



Eugene's Story, Chapter 9

I never spoke till 1997 when I got interviewed for a Shoah, Steven Spielberg Shoah foundation, and since then my first public speech was in 2000 at Menwith Hill. And then I got to know the HSFA and from then onwards I haven't stopped. And I try and pass on those terrible events and what led to it and one of the most disturbing things which I hate so much, and I am using a word of hate, to turn the television on and hear the news. Far away in the east, Middle East, wherever you turn to, that they innocent people are being killed and millions of innocent people die of poverty and starvation. And that really hurts, when you experienced all those things, and you survived and you reach a reasonably good age. And to see it repeat itself, it lets humanity down terribly and I wish we could find a way to live in harmony. I believe strongly too that we got to learn to agree to disagree.

When you go into schools and talk to children or wherever you go I try to always leave them with the story that we come into this world naked and we go out naked and what we do with ourselves is entirely up to yourself and that's why, to be tolerant, and it doesn't matter whether you white, black or whatever, and that same thing applies for religion, there's only one God. As long you wish to believe in one, whatever god you chosen, please do so, don't push it down somebody else's throat. And it's so important to always remember, live and let live because we only here for a short short while and enjoy while you here. And some of us who haven't been that fortunate years ago, we know the meaning of what it is to survive.

If you ask me how do you think that you survived I couldn't answer it because I don't know why I survived.

And the memories I have been left with I learned to live with and I am trying only lately to do my utmost to pass the message on what happens when hatred and lack of tolerance and understanding takes over humanity. And only the few of us who are still alive thank God that we exist. I used the word God and that's something I must tell you for 20 years he didn't existed in my life. Cause I can recollect in Auschwitz as a very young boy on my arrival where God didn't

existed, he was blind and he was deaf, cause he didn't see, didn't witness what was happening to us.

To add something I would like to add to this tragedy which was one of the greatest tragedies what the world ever experienced, all those 6 million fellow Jews perished but equally another 6 million other nationalities and religions who perished because... the handicapped, the mentally ill, socialists, communist, Jehova's witnesses, homosexuals, anybody and everybody who disagreed with the regime landed up in a concentration camp. Gas chambers or just being shot and they perished.

I was imprisoned with every nationality which Germany occupied in Europe, there was everybody there and we all went through the same thing, we all suffered the same way. We were deprived of our identity, of our life, of everything.

There is something to be said how cruel humanity is. We are, I believe very strongly, us humans we are worse than animals, they seem to have better discipline and understanding than we have.