet paper - - a, hum,
9 I mean (laughing). But I have done research and published
10 educational research also in research journals. This is
11 my first book. I intend to write this summer another one.
12 It's a baby book whereby before each section I am giving
13 a description of what to expect in the child development
14 and ending the particular section, whether it is yearly or
15 every three months or every six months or every year, with
16 a several-page test, so that the parents can administer to
17 the children to see how their individual child compares
18 in motor development, skill development, intellectual
19 development, language development, and so forth to the
20 typical--whatever that means--normal and typical. So that
21 is my second major project.

22 I'm also mathematics teacher. My latest
23 accomplishment is that I have been listed in the Who's
24 Who in California since 1984, but my latest is I was
25 recently notified that I will be listed in the World's

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1 Who's Who of Women, the 1983 edition. So, I've come along
2 way, coming to this country in 1947 with \$1.50 in my
3 pocket (laughing).

4 INTERVIEWER: I would say, ironic though it
5 may be, that you ended up here, I think we're very lucky
6 to have you. I wanted to ask you about your feelings about
7 the United States, since you did end up here through a
8 rather circuitous route, and how you do feel about it now,
9 now that you're a patriotic American.

10 MRS. GABOR: I think that America is the
11 greatest country in the world, although I would do anything
12 for Israel. I sometimes regret that I didn't go to Israel,
13 simply because I feel that maybe I should have given my
14 life to establish that country. It was so important. But
15 I am very grateful that this country gave me an opportunity
16 to become what I have become, as I said, with my \$1.50 in
17 my pocket (laughing). I feel first I am an American, my
18 nationality is an American, my religion is a Jew. If I
19 ever could serve my country, and America is my country in
20 any way, I would not hesitate giving my life to it because
21 I think that that is the least that each one of us can do
22 for our country that gives us the opportunity.

23 I see a lot of mistakes that our government
24 is making. I could criticize a great deal, but constructive
25 criticism. In other words, I still feel that there is no

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1 other country better or even as good, at least not in the
2 twentieth century.

3 INTERVIEWER: So you ended up here through,
4 really, a series of miracles also. But we find that mostly
5 miracles aren't always what they seem. You are really a
6 survivor and you must owe quite a bit of your survival to
7 yourself. How do you think that happened? How do you
8 account for that? What qualities do you think have made
9 you come through this?

10 MRS. GABOR: Well, I just happen to have
11 written a chapter recently for a book that shall be
12 published, I hope, in the near future. The title will
13 be, Profiles in Survival, written by Dr. Mendell who is a
14 U.S.C. professor; and the purpose of it is to try to
15 identify the characteristics, survival characteristics, and
16 also the characteristics that are nonconducive to survival.
17 And I have my own conclusions. I have some notes in front
18 of me, not prepared for this particular question, but I
19 shall return to some of my notes.

20 I would say that one of the most important
21 survival characteristics is self-reliance, guts to be able
22 to do something and stuff, not sitting back and waiting to
23 be done for you, ability to think quickly, make decisions
24 without hesitation, quickly, and stick to it. From my
25 experiences sometimes 30 seconds delay would have cost ...

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1 my life. Relate to everyday living. For example, you are
2 crossing the street and the light turns yellow or green and
3 you are in the middle - - I mean, yellow or red and you
4 are in the middle - - of the road. So many people would
5 hesitate. "Do I turn? Do I go back? Do I go forward?"
6 Consequently, they get killed or hurt or whatever. Being
7 able to make an immediate decision under a given pressure
8 circumstance and sticking to it, just stay put in that
9 position. Cars can get around you. Your chances are
10 enhanced for survival. These are the situations I develop
11 when I make speeches on that particular topic.

12 Adaptability is a very important
13 characteristic. To be able to - - like I was raised quite
14 well-to-do. We had servants and everything was catered
15 to me. Then, within a matter of weeks I found myself in
16 a position that I slept on the rubbles and ate out of
17 garbage cans. Many people could not do that.

18 Apathy is one of the most dangerous things,
19 whether it is relating to everyday life here in America,
20 whether it is an illness when you give up, or whether it
21 is during the Holocaust. When you give up, the body
22 chemistry does not produce the necessary chemicals for
23 survival; adrenalin, anti-bodies, and so forth and so on.
24 So that is a very important characteristic.

25 [TAPE TURNED TO SIDE B]

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1 Another very important survival
2 characteristic is understanding of human nature, anticipat-
3 ing what your opponent or what your partner will do in a
4 given situation. If I can anticipate a reaction of my
5 enemy, for example, I can avoid being hurt or shot or
6 whatever. If I can anticipate (inaudible)

7 Perhaps look for another job beforehand
8 (laughing). By the way, I am a mathematics teacher and
9 with the tenure law I don't have to worry about that
10 (laughing). But I have to anticipate a reaction of my
11 students. So in all our everyday activities this is a
12 very important characteristic also to develop. And these
13 are developable. These are not characteristics I'm talking
14 about that we are born with. It does not depend on I.Q.
15 It is something that either voluntarily and thinkingly we
16 develop or by the circumstances around us make us develop
17 in the hard way. But it is something to be suggested in
18 psychology courses, to educators and so forth, to pass
19 these on to our youngsters when we are dealing with it.
20 I try to do that with my teaching, to develop these
21 characteristics.

