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INT:(01:00:23) Talk about what you got out of © what you remember, what, what fond memories or what other kind of © what ...what do you carry with you with the kind of Hasidic education you got as a youngster?

BZH: I see what you mean, you want, you want the education part...

INT: Also, tell talk about the yeshiva © the cheder. Tell us about growing up in the Hasidic yeshiva © what that was like.

BZH: Let me think, I forgot about it so busy in the business (laughs).

INT: Well you can tell us first about your business.

BZH: No, no whatever you want...

INT: (interviewers speaking at the same time)...Starting now.

BZH: Ok, let me just think. I have to look in the...

INT: Look at me and tell me like someone who has no idea what a Hasidic education is like, you went through a Hasidic education, tell us what that experience was like.

BZH:(01:01:10) Oh, well when I was uh two or three or four years old I probably didn't understand where I was. But I think it started by uh, by 9 years old, 9 or 10, um....which uh, I started understanding the uh history, where I come, ya know the rebbes which teachers, Jewish teachers are called rebbes. Uh told us constantly stories of our sages, going © ya know we learned the Talmud, which is uh, you got a lot of stories, so that really gave me a connection, I really , that I really started understanding which uh where uh where I'm from, and uh I would say at, by 10 years old I really started learning ya know the Jewish Talmud and everything with a, with a real intense interest, interest in it 'cause I felt that I want to find out uh from where I © where my past is, um my father was a holocaust survivor and uh its sad to say that he was taken away from his parents at the age of 13. And uh, he has never learned the Talmud...so he really himself never taught me the Talmud 'cause he lost, what you call..the teenage years or his best years and uh, and which every Jewish person needs that that..teenage years which gives him the insights in the

Talmud, so it was really the school that taught me the Jewish religion and the Hasidic part of it and what it meant to me.

(01:03:05) Uh, what should I say further, I uh, from 13 there was a Bar Mitzvah, I assumed the Bar Mitzvah which means that I have to take the responsibility as an adult, all the mitzvahs, all the '∞ _ ∞ __ know, a kid, made a lot of trouble for my parents...they threw me out of the house a couple of times (laughs)..just ya know for two hours uh, uh an example: I stepped one time there was a, a pail of paint in the basement and I, I don't know what happened © my foot got into the pail of paint and I started walking around the dining room and my mother found © it was shabbos it was like two hours before shabbos and uh, uh we...ya know shabbat, shabbos we're not allowed to clean so we had my white foot prints around the dining room and I think my father © my mother had a carpet that time, an oriental carpet so uh that was up to 13, so my mother ran after me, I ran out, but ya know 10 minutes later I was back home, and we forgot about it. That, so up to 13 I was really a a kid but I started ya know learning and understanding, but once I became 13, my father packed me up, sent me up to England. With 10 children at home my father had no, wanted me out. But uh he packed me up in England, to Bobov and that's where I really started uh uh, I mean I was sitting day and night learning the Talmud, I mean itself, I never stopped till I got married.

(01:04:41) And uh that really connected me and I learned about my sages and the rebbes and uh the Hasidic uh Hasidic books tell me about...the recent Rebbes that were just now in Poland that I uh, that my father told me about and..uh what should I say further (laughs).

INT: That's good. Most 13 year old in America, they're into football and to girls, I mean the concept of learning so many hours a day and enjoying it is like hard for someone outside to understand, I mean, can you try to give a little, what, what...

BZH:(01:05:15) Football, let me tell you...um football, baseball, golf © I knew nothing about it, no©thing. I, I it was like © I had so much fun in my, my house with my brothers and sisters and was so involved in the mitzvahs, lets say Sukkos and Pesach, Purim that I didn't need that © baseball, football, or a girl, ya know running after girls, I didn't need that. We had so much fun...take example, Sukkos which is uh everyone goes out uh for 7 days and we eat in a uh in a uh make like a, looks like a tent or a...we, we're already in the summertime collecting (laughs) its©its funny but collecting money (laughs), going around to the Christmas shops

(laughing) trying to buy the decorations uh, we weren't allowed to buy ya know...there was rarely had a religious © Christian religion, but uh, anything that was like uh in between © nice stars and stuff. I mean, we were so busy with it and uh, then came... Pesach, Purim.

(01:06:21) Ya know I don't, I see my kids, my girls © 3 girls and 1 boy © um they have such a happy life and uh, and, they're so involved in plays, th©the school makes plays, or with friends uh..ya don't need the football and baseball, I don't know where that comes into, I understand that its American culture, but I'∞_∞_ people don't believe. I have never seen a television © let me say uh for the past, when my daughter was in the hospital uh she wasn't well, I uh first time I saw a show from uh, what was that uh uh the "Honeymooners", oh it was so funny. (laughs) I have, have to agree its, it really takes away your mind. But, my kids don't see no videos, no television, no nothing, and I don't even have the time today to look at television I'm so busy with uh my business from 6:00 till 12:00 at night I don't have any time to do it. And uh, its not, its not missing I don't know, especially the television shows today what they show, I mean there's outrage in all the newspapers against the television for kids and the violence...we're not missing anything. Its..uh what we call a happy life. And a religious Hasidic life full with joy and laughter and we call it "simcha". That's uh even though something terrible happens theres always, you have to always take it with a uh smile, 'cause at the end you see its good and uh, that's it, now uh.

INT: You went to England.

BZH:(01:08:04) I went to England, yeah...

