

Childhood in Sarajevo

Bosnian transcript in Latin:

Ja sam rođen neposredno nakon Drugog svjetskog rata, ustvari tri godine poslije, i odrastanje u Sarajevu je bilo mnogo ljepše nego što nažalost klinici, djeca, odrastaju danas. Nije bilo automobila, i onda su sve ulice bili izvanredni fudbalski stadioni. Automobili prođu tri-četiri puta u danu, tako da nam ometu igru tri-četiri puta. Sve ostalo je bilo naše. Onda, ono što je važno za odrastanje, a to je socijalizacija djece – iz ulice, svi smo bili napolju. Tu smo se zajedno družili, igrali, i ono što je važno, još uvijek su postojale bašte oko kuća, što znači da djeca su mogla ići u krađu voća. I to je nešto što se pamti cijeli život. Nismo imali mnogo, u smislu čokolada, ovaj, i ovoga i onoga; ali ono što nam je bilo dovoljno je bilo lopta, vode gotovo na svakoj... Javne česme kojih i danas ima u Sarajevu, jel', i baš nas briga. Fudbal se mogao šutati po čitav dan... I družiti se. Zbog toga se kasnije u Sarajevu i formira mnogo sastava, muzičkih i slično, jer su to uglavnom djeca iz iste ulice, iz iste škole, ili iz istog dijela grada. I onda je bilo važno biti bolji od drugih. Ne samo u fudbalu, nego napraviti bolju pjesmu, napraviti bolju muziku, ovaj, i takmičiti se. I to je nešto što je, ovaj, bilo vrlo lijepo za odrastanje.

Bosnian transcript in Cyrillic:

Ja sam rođen neposredno nakon Drugog svjetskog rata, ustvari tri godine poslije, i odrastanje u Sarajevu je bilo mnogo ljepše nego što nažalost klinici, djeca, odrastaju danas. Nije bilo automobila, i onda su sve ulice bili izvanredni fudbalski stadioni. Automobili prođu tri-četiri puta u danu, tako da nam ometu igru tri-četiri puta. Sve ostalo je bilo naše. Onda, ono što je važno za odrastanje, a to je socijalizacija djece – iz ulice, svi smo bili napolju. Tu smo se zajedno družili, igrali, i ono što je važno, još uvijek su postojale bašte oko kuća, što znači da djeca su mogla ići u krađu voća. I to je nešto što se pamti cijeli život. Nismo imali mnogo, u smislu čokolada, ovaj, i ovoga i onoga; ali ono što nam je bilo dovoljno je bilo lopta, vode gotovo na svakoj... Javne česme kojih i danas ima u Sarajevu, jel', i baš nas briga. Fudbal se mogao šutati po čitav dan... I družiti se. Zbog toga se kasnije u Sarajevu i formira mnogo sastava, muzičkih i slično, jer su to uglavnom djeca iz iste ulice, iz iste škole, ili iz istog dijela grada. I onda je bilo važno biti bolji od drugih. Ne samo u fudbalu, nego napraviti bolju pjesmu, napraviti bolju muziku, ovaj, i takmičiti se. I to je nešto što je, ovaj, bilo vrlo lijepo za odrastanje.

English translation:

I was born right after World War II, some three years after [the end of the war]. Growing up in Sarajevo back then was much more pleasant than it is for kids, children today. There were no cars, so all the streets were great as soccer fields. Cars would pass three or four times a day, so they'd interrupt us three or four times. The streets were ours the rest of the time. Another important thing for the development of children was socialization – all the kids from my street were spending their time outside. We'd hang out there, we'd play, and more importantly, all of the houses [in our neighborhood] still had gardens, which meant that we would go fruit-stealing. That's something you remember for your entire life. We didn't have much in terms of chocolate and other things, but to us, it was enough to have a soccer ball and water on each corner – there were many public fountains in Sarajevo, [most of] which are still around – so we were carefree. Soccer was played all day long. And we'd spend time together. That's why Sarajevo later had so many groups, music bands, etc., because they were mostly made up of kids from the same street, the same school, the same part of the city. It was also important to be better than others, not only in soccer – it was important to write a better song, compose better music, and to compete. That was also a very pleasant atmosphere to grow up in.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use every day. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.