

Faivel Yosif Fridman



This is my younger brother Faivel Yosif Fridman (Shraga was his nick-name, used by his friends.), one or two years after he emigrated illegally to Israel with friends. He left for Israel first in the family - in 1945.

My younger brother Faivel was born in 1928. He is a constructor. They have three children with his wife Shoshana: Pnina, Hanita and David. Their children also live in Israel. Before she retired, Shoshana worked as a host at the Bulgarian old people's home in Rishon Lezion, while she was living in Yagur with her family, near my mother.

I remember the following event. Once my younger brother Faivel and I went to school (we attended one and the same school in Sofia). I was then in the fourth grade while he was in the first. These days we were allotted snacks in the breaks at school and I still think it's a good thing to do in the school breaks. All right, but it was Yom Kippur then. Faivel went to take his snack and I shouted at him 'You mustn't. How can you eat on Kippur?' and I threw his breakfast away. Now I think what I did was very cruel to the small Faivel.

Our parents are Yosif and Blanche Fridman, they both moved to Israel and are no longer alive. They were relatively religious, which means that they observed the Jewish traditions, but not every single detail of them. My father was of Ashkenazi origin, that is a Russian Jew, and my mother Blanche Israel is of the Sephardic Jews in Bulgaria. After they left for Israel, they lived in the town of Yagur.

Our family was often forced to move from one place to another, because it was difficult for our father to find a permanent job. That is why my brothers and I were born in different places in Bulgaria. For example I was born in the village of Slatina, near Sofia (1925) but my elder brother Ruben (1923-1999) was born in Sofia and my younger brother Shraga was born in the village of Karamanovo, Svishtov region.