INT: That was in the Bobov yeshiva in England? Could you just explain that a little. Your father sent you to the Bobov yeshiva in England?

BZH: (Asks about how he's doing in Yiddish and INTs respond)

INT: Hasidic haircut, he understands it.

BZH: You went around already to the Hasidic...

INT: No, he understands it on his own hairline.

INT: Are you running? Your father took you out of the house, with 10 kids I'm sure it was difficult to make ends meet.

BZH: It wasn't really because there was 10 kids as you see...

INT: Start over with a full sentence: My father sent me to yeshiva when I was

BZH: Yeah, my father sent me to England. Now it wasn't really because there were 10 kids...

INT: Sorry you must have stepped on his line...Bobov yeshiva...

BZH:(01:08:56) Ok, My father sent me to the Bobov yeshiva in England which is really an offspring of uh, ya know this yeshiva right over here ...Now, the reason why my father send me there, it wasn't really because my father had 10 kids, my father adopted another 2 kids, my father had 12 kids: a Russian boy from Israel'∞_∞_ married in Munsey © he lives in Munsey, Rockland County. And my father adopted a another one that, a Christian that that uh became a Jew, Jewish uh professor and he lived over here, it wasn't because it was a big house, tremendous, not because there was 10 children. The education at Bobov in England is fantastic, its uh like uh, first England itself is ya know, there's not too much things to do there, so automatically you go to England you don't go out the streets, ya know, its not like in America there's a lot of things to do. In England everyone is like inside noone is outside doing too much stuff. Um, so its a fantastic yeshiva and uh especially it takes away your mind from the home sometime the boys © kids needs some self, self@maturing, it takes away your mind and uh you could really delve into learning full force and that's what I did. Its like I I almost, I knew nothing and ok...

INT: What's so important about the Talmud just so we can explain it to somebody who didn't know. Why spend all those days, every day learning Talmud?

BZH: Uh...

INT: Whole sentence...Explain a little bit what it is and why its important.

BZH:(01:10:42) The Talmud, to us, I mean, it is a very holy thing, there's a saying from the uh early Belzer Rebbe, Rebbe he survived the war and was in Israel. He said that just as the in, in

INT: psalms

BZH: huh?

INT: psalms....

BZH: Let me start again. The Talmud to me is not like a a...

INT: Start with "the Belzer Rebbe said, the Belzer Rebbe once said..."

BZH: (speaks in Yiddish) The Belzer Rebbe once said...

INT: Now that you got it right we're out of our first roll.

INT: What really...the Talmud study, that you devoted yourself to so many hours, what did that come from?...we're now rolling.

BZH: Oh, its rolling, ok. I start again? I should start from the beginning?

INT: Why did you love to study Talmud so much?

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its a holy thing. There's a saying of the Belzer, uh Belzer Rebbe, who survived the war he was considered in these times to be one of the holiest rebbes, uh said that uh...the the savetilin(sp?) which is uh, uh is...

INT: psalms

BZH:(01:12:15) The book of psalms uh is considered the power that does everything which is when someone is sick he runs and uh goes uh to takes out the book of psalms just to read, but he said the Talmud has in itself everything. If someone needs a living, someone is sick it has inside even more than the book of psalms and uh to me the Talmud is something I can't even explain, it was first of all, its like a very, you could delve into it so deep its like uh said that, "how much you delve into it you still didn't reach to the first word of of the Talmud." Its like and um..its...its..I..very hard to explain, if you're uh in it its like you're, you're in it. An example of a story which uh Hasid™Hasidishe story © there's a story © a story told about the Talmud that uh according © he was one of the Vishiner(sp?) rebbes, um a couple of uh, I think the first Vishiner Rebbe was once learning the Talmud when someone wanted to burn his house, there was these ™ I don't know if it was the Cossacks but it was a group of uh of gentiles, I wouldn't call them gentiles, but ya know robbers or something that were constantly stealing, terrorizing the Jews and

when all the Jews heard that all the Jews were coming to them and they all left and fled, the Vishiner said that the Talmud is something that, that protects a person. He, it surrounds a person and protects him. And the story goes that when he, when they came to his house and they, they went to ya know torch the house down, uh...they say when they looked into the Talmud they themselves got burned from their own, their, own from whatever fire they were holding they got burned to the ground. When the Jews came back and they saw the Rebbe still learning the Rebbe didn't notice anything and they were still, still uh, still uh and they all saw the koiuch, ya know, the power of the Talmud. And to go a little further about the Talmud is there's a famous story how a person could indulge himself, is there's a the first Bobov Rebbe used to smoke a pipe, a long pipe so he used to learn the whole night. So once that, the pipe @ the inside of the pipe, he from a mistake, he was smoking the wrong way and it fell on his foot and he burned his foot through and he didn't feel, the Talmud somehow he learned, it takes you wawy from this world like, almost like, when I was in England I was completely out of the world (laughs) I had such a joy of learning Talmud, I was up day and night and I don't regret it.

(01:15:34)Of course, today I, I'm in business I can't do it but it was such a wonderful time and this Rebbe was just...an interesting story and he, in the morning he one of the gabom(?), he uh the assistants to the Rebbe the piece of the pipe, the burnt, they..used to have a ... not really like tobacco, they had like uh'∞_∞_ to the Rebbe, woke up and that's when the Rebbe said "ouch!", ya know it hurts him. He didn't notice it a whole night, it was almost like ya know, I felt almost the same way its very hard to give, to understand uh if you're not in it.

