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Leonid Asanov (Abramov) was born in 1936 in Petrovka, Krasnogvardeyskiy region. His grandparents moved from Belarus, the region in Russia permitted for Jewish settlements before the revolution. Leonid explained, that Lenin himself was half Jewish, but his parents converted into Christianity and therefore, were allowed to move to a big city and became professors. Leonid's parents moved to Crimea in 30tees. Government distributed beautiful pamphlets with old pictures of Crimea, that in fact was completely destroyed after revolution.

Leonid's parents moved to Crimea some time in 1930, they joined Jewish collective farm. His grandfather Iyankel Abramov and his grandmother were religious people. His grandmother died in Rottendorf in 1939, members of his family also were buried there. Russian people also worked and later settled in their village. At that time people were starving in Russia, but there was no starvation in Crimea. The life was very difficult, Government did not want people to move around, they took people's passports, but officials were moving to better places.

He knew as a child that his grandfather was a religious man as he ate only Jewish food, he prayed at home, there were no synagogues at that time. The grandfather had a long beard and wore kipa. He had a lot of books, he probably observed Saturday as a holiday. His grandparents and parents spoke Jewish language- Yiddish. His older brother and sister went to a Jewish school.

The food was kosher, they did not eat pork, although they raised pigs. Life was very hard, his parents worked 15-18 hours a day in a collective farm, everything had to be approved by administration of the farm. They received small pieces of corn bread, they starved.

In 1941 all Jews were killed and everything was destroyed. Many Russians went to work for Germans and they killed Jews, later they stole all their belongings.

Leonid's grandfather was 82 when he was shot with other Jews, his father and his sister died at the same time; they were buried at the cemetery without any Jewish rituals.

When Leonid was a child his mother Christened two of her children, as she tried to save their lives.

After the war Jewish people were persecuted, the Rottendorf was changed to Larino, collective farm: " Pobeda/Victory". Some Jews were killed, some died of old age, a few moved away. Life was destroyed. Leonid left the family when he was 13 years old, he did not learn to speak Yiddish

Leonid married a Russian girl, because he did not have a chance to meet a Jewish girl. His mother did not object to his marriage to a Russian Christian woman. She valued a person, not her nationality

His wife came from Yaroslavl area, she was a teacher, he fell in love and got married. In Yevpatoria he worked as a teacher of physical education; while working in school he was christened. His brother also married a Russian girl.

In his family he did not have any problems.

When he visited Yaroslavskiy region, he felt that it was very Russian area, Crimea was like Vavilon, and Donbas was like Vavilon. In Yaroslavl region people followed many Russian orthodox religious holidays and traditions, he never heard about.

Although he settled with his wife in Yevpatoriya, there were no jobs and no apartments, so he and his family moved to Donbas when he was already 40 years old.

He lived in Donbas with his family. His father was a miner, he was a miner and his daughters and wife all worked at the mines. Leonid returned to Crimea only in 2003. He visited his village many times. When the family returned they realized that the situation was economically very difficult and his daughters immigrated to Germany via Jewish emigration.

During the war Germans eliminated families, even when only father was Jewish, now it is different, as long as your mother Jewish you become eligible for Immigration to Israel and Germany.

His brother and his nephew's daughter live in Israel.

His daughters invite him to move to Israel. Leonid reported that he has a great collection of rare books, coins, medals, pins that he doesn't want to leave. He bought his first book in 1949 and he knows that he wouldn't be allowed to take his collections to Israel. He is also concerned about hot climate. His wife was Russian, he inherited a house in Russia, he is used to his life and he doesn't feel like he wants to move to Israel.

When asked where is his home land, Leonid took a pose and said: "the mother land is the place where a person feels comfortable, where he has a good life".

Leonid worked for 20 years as a miner, he served in the army, therefore he has a higher than average pension of 300 griven.

Leonid reports that his older brother who lives in Israel is also married to a Russian woman, and that his sister is married to a Russian man, and another sister is married to a Jew. They all have good relationship, and his wife was the best friend with his sister.

When he got married, no Jewish weddings were allowed. If somebody found that they had elements of Jewish religion at the wedding, they could be arrested by KGB and eliminated. From a very young age he was told that "religion is an opium for people", although he always believed that a person has a right to believe in God.

He remembered that when his sister died in 1999, who went to the front at 18, she was buried according to Russian traditions, just one prayer was Jewish. He also remembered that some Jews were buried without caskets, just covered with wooden planks. That Jewish tradition was similar to Muslim tradition. Jewish people always followed Russian tradition to invite everybody for a meal after ceremony, although it contradicts Jewish tradition.

Leonid remembered that during Passover some Jews baked matzah, there was no other food, after the war people were starving, collective farms were taking everything from people. Most important holidays were New Year and Victory Day.

Leonid and his wife did not celebrate neither Russian no Jewish religious holidays. Leonid did not believe in God.

