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Summary

Hans Baruch born 1929 in Berlin, Germany, discusses his father Ludwig Baruch and his mother Gertrud Leise; being the only child; living with his parents and maternal grandmother Franciska who passed in 1940; his maternal grandfather having had a business making postcards of movie stars; having a house keeper, Tante Hulda; his father being an actor with the artist name Uhrbach; his father having Multiple Sclerosis or Parkinson's disease; going to a Jewish school; not being that upset by seeing broken windows and antisemitic graffiti after Kristallnacht; his mother working in an office and being the bread winner; his grandmother asking friends in Sweden, the Valentin family, to take him in; going to the train station without his parents not to raise suspicions; his parents telling him they would all leave for the US in six months; arriving in Sweden on February 15, 1939; staying with Fanny and Hugo Valentin on Kyrkogårdsgatan in Uppsala; the Valentin family having three daughters Miriam, Märta and Susanne; the Valentin family speaking German at home; Hugo Valentin being a leading Zionist and historian in Sweden; going to school in Sweden; being good at sports; writing and getting letters from his parents; his father writing a poem to him and recording it on a record they sent him; not understanding the danger his parents were in; his maternal aunt Käte being deported to the ghetto in Lodz in 1941 and dying two months later; the last letter to his parents being returned; believing his father got euthanasia in a hospital in 1943; his mother being sent to Auschwitz in spring 1943; according to the records, his mother passing in 1945, but believing she was gassed soon after arrival in Auschwitz; seeing a suitcase with the name Ludwig Baruch in the movie Shoah by Claude Lanzmann, in a scene from Auschwitz, believing it was his mother's suitcase; feeling the creation of the Israeli state was a kind of reparations; working at the Jewish summer camp Glämsta as an adult; feeling bad about not having written his parents more often; still thinking about his mother who he was very close to; reading parts of his father's poem.