INT:...it wasn't a really deep contact

BZH:(01:16:22) No, no, it wasn't deep, but I felt to him like, according to my...according to my father, he's a father he's the one who brought up my father and uh what made, made him married. (speaks in Yiddish)

INT:We're going to go touch on that a moment. Ok, so first now you're such an intense student in the yeshiva tell us how that came an end...

BZH: To an intense...now I'm an intense...

INT: Start with when it came time to have a shidduch

BZH:(01:16:49) Well the time when, ya know, time when the boys in

my class are getting married that was like 18 or 19, I was probably like the 5th one to get married 'cause I was one of the top students in the, in the yeshiva um I was looking only for money, money, money 'cause I wanted to sit and learn further without money I knew that you can't sit and learn and after work I won't be able to continue this type of uh life that I wanted, I was. My mother wasn't looking for money, my mother was looking for a nice girl © good heart. I didn't care about a girl like, ya know what'd I know about a girl I thought I'm goin'to put her through, I'll sit and learn a whole year and she'll just give me supper cause I really didn't know (laughing as he's talking) what you do, what you even do, ya know I was really out of the world. I knew nothing. So I thought what is the married life made for? For the wife to treat you like a king, I...I, even though in the Talmud, there's a lot of stories in the Talmud that that just the opposite, you have to make your wife a king, but I didn't have that thought that that you have ya know that whatever you have to do to get children, nothin', so we, we, what happens like there's, they spoke to very rich girls, I mean from England, there's there's very rich, I can't, I won't say their names, very rich from England, uh...my mother didn't like the girl, whatever, so who, we ended up with a uh compromise.

(01:18:18)I got married a nice thank, now I'm thanking my mother 'cause she's like an angel, she's something out of the world um uh, she's a genius to be to to, she's ok. But, my, my in©laws had some money had a fur company, ya know, some money, so first time we went there I met the girl, I I I couldn't even look.....look to her straight because as a Hasidic uh... bucha which means uh teenager... to learn (laughs), ya know I never saw a girl, except ,maybe my sister I spoke to my sister, but to speak with a stranger (laughs). So somehow we got, we spoke she was only, or she was[∞] _ ∞ ___ night because she comes a very, also very Talmudic uh, her grandfather's a big tzaddik uh very, all . She also wanted a boy that would sit and learn. For me the girl looked good, but I was only interested about money and so right after the first um visit I used to um the first thing my mother, "what did you talk about money". She didn't talk anything about money. So I threatened my mother, "I'm not going to go the next time, you have to talk about money", ok next time she agreed to uh...

INT: I'm sorry I'm just gonna cut because I, its....about the...yeshiva bucha making a shidduch and in this case, yourself... you are looking at the camera.

BZH: I that should say that in the Hasidim you don't go out with any girls.

INT: Yeah tell us, tell that

BZH: Ok, at about 18. I'll start again.(01:19:59) About 18, um it was time to get married um most, some boys in my class got married so I decided, I mean there were talking certain girls, but I wanted one which ya know, the father could help me out or...so I continue to study further in life © that was my goal in life to study and study and become a rabbi or maybe a rasyeshiva, which means a head of a yeshiva or...or...print, print books for on the Talmud so we, we, my mother and I decided on one particular girl and my mother wasn't looking for money uh my mother wasn't looking for anyone that has money or to help me out, my mother was really looking for a girl should be a nice and gentle and most of all to be uh religious. As a Hasidic I never went out with a girl, I never spoke with a stranger, a strange girl which I mean. The only girl I spoke to was my sisters uh, so the first time we went to visit, ya know, the girl and the father so uh first the father took out a Talmud, wanted to know if I know how to learn, he's going to...he has to ready... to help me out for life and support me so we learn © he saw that I know my stuff. Then all of a sudden everyone leaves the room and I sit there together with the, with what I will call a stranger, strange girl (laughs) I just didn't know (laughs)what to do, I was very nervous because in my entire life I never spoke with a with a strange uh..uh and I..I see the girl was just (laughs) as nervous as me because she comes from a Hasidic home which has the same, probably, I'm sure, same rules, uh I don't remember who was talking first but I started talking and I just told her that my goal was to sit and learn and she told me that her goal in life was to sit and learn and she told me about her grandfather, uh she had a great, he just passed away about 3 or years ago but...

INT: I'm going to have to cut you because we're just...

INT: Ok, we're going to cut in, I don't know where the tight last'∞_∞___ so suddenly you find yourself alone in the room, start from there.

BZH: He's ready?

INT: We're rolling, don't © you keep on looking at him

BZH: Ok, I keep on looking over there, but...

INT: We want to be polite but uh

BZH: Suddenly © let me start that way. All my parents leaves, leave the room..

INT: The girl's parents or your parents?