Soviets destroyed Churches and did not allow people to have religion, instead they wanted people to believe in Lenin, he was the "god". Another person suggested, that Leonid and his family were lucky because Stalin died in 1954, as there were plans to deport all Jews to the North Pol, like Tatar and other nationalities were deported from Crimea, but they were moved to Kazakhstan.

After the war when many nationalities were removed from Crimea, Soviet Government wanted Russians to move there. Initially there were small collective farms, then in 1957 Khrushchev gave an order to combine good farms with poor farms; the biggest was collective farm Russia, the worst was collective farm "Molotov", then it was named "Friendship of Nations". Then they started unite small regions into big regions, like Yevpatoriya region, Novoselovskiy rigion.

Collective farm Russia still exists, but it is named: "Sunrise".

In 1949 the chairman of regional division of communist party and the members were repressed, and killed, like Soloviev. Egudin was demoted, they took his party documents and sent him to rebuilt the worst collective farm Petrovka and he was able to make it very successful place.

During Stalin, who hated peasants, NKVD people robbed peasants, they took all their bread. Leonid explained that Russians and Ukrainians- his mother called them "goy", were different from Jews. 90% of Jews did not drink, while majority of Russians were drunks, Jews manner of speaking was different, and they looked different, they had Semitic features.

Leonid explains referring to the Small Soviet Encyclopedia, 1937, that in 1938 Crimea autonomic region was populated by people who believed in Judaism and lived primarily in Yevpatoriya area, they were Karaims. Karaims represented a branch of Jews. They spoke their own language, which is close to Yiddish.

Leonid considers Crimea his home land and the best place for him to live.

He thinks that in Soviet Union antisemitism was coming from the top- from the Government. Jews were not accepted to universities, not promoted, not placed in good job positions. The entrance to several institutes was impossible for Jews: Moscow Institute of Aviation, Moscow University. Jews were not accepted into the institutions that had any relationship to military industry, to police, to foreign affairs.

He tells a story that before leaving Crimea he went to visit his mother in Pavlograd. There he was told that the local police needed a teacher for children that were in police custody. Leonid had degrees in teaching and the director send him to the regional center in Dnepropetrovsk for the final approval, however the administration immediately checked his passport (he was Jewish) and rejected him, despite of a great need.

In the army Leonid was held back despite of his education that was far above regular requirement of an elementary or 7th grade.

Leonid had many non Jewish friends and they all treated him well.

Leonid explained that while he lived in Donbas many neighbors didn't know that he was Jewish, and even when they learned about his nationality they treated him like equal, because he worked very hard in the mine like all other people. He was an honest miner, he did not drink. He worked all hours, he never gave a reason to be disrespected.

Religion was prohibited in the Soviet Union, not only in 30s but also in 60s. When Leonid worked in school he had kids from Baptists' families, and they used to receive instructions to round up their meetings, but he never participated in those round ups, and people respected him.

In present time he hears the calls for Muslim prayers all the time.

Leonid remembered that in 30s a group of people who considered Saturday as a holiday, like Jews, came to their village, they were Russians.

He went to school with some of their kids in the village Newman and people were accepted there.

Leonid remembered that his nephew married a Georgian woman and later they got a divorce, the woman was afraid to go back to Georgia, because she was married to a Jewish man.

He remembered a story that in a village a young man fell in love with a Jewish girl and in order to marry her he converted into Judaism and even had a circumcision; Jews didn't care about his nationality they cared about his religion.

Leonid's daughters in Germany are not accepted by the community, but they don't want to become Jewish, because they were born by a Russian mother and they are married to Russian men.

In the Soviet Union people wanted to have Jewish spouses in order to leave the country. Soviet Union was like a prison. In the present time, when the system has changed, all depends whether you can make money or not.

During old times selling tomatoes from the owners garden considered not properly earned income.

He tells a folk story, " An old countess sits in her home her grandsons comes in and she asks him: " What is happening outside? What is happening to Russia?"

The boy answers: "Decembrists wanted to eliminate poverty and Communists want to eliminate wealth". This explains how people lived for 70 years.

Leonid explained that life in Israel is not easy; younger people can adjust, old people receive a small pension, but people who are 40-45 years old have very hard time, because they have to start from zero. His nephew left with his family when he was 40 years old and came back, while his daughter remained in Israel.

Leonid's brother immigrated to Israel and he has a peaceful life there, he sends money to Leonid.

His daughters live in Germany, but Leonid doesn't want to move to that country, because he can't forget and forgive the war. He also doesn't want to sell his pressures book collection. He is waiting for his daughters to visit him and he will give them some of his children books. Leonid lives among his books he reads Chivilixin, "Soviet Encyclopedia". Published in 1930; "World History". Leonid did not collect "Soviet writers", they were not real writers.