22 And imaginativeness, to be able to see if
23 there is a will there is a way. It is a common saying. If
24 there is a given situation when you don't have the right
25 tools to prepare something, how can you patch up the

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1 the particular thing? I was many things in my life. I was
2 a dress designer while I was raising my children and after
3 my divorce. By force I became a dress designer, not knowing
4 anything about sewing, built up a big business for myself.
5 I could imagine how something will look like in a
6 finished product.

7 Perseverance, stick-to-it-tiveness, if you
8 please, is very important. You start something, don't
9 quit. Trying - - and I'm not saying being a perfectionist
10 because that's very hard to live with, for the person
11 himself or herself and also for the people around them - -
12 but I am saying at least, if it is worthwhile doing, do it
13 well. Make an effort. How many people today are just
14 working for a job just to pick up the money, and con-
15 sequently the product or the services are very inferior
16 quality. So, as I say again, as a human being we are
17 trying to be as godly as we possibly can, and that would
18 be one of the other essential contributions to society, to
19 mankind, and to our beliefs.

20 And I would also have to include from my
21 personal experiences, believe in God. Call it God or by
22 any other name, it doesn't matter, but a super being,
23 believe that you have a purpose in this world. Because to
24 go through life just from a self-centered point of view is
25 a very empty existence. To me, I would have chosen rather

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1 to die, than to live through life just pleasing my own self
2 and not leaving anything behind when I pass on that would
3 have bettered the world in small, little ways.

4 INTERVIEWER: What you are doing is really very
5 brave, to relive the things that you went through, to share
6 them with other people so that they will know and to
7 perhaps protect them from anything like it happening. But
8 in your history I would like to back up for a minute and
9 see if I can find out how you became an orphan so very
10 quickly. Exactly what happened to your parents?

11 MRS. GABOR: I do suggest that you read my
12 book (laughing). I have 312 pages describing the details
13 leading up. And, by the way, I've written it in a novel
14 style on purpose, that the average American can pick up
15 something they may want to and that they, themselves, on a
16 Saturday night or Sunday or whatever; light reading, yet
17 everything is documented in it, everything is very precise,
18 so they get an information, a tremendous amount of informa-
19 tion, in a very enjoyable manner. It's light reading. It's
20 not one of those real heavy, depressing situations; because
21 I was like a little shrew, I was in and out with every
22 situation each time (laughing).

23 INTERVIEWER: Why don't you tell us the
24 publisher of the book and where one could get it.

25 MRS. GABOR: We have self-published the book and
I tell you very interesting story why. I sent out the

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1 manuscript to various big publishing houses and very short
 2 while after we started to send out the query letters and
 3 the sample chapters, I better not name the publisher but
 4 one of the very top publishing houses wrote a very beautiful
 5 letter saying how much they enjoyed the book and they are
 6 very much interested in publishing the book, however the
 7 story is so unbelievable, if I would be willing to revise
 8 it to make it more believable - - and I'm quoting now - -
 9 please, resubmit the manuscript. I was so upset. I said
 10 to my husband, "We are going to self-publish. No editor is
 11 going to change my autobiography. That's not the purpose.
 12 I feel that God preserved me for some reason and that would
 13 be to document these happenings as authentically as
 14 possible, and I don't want God to be removed from my book,
 15 I don't want any other of my beliefs changed or altered in
 16 any way." So we proceeded, not knowing anything about
 17 publishing, to set up a publishing company and published
 18 the book.

19 As I was working through with the print,
 20 you know, at the time with the typesetters and the proof-
 21 reading and so forth and so on, because I did everything
 22 myself, I had only one proofreader, only one proofreading
 23 being done, the rest was typesetting. When it was finished,
 24 was ready for the printer, I said to my husband, "Oh,
 25 thank Heaven it is done. Amen." He said, "Darling, that's

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1 what we'll call the publishing company." So it is called
2 Amen Publishing Company (laughing), and we are located at
3 365G Mary Poulter Avenue; Sierra Madre, California 91024.
4 Telephone number if you wish is area code 210, 355-9336.
5 And we have started distribution, but distribution is very
6 slow. There are some Dalton bookstores, some Roman book-
7 stores carrying it, several May Companys carrying it,
8 several independent bookshops are carrying my book; but
9 on a nation-wide scale, it is just a drop in the bucket.
10 It is soft-bound, it is not hard-bound. It is not a paper-
11 back, it is soft-bound, very good quality, as we can see.
12 I have many pictures in there; Holocaust, concentration
13 camp pictures that I have received from friends of mine and
14 different sources. It is 312 pages altogether. Part 1
15 covers my life until I came to this country. Part 2, my
16 life in this country, going through psychoanalysis, the
17 difficulty of getting adjusted to everything, raising
18 children and so forth, why and how we differ from the
19 typical American, to the typical anybody who has not gone
20 through those horrendous experiences. And the book sells
21 for \$6.95, and through any of the Holocaust gatherings,
22 events. If anybody is interested to write for it or ask
23 for it, no postage, no tax, we can absorb that.

24 I really feel that this book is not written
25 to make money on. That was not our purpose. We want to

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1 cover expenses and that's about it. My whole aim was wide
2 distribution. More and more people should read it because
3 I think that there won't be too many more Holocaust
4 survivors documenting these stories. We are dying out.

5 INTERVIEWER: Thank you very much for sharing
6 that with us. That is also our purpose in trying to
7 document these things and keep a record of it, for the
8 same reasons. Is there anything else that you would like
9 to leave with us?

10 MRS. GABOR: Thank you very much for interview-
11 ing and we are fighting for the same things. Man's
12 inhumanity to man has to stop.

13 [END OF TAPE.]
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