BZH: All my..yeah.. my parents (phone rings)

INT: Hold on lets just wait for that phone to go away..ok

BZH:(01:30:47) All my parents...what happens next is the parents, my parents, and the girl's parents, they move out of the room and they go into the kitchen and I'm left there with a what I call a strange girl, I mean, I could barely look into her face because I was so, ya know,..one of the Hasidic rules is not to look at a woman ya know, you look down on the floor, its a ya know, a Hasidic, so here I have to look, so I think we were quiet for like 5 minutes, noone was talking and uh I saw my mother poking her ear at the door trying to find out, uh there was a glass door at the kitchen, trying to see if anything, anything's going around. My mother was showing me because I was sitting at the side where my mother at the door. She was showing me that I should start, so I said that my goal, the first thing I said was my goal in life is to sit and learn, I enjoy it and I don't want no anything ya know, I'm not interested in many other things, just to sit and learn and become a rashyeshiva a head, head of a yeshiva or print uh seforim(?) books on the Talmud. Um, she told me that that's her goal also and uh she wants, she only wants to marry someone who's going to sit and learn for their entire life uh we were both really nieve because we thought that, ya know I said in an entire life © we should have as much children who will always sit and learn. That will be our goal and she told me about her grandfather, she had a great grandfather just passed away a couple of years ago who was , I would call a saint, not a saint is...

INT: No, that's ok

BZH: (speaks in Yiddish)

INT: that's alright.

BZH: In english...‘∞ _∞ __

BZH:(01:32:48) A tzaddik © a very very big zaddik, something out of the world, I mean uh, he used to sit in uh day and night and till today I still remember my grandfather.he..he felt when sat with him alone together you felt like you weren't in this world it was

something out of this world. He told me © she told me so we both we agreed and uh I think in about a half an hour uh my mother knocks on the door: Finish! Get up! Goin' home." I was glad to go home (laughs) because it was too much for me this talkig a half hour. Ok, next week we visited again uh second time, uh I was more interested to find out, I mean I...telling my mother she has to talk to my in©laws to find out if they're going to support me for life, that's my main goal I mean I can't marry someone © I knew that you need....you can't live on air so my mother said she forgot, so the second time she went uh uh, we went again to take, ya know visit, this time ya know I prepared myself, this time like a whole day before I went, we went the night, so a whole day I was at home mmaking sure ya know what to talk, when not to talk (laughs) I was like uh, asking my mother if this thing should be discussed or not. But the second time's a lot easier, we, we, we sat down, we talked, we spoke about Irsael, I was in Israel for a summer and uh time went by and we uh we go home, my mother said that my father©in©law just, had ya know accepted that, he would support me uh..he told me © the words was..ya know if he's you know..thank god he's making money now, if he's going to have the money, he's going to support me, that was enough for me ya know. On the third time he came, and we, uh what we call: we made a vaucht(sp?), which means uh we sat down we said: "L'chaim, Mazel Tov".

(01:34:52) I called up the Bobov Rebbe the first thing to let him know © he was in, I think, maybe in England. I made a long distance call © I called him up and he ya know, he vincht(sp?) me or blessed me with all bruchas © all good things and that's it. And after that uh I went out, I went the next day I went © I don't have to say that © the next morning I went into uh into the Yeshiva and uh we used to give out cigarettes, ya know for all the buchum™ all the boys, ya know, mazel tov, but the Bobov Rebbe doesn't let anymore cigarettes 'cause they're dangerous so I came with a pack of candies, I gave it out 20 minutes later I sat back into my gomorah and I forgot about it. (laughs) I left it up to my mother, she should take care of the wedding, my father take care of new clothing, I'm sitting here learning and you know like I didn't know, I wasn't interested uh of any of the..the Hasidic © one of the Hasidic traditions is not to see the, the callah © we call it the callah, which is the bride © the bride?

INT: yup

BZH: The bride, we call it

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BZH: what is it again?

INT: now its his..

INT:.....tell us first of all you went back to yeshiva, you were engaged © you want to change the size of the image or something like that Oren?

INT: ok... the next morning after you got engaged, after the vaucht after you got engaged, you went back to yeshiva that's where we're going to start from. ok, eins, swie...

BZH: Um. The next morning I came to the yeshiva I gave out my candies, then I went back to learn..

INT: Nobody know what candies are

INT: that's ok, that works...

BZH: I told them before...

INT:.....I went to yeshiva and that's all, its going to be too complicated

BZH: Um we uh, I just sat back to learn...

INT: Start again, the next morning...

INT: Hold on...I'll you when...ok

BZH: Let me get...(01:37:19)the next morning I came back © I went to the yeshiva told everyone that I'm engaged, everyone ya know said mazel tov, mazel tov it was like a whole simcha © a happiness. It took 20 minutes, I went back to learning and I forgot I was engaged.I loved the Talmud so much I was completely indulged. Um, every friday I used to, ya know, when I was a kid(?) I used to call it callah, and I used to talk about how our future of life, and we got to know us, both of us better, my callah got to know me and I got to know the callah through the telephone conversations every week. And then came the day of the wedding which is considered by us just as holy as Yom Kippur and uh its a day which I go into the Bobover Rebbe and uh the Bobov Rebbe talks to me, ya know, a long time explains to me what the new life is really is and what I should do and ya know keep on doing the tradition and as a tradition the Bobov Rebbe gives me uh his , which is uh, his

, how shall?, his belt, its a, which, we put it on to bind the wedding...it comes to the wedding um and like ya know we say, we say the viddi(sp?) which is like on Yom Kippur we we ask Hashem uh god should forgive us, hashem should forgive us of all of our, our sins that we did, have done and I ...in Bobov the tradition is not' [∞] _∞ callah the whole time and by the chupah we came in um...it the (asks a question in Yiddish)..skip that..

