

Persian transcript:

محسن: بعد، خود شما از کدام شهر خوزستان هستید؟
آزیتا: من متولد آبادانم، اما بزرگ شده‌ی اهواز. ما آبادان زندگی می‌کردیم؛ پدرم پالایشگاه شبرکت نفت کار می‌کرد، ولی چون جنگ شد من نه ماهم بود که جنگ ایران و عراق شروع شد و ما مجبور شدیم شهرمون [=شهرمان] رو ول کنیم بیاییم؛ برای این که آبادان خیلی نزدیکه [نزدیک است] به عراق، یعنی از یه جاهایی می‌تونن [=می‌توانن] حتی دم شط¹ که وایستی [=بایستی] می‌تونن عراق نخل‌های عراق را ببینن. و برای این که جنگ از اونجا شروع شد، ما هم مجبور شدیم خونمون را ول کنیم؛ و بعداً هم چند روز بعد از این که ما اونجا را ول کرده بودیم، موشک خورده بود توی خونمون و تمام چیزامون [=چیزهایمان] از بین رفته بود؛ تمام وسیله‌های خونمون [=زندگیمون] همه از بین رفت.
محسن: چه سالی بود که جنگ... یعنی اون زمانی که به آبادان حمله شد؟
آزیتا: هزار و سیصد و شصت.

محسن: بعد، چرا باید به آبادان حمله بشه؟ آبادان چه نکته‌ی مهمی داشت؟ علاوه بر اینکه نزدیک بوده اولاً.
آزیتا: آره، نزدیک بود و چون جنگ با عراق بود دیگه، آن وقت آبادان مرکز صنعت... و آبادان و خرمشهر... اصولاً خوزستان قُطب صنعتی ایران محسوب می‌شه آلان صادراتی که هست نفت و گاز که مهمترین صادرات ایرانیه همه اش از خوزستان تامین می‌شه [می‌شود] اولین چاه نفت هشتاد سال پیش در یکی از شهرهای خوزستان به نام مسجد سلیمان زده شده بنابراین عراق که می‌خواست وارد جنگ بشه [بشود] با ایران چه چیزی بهتر از این که حمله کنه [بکند] و اون شاه‌رگ‌های اصلی اون مملکت را از کار بندازه [ببندازد].

English translation:

Mohsen: Then, yourself? What city in Khuzestan are you from?

Azita: I was born in Abadan, but grew up in Ahvaz. We used to live in Abadan, [while] my father was working in the [National Iranian] Oil Company, but because the war began—I was nine months old when the war between Iran and Iraq began—and we were forced to leave our city, because Abadan was very close to Iraq. I mean from some places standing at the river [Karun]² you can see the palm trees of Iraq. And because the war began from there, we were forced to leave our house. Some days later, after we left [our] place, a missile struck our house and all of our stuff was destroyed; all the furniture in the house and our life were ruined.

Mohsen: What year was it when the war... I mean when Abadan was attacked?

Azita: One thousand and three hundred and sixty³.

¹ "شط" is an Arabic word and means river. In the southern part of Iran this word is used, specifically to refer to Karun—the biggest river in the country—and Arvand-rood, which is the borderline between Iran and Iraq.

² The Kārun (also spelled as Karoun) is Iran's most effluent, and the only navigable, river. It is 450 miles (720 km) long. It rises in the Zard Kuh mountains of the Bakhtiari district in the Zagros Range, receiving many tributaries, such as the Dez and the Kuhrang, before passing through the capital of the Khuzestan Province of Iran, the city of Ahvaz.

³ 1360 in the Persian calendar which is a lunar calendar equals to 1981.

Mohsen: Okay, why should Abadan be attacked? What was important in the case of Abadan? Besides it being close, primarily.

Azita: It was close and because the war was with Iraq, at that time Abadan [was] the center of industry... and Abadan and Khorramshahr... basically Khuzestan is considered the industrial center of Iran. Now, the exports that there are, petrol and natural gas which are the most important exports of the country are produced in Khuzestan. The first oil well, eighty years ago, was drilled in one of Khuzestan cities called Masjid Soleyman. Therefore, for Iraq, which wanted to start a war with Iran, what could be better than attacking and disabling the main [economic] artery of that country?

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