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Title: Junji Sarashina Interview  
Narrator: Junji Sarashina  
Interviewer: Naoko Wake  
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**<Begin Segment 15>**

NW: Now, your mother must have been worried about you.

JS: Oh yeah. But she happened to hear from some of the people in Hiroshima who returned to the countryside, the village, and she talked to these people, and they said, oh, your son is probably safe. Because, you know. This is, the whole town is burning, so no sense going in. She wanted to come in to look for me. But she learned from the people, and they said oh ladies should not go in there because you can't do a thing. So she said okay, so she stayed. But at least she was aware where the factory was, and thought I was probably okay. So after I got to the dormitory, I looked and two of my roommates, they did not come back. So I heard about where they were, so I knew, you know, they're not gonna come back. I got all of these gathering, put in a box, wrapped up, put their name on it. Two of them. Kamata and Ikeda. [laugh]. That's the student's name. And I wrapped up and put it there. Since I was in the dormitory, they gave us some food, sweet potato, Asian sweet potato. And we have to burn some dead people, so come and help. We went by the river, and built, you know, a burn.

NW: Did you eventually go back to where your mother was?

JS: Okay, and then, the second day, alright, this is enough. Another thing I didn't like was, I couldn't stay there was, I tried to sleep there, *nomi*, flea. Ay, I don't know why, they all started to come around. I am very weak, you know, I got swollen like this, you know, my legs especially. So I can't stay here anymore.

NW: It wasn't like that before the bomb, right?

JS: It wasn't like that.

NW: I wonder why.

JS: I don't know, and thousands of them, you know.

NW: Oh, you have to flee from it.

JS: Oh yeah. So I said, gosh, I can't stay here anymore. You just have to leave. So I went back to the station, Hiroshima-eki, and then the train was not leaving from there, you had to walk a mile or so to the next station, where the train was. Of course, nobody had money, so whoever wants to ride, they let you in. That took me down to my house. And of course, when I walked in, my

mother just cried, you know, oh Junji-san. Yeah. And she was happy. She tried to feed me but for some reason I couldn't eat. But I was drinking a lot of water.

NW: Did you have any symptoms, anything?

JS: I had a diarrhea. I had a diarrhea. It wasn't that severe, but diarrhea, and she fed me all kind of things, home remedy, you know, whoever, she heard what's good, what's bad. And oh, jumping a little bit, my church, my father's church, this big place, so we had military people living there, too. So they had quite a bit of information, yeah. That's why they had the kitchen: for the soldiers. So they did cooking and sleeping there, too. So I am sure that mom got a lot of information from them. So, anyway, I stayed, got home and slept about three days. And the diarrhea and . . . But somehow I got up. On August 15, I even got up and heard the announcement that Japan lost the war.

NW: You remember that. Yeah. How did you feel?

JS: I was very sad, you know, when I heard this announcement, but some of the church members were there, too. Some of them just collapsed and they cried. I think I cried, too. Because, you know, we lost the war and a lot of people died. I think it was very sad. And, I remember that particular time, I heard that, afterwards, in the evening, I was standing on the church balcony, or the bank side, and then I was singing some song, you know, a stoic song. Singing and just, it was in a sad mood.

NW: Now, did you think of the bomb as something that America dropped, which is your country of citizenship?

JS: No, I think I was more Japanese than American at that time.

NW: At that time. Okay.

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