(01:39:49)Ok, after the chupah we went into a, its called a yichastien(sp?), only me and the callah together and uh that's the first time we ya know, we, I got together with my wife but this time I knew her more uh than I knew her the first time when I got engaged and uh it was more like we got © it was more like uh we were happy to see each other, its like ya know I got to know her all these weeks. Ok, then we sit a half an hour in the yichastien, we go out and there's a wedding and its © the Hasidic tradition is really to lively up the wedding and like uh if you ever saw a Hasidic wedding its one of the most beautiful part of the Hasidic tradition and my friends, they dance, uh special dances..Israeli dance, I don't but know we call it israeli dance but its a Hasidic dance © we dance before the chusun. Its like its a very big mitzvah to make the chusun happy so when my © the the the friends they try to make as much tricks ya know when of them knew some tricks, magician tricks © it, it was very lively, very, we danced the whole night and then we went home and uh...

INT: ok

INT: Tell us...so you went back to yeshiva, "after yeshiva I got married"...

BZH: He's not finished, he's not ready

INT: go ahead we're ready

BZH:(01:41:34) Ok, after I got married I went right back, the next day I went right back to the Yeshiva and I went further, I went learning. And uh about, lets say 9 months by the dot I had a beautiful...

INT: sorry, sorry

INT: You went back to yeshiva and you realized (Menachem says something in Yiddish). Tell us when you're ready...

INT: I'm ready, go ahead...

INT: Not looking at the camera

BZH: I went into yeshiva and...

INT: Start again, start again

BZH: ok, uh after

BZH:(01:42:07) Ok after I got married, after _____, 7 days I went'∞_∞____ beautiful girl and I saw that my wife can't go back to work and my father©in©law, kept his word,let's say, till uh a middle of the first year, but then he went bankrupt, so that was over, so I decided that the fastest way to make money, after doing some research is to become a stock broker and that's when I went, I..someone got me into Rothschild, the brokerage and uh I uh Rothschild and I was there lets say at least 6 months. I put in my whole wedding, the money © like 15 thousand dollars and I had a dream that I doubled and tripled it until who knows how much lets say over a million. I had a dream, then I'll go right back to learning, but..it took 6 months and my whole money was wiped out, I didn't have a penny.

(01:43:31)So, I had no choice...I became a teacher, but somehow I didn;t like, I just didn't like this job so I went into the Bobov Rebbe and I spoke to him. So the Bobov Rebbe told me he said these words: "The world is big and people need money, go out and look, look for a business, a job and do it with your whole heart and you'll, you'll um achieve and you'll be successful." The Rebbe said like that...I remember, I don't know from where I got this, New York © NYU Bulletin, because this thing never came into my house, no magazines, nothing. It looks like, I think I was in the doctor's office or something. There was an NYU Bulletin, but that bulletin has 1000s of jobs, from computer © I was so impressed so the Rebbe said, I should the world is big, I should..I looked through and I somehow, I always loved antiques, still in England © back in England I used to go to the museum. I always loved it, I had a love to it and I saw the appraisal courses. I still remember I jumped to it. There was a seminar, a seminar on NYU, I, I remember I enrolled in it, I was so nervous, its my first time in life I'm going into...something else © not which my dream was, I was broke and nervous. So, what happened is I spoke with some of my friends, they told me ya know do it, do it, don't ya know do what you need, do you need a living. I went to it and somehow the instructor, I shouldn't mention the name, nah, Harold Jaffe. The

insructor, 'casue I'm thankful to him still today. Somehow took me the first time, he saw that I'm like, I walked into the college like a blind (laughs) man. Where? What? What's going on here? Do? Ya know, I walk in a room and there's ladies, I sat all the way in the back. He saw I'm nervous and he gave me all the instruction ya know everything and that put into the business. I'm already 6 or 7 years into the business. Uh, the Rebbe said I'll be successful and I am.

INT: You told us a great little story about in class how they went all around the room and ask what they do. What everybody did and wjhy they were there. Could you tell us about that.

BZH:(01:46:41) Yeah That was my first class uh it was a class on Fabrege jewelry. I, I until today I don't know why I took Fabrege jewelry. I'm not into jewelry, Fabrege, I just took my first'

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themselves...one... woman says, "well I'm the vice president of Chemical Bank and I take care of the corporate accounts". And this guy said, and I was so nervous, what am I goin' say, (laughs) what am I?, I'll say I'm a Rabbi, they'll laugh, uh I...it came to me I said that uh ya know, I'm just here, I don't remember. I think I said I'm a stock broker anyway...

INT: you said "I'm unemployed"

BZH: Ok, I said I'm unemployed

INT: say that uh...

INT: She was incharge of uh corporate.art appraisal.

BZH:(01:47:36) This woman stood up and said she's in charge of Chemical corporate accounts and uh this one uh owns a big antique shop on West side or something like, and I was like I said a little bit back um it was for me such a shocking thing, but I had to do it, the Rebbe said I should do it, I did it because the Rebbe said I should go for it and whatever it comes first I should do and uh when it comes to me what I I told them I'm unemployed and the whole class started laughing. (laughs) But uh a Husid always knows that you do nothing, I didn't I wasn't ashamed, I took the class, I just, then I took another class and another and uh I became one uh of the top even at NYU they know me, everyone knows me there. So today I'm successful.

INT: What is it like going out into the world as an appraiser?
Being a Husid...

