

# FELICIA FUKSMAN: KEY QUOTES

“I’m coming from a very poor home. My father was a tailor. I have two brothers and two sisters and we hardly made a living. But we had a very happy life because we had each other.”

“And I had a lot of friends in school. I was a happy teenager. And I thought I am on the top of the world because I didn’t experience no better life and I thought that is the best that I can have, and I was happy with that.”

“And we were so proud of Poland that we didn’t want to believe we are going to lose it.”

“There were two wars actually. One against Jews, and one on a regular front.”

“They took off my father and brother off the street in the Lodz ghetto and never returned back.”

“They were having a lot of satisfaction and to see us fighting over that crumb of bread.”

“The Lodz ghetto was in the very beginning, we were trying to survive and we were hoping that it will come eventually to an end, but the starvation was big and the disease was big and it was very hard to survive in the Lodz ghetto. I had my sister died with tuberculosis in the Lodz ghetto. They took off my father and brother off the street in the Lodz ghetto and never returned back. And they never told them where they taking them, for what purposes.”

“And we waiting, because every ten days we were getting a ration of a piece of bread, and some marmalade, some barley. This was just enough to eat for one person and not to have enough. Not just provided for ten days. But we were

trying hard and to survive on it.”

“I was working in the hospital so sometimes we kept a dead body a little longer in order to receive a slice of bread for this dead person because it was counted, so many slices of bread per person and we counted the dead bodies sometimes so we had a couple of slices of bread more.”

“Her (Bronia) determination to survive was so great that it had a lot of influence on me. Because she had, she wants to see her children. She says she has to see her children. And she will see her children.”

“And because I came really from a very poor home and not starvation but we didn’t have any luxury, so I gradually got use to this kind of life in the ghetto.”

“And I knew my family’s gone. So I gave up. I really didn’t care if I live or die, but she pushed me to it. And she had so much influence on me.”

“And the same way they gave us just a uniform to wear from blue jean material. Nothing underneath. No socks. Not even underwear. So it was very cold. But we wrapped ourselves in the paper. This uniform I was wearing nine month. Until the end of war. I never took it off my body. I slept in it. I ate in it. Whatever it was to eat. And I worked in it.”

“Because the Germans put dynamite around all the barracks before they left. And the ones that survived all the harassments, all the atrocities, they died in the fire.”

“And as we boiled the potatoes a shot came through the window and she fell immediately dead. And without any excitement, with no feelings, I stood, she was lying in the front of me dead, and I stood to finish boiling the potatoes. We couldn’t wait to be ready. We were hungry. And I’m just thinking: what became of me at the time? I was so cold, so without any feeling. And we left her behind and we took the potatoes.”

“She was so surprised to see me, that maybe I should apologize to her that I’m still alive.”

“And the Jews not welcome any longer here in Poland.”

“We really didn’t marry for love in the beginning, because we just have the same need for each other, so much in common, that we thought it will work out eventually. But it worked out very well. We were very happily married.”

“To fight. Because it’s up to them. They can prevent from happening again because history repeats itself, and it can happen again if we let it. And it’s very difficult. I’m still thinking of, there is not a day or night not to dream of my people. It’s just something that you cannot forget. And if they will be alive they will share. Even my husband will share happiness, too, because he didn’t live long to see his grandchildren. Only one. So it’s, that’s life goes on, and you make the best out of it. And I hope my children will have a better life.”