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[00:00:00] **Speaker 1** And I am rolling. ADT whenever you're ready. Mm hmm.

[00:00:03] **Speaker 2** So, can you tell me about when you first found the Slayer?

[00:00:07] **Speaker 1** I can't recall the exact month, but I do know it was snowing, I think. I believe it was February anyway. And I went. I do know it was a Wednesday. I went out to throw something in the garbage that was by the side of the road. And it was in the morning around 8:00, 830 in the morning. And I look down and I just see this object. And I picked it up and I was actually quite horrified. Horrified, but I was shocked.

[00:00:40] **Speaker 2** And why did you do after you found it?

[00:00:42] **Speaker 1** I immediately went inside and I called the police. I contemplated it for perhaps two or 3 minutes. I kept on looking at it and trying to it wasn't real. You know, what is this? And they did look out the window to to see it. And others had had it in across the street. There was no indication that they had it. So I called the police and I offered them to, you know, the information and to provide them with the pamphlet. And they said that they already had and they were informed of it.

[00:01:17] **Speaker 2** And what was their response?

[00:01:19] **Speaker 1** That they didn't need it and they were already informed and they were apprized of the situation and, you know, were looking into it. Sure, they didn't say investigating, but they said they were looking into it.

[00:01:31] **Speaker 2** And how do you feel they handled this situation?

[00:01:33] **Speaker 1** Very well, from what you know? From what I've experienced with them, they were they did not ignore it by any means. Sure.

[00:01:43] **Speaker 2** And what was the reaction from community members to this event?

[00:01:47] **Speaker 1** It was very what I experienced was very positive. I posted on next door and just informed people, and there was outrage from most of the neighbors and people in the area and posted on Facebook the same. And then there was a march organized by Kush, which is a inter religious, you know, various religious organizations or participate in this. And they had a march and it was the weather was inclement. It was just miserable. But still, 35 people marched from the synagogue three blocks to the lake and in support of the Jewish community. So I saw it as being very positive.

[00:02:38] **Speaker 2** And were there any lasting effects on you after this event?

[00:02:43] **Speaker 1** Absolutely.

[00:02:44] **Speaker 2** Like what?

[00:02:44] **Speaker 1** Absolutely. There is I'm guarded. I'm highly guarded. I am more pessimistic and more concerned, certainly.

[00:02:58] **Speaker 2** Okay. And, you know, you mentioned that that the bag was weighed down with rocks. So what is the impact of such a public and intentional act of anti-Semitism?

[00:03:12] **Speaker 1** Evidently it's been going on throughout the United States. But this is, from what I heard, is you can go online and this is a do it yourself kit telling you how to make this baggie and put pebbles. And by the way, I want to add that in my bag. There was a penny in there as well, which I thought was an add to insult, you know. But then I took the penny and I put it in my pocket. I thought, you know, you want to give me a penny, I'll take the penny. But, yeah, it's it's frightening. It's it's frightening in the sense that this is occurring and that that there are people who still believe this. But then at the same time, I'm not surprised. My father, who was a Holocaust survivor, warned me consistently. Anti-Semitism is alive and well. It may be under the radar, it may be under the covers, but it's there. Always be careful and it's going to come back. And he always said, you know, look at, you know, Germany, Hungary, very, you know, intelligent, classic societies, you know, educated, etc.. And they bought into it. The United States will as well.

[00:04:33] **Speaker 2** So the increase in anti-Semitism is a nationwide trend. How is it exacerbated in Wisconsin?

[00:04:43] **Speaker 1** I think I don't know if it was exacerbated. I just think it's. I think there's a lot of political divisiveness in Wisconsin, and I think that anti-Semitism becomes a tool for each side, unfortunately, each extreme side. So I think that it is just it's I think it's a traditional way to go on, you know, who to blame for everything. Jews. Jews were to blame for the plague. The Jews are to blame for contaminated water in London and the 1195 the Jews were to blame for all the economic hardships. You always rely on that when whenever there's instability. Unfortunately, traditionally, historically speaking, the Jews are to blame. I don't know. I mean, as a professor, I've always been asked why? Why the Jews? And that's a huge, you know, question. That's that's been debated for years. I don't think that there's one answer for that.

[00:05:55] **Speaker 2** So how about why now?

[00:05:58] **Speaker 1** Why now? We're out in the US. Wisconsin, etc. is in a state of turmoil. There's no question. There's a lot of animus, there's a lot of mistrust, there's a lot of hatred and there's a lot of ugliness being spewed. And as I said, when that happens, for some reason, the Jews are always included in that. Do you look at any sort of, you know, the end of World War One and the inflation and the psychological misery of it? Who is to blame? The Jews, even though it wasn't the Jews? You know, whenever there is pain, angst, anger, in-fighting, for some reason the Jews are included and surprising the United States. I didn't expect it to be so virulent, but it is.

[00:06:51] **Speaker 2** And it's the anti-Semitism, which seems very different from historical anti-Semitism.

[00:07:02] **Speaker 1** I don't know. Some people claim that it's because of anti-Israel. Which I don't see that being the case in the United States. Perhaps in Paris, in the you know. You know, communities are proportionately Muslim. But in the United States, no, I think it's that traditional. And the pamphlet shows the pamphlet read that Cogat is to blame that the by the Jews. And then they listed various agencies, whether it's the CDC or whatever the head of is Jewish, Jewish, Jewish. It's almost like Jews are to blame for Kovac, just like Jews were to blame for the plague. That's why I was so eventually angry, because I thought, you know, if you're going to come after Jews, why not be more creative now? Why use something that was used for thousands of years, come up with something better? It's just. It's it's it's sad.

[00:08:09] **Speaker 2** So the Anti-Defamation League has reported a nearly 50 year high for incidents of anti-Semitism in the US. What do you have to say to Jews under the age of 50 who have never experienced this level of anti-Semitism before?

[00:08:23] **Speaker 1** Well, my father said, always, never trust anybody. Never trust anybody. And it can happen again. And it will whether it's going to happen to that extent of the Holocaust. I hope not. And that's what he would say to me. But always expected and he said it constantly. Constantly. I mean, when I say I was like several times a year, it was never. And he he would it would be very sad if you were alive now. And I'm very sad for the Holocaust survivors who experienced not just my heartbreaks for them, because this is a very frightening period for them. And they shouldn't have to live out their golden years in fear of going to the synagogue or having the police guard the synagogue just to go pray. That's. Disheartening. But, you know, as I've said before, we're not going away. We're you know, it will. Anti-Semitism is is an old phenomenon. And, you know, we will continue to fight against it and exist and fight for others as well.

[00:09:55] **Speaker 2** Thank you very much. Thank you. Do you have any other comments you wanted to add? No.

[00:09:59] **Speaker 1** Thank you. Okay. Thank you very much for doing this piece. It's a very important. Thank you.

[00:10:03] **Speaker 2** Thank you. Thank you. No, because then.