INT: Being a Husid and dressing like a Husid

BZH:(01:48:40) My first two years in the appraisal business were very very difficult because uh..I was called to jobs lets say to Staten Island, places where I never heard of and not Jewish uh it was very difficult for me to work here because I didn't change one thing © in the Hasidic world there's not to change your clothing in Egypt cu©tal when uh Moses was there one of the things why they were um saved and they're uh and they uh Hashem took them out one of the them was because the Jews in Egypt did not change their levish, their clothes. This is what I, I made this commitment that I'm going into the business world, I'm goin' go in as I am. And if someone doesn't like me and he throws me out, that's the way I'm going into the business world so the first

years it was very difficult because I always thought when I walked into a to a a house to do an appraisal I always thought they were looking at me. It was very hard for me, but today its a pleasure. I see just the opposite, I see that uh the non©Jewish accounts that I do, the appraisals I do, they respect me its, its a different world, I love it, I love going around, I go all around, I do'

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Once story I did, I was in Park Avenue I did an estate um where this um he came to take care of his mother's accounts and he lived in the south and he never saw a Husid but when I wlked in I saw that he's in a stage of shock, he never saw me © he thought I'm a, I'm Amish an Amish. He did© he couldn't figure out, but uh I sat down, I explained to him ya know you should walk around New York there's a lot of Hasidic (laughs), must be your first time in New York I told him, we're, we're all over and

INT: He must have mistaken you for a schnorrer

BZH: Yeah, that's...

INT: Ok you want to cut it for a second Oren?

INT: Tell us how you feel when you get back to the Hasidic (beeps)

INT: Tell us about the transition when you got out to the world of businss and now you come back to the...

BZH:(01:51:21) Uh the whole week its very difficult to be a Husid, I don't really feel as a Husid during the week even though I daven by day, three times a day um I should look...

INT: Start again

BZH:(01:51:39) The whole week its very difficult to be a Husid, even though I pray three times a day, but I'm, I'm so involved in business, I really like I'm not an, I don"t feel like being a Husid. The only time I really feel as a Husid is Shabbos...

INT: Hold on, I'm sorry the sirens

INT: Ok, are we rolling? Tell me when we're rolling

INT: Are we all ready?

BZH:(02:00:25) The whole week is very difficult for me to be to feel like a Husid, I'm so involved in business. It very, its © I

don't feel like a Husid. The only time that I really feel like a Husid is Shabbos. Usually Friday I don't go to work already, I start preparing for the HSabbos. My girls come home from school, 12 @ 12 O'clock by day and we go out shopping, its like, its so..there's such a happiness in in Shabbos is here are, you feel, feel a, a spec@special happiness. And when Shabbos is here I get dressed like my grandfathers dressed with white socks, with the fur hat, the traditional. We got into shul and we pray then at night we get together with the Rebbe and we sing, you feel, you feel, feel like a like a like a something out of the world, out such a @ I love Shabbos with such a passion and the Hasid @ the Husid part of it @ the Hasidic part of it the hat, the singing, the kids, by'∞ _ ∞ __ the, about their school, its, its a very hard to tell to explain it again if you're not in it, if you're not involved, if you're not brought up like it, it shard to explain, but its something very, very I would call, a very holy, a very happy happiness that comes Shabbos. Its, its, finished, finished with that one.

INT: Talk about the effect that you father's had on you being who you are....and your mother, right. Ok, I'm rolling.

BZH:(02:02:21) Its major, the major impact that I had is...hearing my father tell me about my @ about his family, how his father had his traditions and how he um constantly preserved the Shabbos and uh done the Shabbos and his father @ from his father for talking about generations my father, I don't know really what to touch on. Lets's start again..I have to

INT:how has that made you who you are?

BZH: Ready?

INT: mmm...looking at me.

BZH: Uh, looking at you eyes is making me laugh @ ok. My father's a Holocaust survivor. He really talks about his years during the Holocaust.

INT: Start again, I thought you said really.

BZH:(02:03:25) My father's a Holocaust survivor, he doesn't talk about his Holocaust past during the years, but we could see the pain on his face, for example, let's say, Saturday night uh M....Shabbos, Saturday night uh M Shabbos he never goes to sleep @ he's up all night...which uh I myself uh used uh to ask my father why he never, why he still walks, but why I got...there's a

certain story that happened to him a particular, ya know, M Shabbos with his mother and the parents. But he rarely, he never talks about his Holocaust past. Only Passover when he's drunk, he drinks the four koises of, of, of wine at the end we hear, we sit, we surround and he tells the story which is a tradition in the Hasidic is to talk about the Holocaust uh right after the seder, the Passover seder. The impact that my father had on me is...is seeing the pain that he had and still even after the Holocaust he still stayed a religious Hasidic Jew. I could say that Hasidic before the war had such influence on him that even after the war he told me he through, right after the war he was uh he wasn't Jewish, he said forgot about even his religion, nothing but he went through Ger uh uh like a bunch of Ger Hasidim dancing on Simchat Torah, a song and that he he ran in and that pulled him into, and it was a famous Hasidic song and he danced with and from there on he he came back to religion and that's one of the reasons I want my kids and my kids' kids to stay Hasidic © never to break the link that my'∞_∞___ and from further down the road never to break the..always to stay on and on and on, stay with this tradition 'cause..to us Hasidic is the only survival in this gulle(sp?), this gulle, its the only way we could survive, this type of gulle was this type of happiness and holding together and being together with the community, coming together...

