



Q&A with Two Speakers: Philip Rodney & Susan Hodgins



00:01 How would you describe your sense of identity in relation to being Scottish, Jewish, etc?

00:27 Susan feels Scottish but primarily British. She also felt at home when she visited her mother's German hometown of Kassel. She is planning to get German citizenship.

02:15 Philip feels British and Scottish but feels his principal identity is Jewish, increasingly so over the last few years. He already has German citizenship.

03:27 How did your family's experiences shape your understanding of the world when growing up?

03:36 Susan doesn't feel any animosity; she feels sad about how the world has changed. Encourages pupils to do their own research and seek out information from both sides.

05:21 Philip says his father never took things for granted and admired the fair society he found in Britain. He felt an insecurity due to his family history of displacement and instability but also a degree of strength.

06:29 Philip have you ever visited any of the places your dad grew up in?

06:40 He went back to Leipzig after the fall of the Berlin wall in 1990 – his father didn't want to go himself but was pleased that Philip did. He tells a story about researching his father in the archive in Leipzig.

07:32 Susan's mother was invited back to Kassel and her book was translated in German so it could be used for teaching.

08:46 Is there a specific way that either of you both commemorate the Holocaust?

09:04 Susan is always remembering and feels that for the public it is important to have a dedicated day to remember. She will light a candle for Holocaust Memorial Day.

09:51 Philip feels that thoughts of the Holocaust are in his mind on a daily basis but that Holocaust Memorial Day is an important opportunity to share experiences and learn about prejudices

10:10 Do you find it hard speaking about your parents' experiences and what would they think about you talking about their stories?

10:29 Susan's mother's goal was to talk about her experience and she'd be very pleased that Susan was continuing to talk about it.

11:05 Philip finds it hard to talk about and thinks his dad would be very pleased that both he (Philip) and one of Philip's sons has been talking about it

11:48 What was it like growing up with parents who had been through these experiences?

12:09 Susan feels that her mother never really grew up which made her great fun but also, she suffered with mental health issues when Susan was a child, which she never really understood until later on.

13:53 For Philip there were plusses and minuses. He liked having access to a different world beyond the native Jewish Glaswegian one. He was aware of a sadness that would descend on his dad, which he didn't understand as a child.

15:18 Philip did your dad keep many things from his time in the army, was it an important part of his life?

15:23 His dad did enjoy the army and made good friendships. He was very proud and patriotic. Philip tells the story of his dad working as an interpreter.