

Dénes Iván Zoltán

Introduction 9

The survivors of the trauma could choose to become one of the following actors in the drama triangle: victim, persecutor or rescuer. (It seems that) it was only exceptionally possible to act differently.

The majority of the forty-five interviewees ended up in Jewish community orphanages, where they found themselves in the stream of a new, often Zionist community experience. By reading this volume, we can learn not only about their losses, traumas and vulnerabilities. We can also perceive the care and community building of which (according to the evidence of the interviews) most of them were part of, and which meant a point to cling unto after the losses they suffered.

In the interviews, elderly survivors recalled their childhood, early youth memories. Memoirs are categorised according to institution, gender, and chronological order. The introductory study and glossary help us to perceive the scenes, institutional frameworks of the interviewees' lives, the division of their weekdays and feasts, and their dilemmas.

The opportunity to make all this into a public treasure was granted by the commemorative gathering organized by the National Association of Persecuted People by Nazism last year. By providing a framework and impetus it coordinated activities of the interviewees and survivors before and after the commemoration. As a result of the volume's editorial work, individual memoirs could have become a sort of collective memory.