(02:06:25) Going back to my father, about the Holocaust, I myself wanted to understand the pain of my father so somehow I got into collecting the Holocaust materials. Some (sound of paper rustling)Jewish stars, arm bands on them and interesting interesting enough, this happens to be an American dollar which the German airplanes threw down over Paris, over Paris, and and everyone though its a German dollar but you open it up and it tells ya know not nice things of the Jews, for example the eye in the dollar is a Jewish eye, whatever, and interesting enough my father encouraged me to collect in never to forget and I really got involved collecting a large collection of the Holocaust to understand the pain my father went through in the Holocaust, to see still him, to see him still to be a Hasidic Jew © a religious Jew ™shouldn't bother. This shows that his father, his grandfather gave him such an education, such a in Hasidic, that you can't really fall out..and uh which what should should I say?

INT: That's ok

BZH: Was it good?

INT: Show it to us

BZH: Like this? To the camera.

INT: But show it, take it out.

BZH: To the camera..

INT: Take it out.

BZH:(02:08:03) Uh, take it out...This is an American dollar which the German airplanes dropped over Paris. It looks like a real dollar and everyone who saw this in Paris thought it's a real dollar, they grabbed it, but when you opened it up, it says not nice things on the Jews, example, the eye is the Jewish eye and its...some of the things you can't even explain what it says over the microphone © it's too, it's not nice. And I started collecting..ok...that's enough?

INT: Tell us about the role of your wife in your family.

INT: Ok, we're rolling

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be at home with my kids the way I really want to, but one thing, my mother was right I got married to a very nice girl and she really took over my job every morning the kids wash nage(sp?) vaser which is the Hasidic tradition by the bed. All the kids when they wake up they say , the prayer, thank God that Hashem, thank Hashem that they're up and then dress them, go to school, make them do their homework and make sure they should say a blessing before they eat, anything. And this is what the Talmud says, the most important role in marriage life is the wife. She is really the one that really educates the kids because I'm only really involved with the kids Shabbos..so the wife is something that really takes care of this part and my wife is doing a really good job © I'm very satisfied.

INT: How many kids do you have already?

BZH:(02:10:02) I have three girls and now I have a small boy..The girls © the older girls help out and my small boy I hope he should be as good as moi, me or even better. What else?

INT: What does your father do © what's his job?

BZH: He's retired..

INT: Well what did he used to do and many kids and grand kids does he have?

BZH:(02:10:29) 72 maybe (laughs)

INT: Say that in a full sentence

BZH:(02:10:33) My father used to be a watchmaker, but he was such a good man that I..I think he gave the watches away for free, such a good hearted person its unbelievable to find a person like that. Whoever meets him...he's his love to the family was so much that he used to come home all singing and dancing, I never saw him angry. He used to come home singing and dancing, especially Friday night. He used to sing the old Hasidic songs. It was something, so it was something out of the world. And uh they killed his whole family but one thing (picture rolls out) he has 72 grandchildren...

INT: You'll have to say it over...And..ok go ahead

BZH:(02:11:33) Um, my father has se©10 children adopted 2, uh with uh I would say © I lost count but I think its over 70 grandchildren. To me, my father would always tell me that what the Germans had done to his parents, killed out a real aristocratic family, very rich family, big shamif(?), Poland, to my father every grandchild that's born, its like a shtuch to the Germans..we get together once a year, the whole family, that was Hannukah. I mean you have to come with earplugs becuase so much babies crying, its like so much'∞ _ ∞ ___ just to see 72 grandchildren and all of them have the names of his family: mother, father, grandmother. We all gave the name. Its like, ya know (gets choked up) to see his family again, something, its very, very, its © what should I say? ©For my father its uh © for him one of the biggest pleasure in life

INT:.....Talk about personally, what you have as expenses because you're Hasidic.

BZH:(02:13:24) To be, to be a Husid, I would say is is expensive, the financial part of it is probably a lot more than an average family © American family. Why? First there's, we only send our kids to parochial school, schools that educate the way we want them to be educated, um the mitzvahs, lets say Sukkos, Pesach, Passover is like very expensive and all uh those holidays, Jewish holidays is © to observe it like let's take an example © Sukkos, the mitzvahs is to take an ethrik , a citron fruit, fruit, a citron fruit. Now you can buy a citron fruit for 10 dollars. Now Hasidim make sure that the citron fruit should be clean, all the laws that

are, that are required and even more it should be beautiful, nice, not cost 100, 200 dollars, we are ready to spend, so the mitzvah should be done..the best. Every holiday, the same, Passover: the matzohs. We, we want matzohs to be handmade, not through machines, should be done beautiful no burned we'll spend as much money for, for our mitzvahs.

(02:15:17)There's a Hasidic story about the Sanzer Rebbe which is the, the , the Bobover, Bobover Rebbe's grandfather is a very big tzaddik © a very holy man. And he used to give out for a mitzvah every penny he had, every penny...so he one time told a story about one of the tzaddikim that had no money for an ethrik, but he had two silver candlesticks, which were so sentimental, someone told him he'll give him an ethrik but it wasn't enough good for him, he wanted a beautiful ethrik. And he saw in the market an ethrik 300 dollars, and he wanted so strong. And he took the candlesticks without ermission from his wife and sold it in order to, his last treasure treasure, in order to buy the ethrik. And the story goes on, he came hoime his wife found out about it, so his wife got so angry and broke the ethrik (laughs), smashed the ethrik in half. So the Rebbe said if he doesn't have a nice ethrik, at least let him have peace at home, so he said this is also a mitzvah. So he didn't scream at his wife, I want to be at peace with my wife, that's also a big mitvah. We see all the Hasidic stories, we speand a fortune of money on mitzvahs. We even borrow money from friends to do mitzvahs..to do mitzvahs so Hashem should always be happy.

