

That Was Your Mother

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My father Haim Reingold was born in Lodz, Poland in 1910. In 1925 his family made aliyah and settled in Tel Aviv where my father went to high school. In 1929 he came to Cincinnati to go to college; in 1938, after getting his PhD in mathematics, he went back to Tel Aviv to visit his family before accepting a faculty position at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Cincinnati, his first trip back in 9 years. After that, World War II, marriage, and children intervened and he wouldn't get back to Israel until 1953.

My parents got married in 1942; I was born in 1945. My father hadn't seen his father since 1936 and in 1941 his mother died. My father was anxious to see his father, my zadie Shmaryahu, so he arranged a green card for a visit in 1948, hoping Zadio would stay permanently in the US. Zadio came to Chicago that year, visiting his younger son in New York and his older son in Cincinnati before coming to Chicago to stay with us. I was two and half and my mother was pregnant with my brother Arthur.

Of course I recall little of Zadio's visit, but I do recall following him around our living room as he davened. I remember him as very tall; he was, in fact, only 5'2" much shorter than my father who was 5'5". Zadio stayed with us for a while, I am not sure how long, before returning to Tel Aviv. He died in November 1948, shortly after Arthur was born and my parents gave Arthur the Hebrew name Shmaryahu, after Zadio.

My father delighted in telling of the following incident during Zadio's visit. After dinner one evening, Zadio went and sat on the living room couch; my father went into the kitchen to wash dishes with my mother. Mom told Dad to go and be with Zadio in the living room, but Dad said, first he would help clean up from dinner. When Dad finished up and went in the living room, Zadio was annoyed; he asked Dad why he was doing dinner dishes. Dad said to his father, "I learned it from you! You always helped clean up and do the dishes." Zadio replied, "But that was *your mother* that I was helping!"

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