INT: What do you thank Hashem for when you daven?

BZH: You mean to say...

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asking for?

BZH: Difficult question....(speaks in Yiddish)

INT: No, tell us the truth, what is is that you...

BZH:(02:17:28) Every morning, every morning..an example this morning, think I woke up 5:00 to go daven to pray to Hashem uh in the Hasidic...um...let's say the Hasidic world praying to Hashem..

INT: (pen drops), sorry about that..

INT: Well let's go back into that...the Hasidic world..go ahead

BZH:(02:18:06) In the Hasidic world praying to Hashem is not a thing like praying for money, praying for..whatever you need, that's not the time for it. Praying to thank Hashem that you woke up in the morning. To thank, that's the real thing and when I daven every day, my uh, my my major prayer is to thank Hashem that I have a healthy family and he gave me a happy life. If I need money I have a Rebbe for that I'll go in and ask him, (laughs) he should pray to Hashem for money I think that has, he's one step ahead of me, he could do that. Anything I need, the Rebbe will do it for me. I, it, its more thanking Hashem uh it was a very good day, a successful day and I did a big job in appraising, I sold a couple of antiques, I would thank Hashem with uh my full heart.

INT: Tell us a little about...

BZH (speaks in Yiddish)...my in©laws

INT:...

BZH:(02:19:34) I was just going to talk about my father's part...my father has taught me, and the Bobover Hasidim, this is one of our uh major teachings. The difference from Hasidim and other religious Jews that are not Haisidim is that...is said like that a stick with a glecht: a stechem with a glecht, which means a stick and with a, how would you?

INT: a carress

BZH: A carress....I'll say in Yiddish

INT: Ok go ahead.

BZH: My father taught me and this teaching...

INT: Start again

BZH:(02:20:27) My father has taught me and you see it from the'∞_∞___ major difference between the hasidic and other religious Jews who are not Hasidic that they said in Poland, they used to say: "A shtechem a glecht". Which means a stick or a pat, which means before the Hasidic movement came Jewish religion was taught like a stick: you must you must do this, you must do this mitzvah, if not god is going to punish you, Hashem you must, so its more like a stick. And uh the first Hasidic Rebbe the holy Baal Shem, saw that a lot of Jews are leaving the religion becasue of theis type of strictness, he taught us you could do it with a glecht ©

with a pat © just the opposite. Doing the mitzvahs is a is a Hashem will reward you it uh it uh it a mitzvah makes a person. It a part of you life, it not like you must, you must and my father was that type of person, he was such a gentle man he always told us, always told us we should look at the good side of everything sand the Bobover rebbe, everyone knows, world known that he's a gentle man, he's © he's a big tzaddik but he's to every child to everyone he's so gentle and when something happens he always looks at the good side and this is a big part in and in my family and in the Hasidim that everything should be taken in a gentle looking at the good part of it.

INT: That's great, very nice... is there one last?...

BZH: Ready?

INT: Hello?...we are ready

BZH: Um...how should I start?

INT: For Shabbos how do you dress?

BZH:(02:30:22) When SHabbos comes, when shabbos begins I dress witha traditional dress um with the way our grandfathers and great grandfathers wore for who knows how long and we want to keep that tradition. So right after the war my father was together with the Bobover Rebbe, noone owre that type of tradition and my father said...everyone thought that the Hasidic movement is over the'll only be left these few people that are surround the Bobov and the other rebbes, so there was a song my father and the Bobov Rebbe and my father used to sing. And the song goes like this: (sings the song) Something like that, I don't have the words clear, you have to, you translate it later..

INT: What does it mean?

BZH:...it means that you have to like uh bahalt..

INT: hide

BZH: You have to hide a that fur hat for our grand children should know that a righteous person went with you that'∞ _ ∞ _

INT: Tell us...

BZH: No in Bobov he almost had his camera, you almost had your

head, (laughs) knocked, watched out

INT: You were saying your daughters are Satmar?

BZH:(02:32:09) My wife is Satmar

INT: Would she let us film her?

BZH: (02:32:13) Never! Not my daughters too I'm sure, so its finished..my wife would never..

INT: How come?

BZH:(02:32:22) 'cause you know Satmar, my in@laws are very, they're extremes, they don't like Bobov...they're a distinct

INT: What were you saying in Bobov we got the camera knocked, in Satmar what would we get?

BZH:....You want have my head knocked...I'm not gonna say...you're gonna have this on the TV, you want to have my head knocked?

INT: Where do your daughters go to school? What kind of school is it?

BZH:(02:32:51) Oh its Bobov, Bobov school and uh its a very good, terrific school...

INT: My daughters go to Bobov school

BZH: My daughters go to Bobov school..

INT: One more time sorry.

BZH:(02:33:03) My daughters go to Bobov school its a terrific school. Constanly they have plays, they have Hasidic stories the plays are constantly Hasidic stories and they bake challahs for Shabbos. Its a wonderful school, my daughters are very happy then, and they have a good english education as well and uh they come they go to school like 8:00, and they come home 5:30 it a full day then they have to do homework. And there's no time for ba@baseball or football or anything else, and they play that's it.

INT: Thank you, thank you

BZH: Don't put anything...

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