

Algerian Arabic transcript:

ع: وش كنا نديرو في آآ وهران منين كنا صغار؟ هه، منين كنا صغار أنا آآ أنا و اعوذ بالله من قولة أنا... آآ كنا... أنا تعلمت العربية آآ نتعلمو القرآن تانيك. تعلمت العربية و القرآن على يد جدي الله يرحمه. مي كان عندي، الله أعلم مي كان عندي كنت صغير، كان عندي وحد بالك تلت سنين ولا آآ بديت، بدا جدي الله يرحمه بدا يعلمني القرآن. السور هذيك الصغيرة، "قل هو الله أحد" و "قل أعوذ برب الناس" و سورة الناس و آآ هكذا تعلمت أنا العربية... آآ رحت آآ أنا آآ نعقل آآ... الشباني، أبا كان يدينا لوحد المحل نتاع يصنعو فيه السبايط... آآ و كان الداخلى آآ كانت معمرة، معمرة بلمواشن نتاع السباط و نتاع آآ و السبايط و كلش. فكان كاين وحدل القنط كشغل فيه الصبورة و الطباشير و كلش. و كي يجي وحد السيد يقرينا العربية، يقرنا الحروف و كيف نكتبو العربية و كلش. بدينا هكذا و بدينا آآ كان في عمري الله أعلم... ربعة سنين ولا خمسة.

English translation:

A: What did I use to do in Oran when I was little? When I was little, I (I seek refuge in Allah from the word "I") learned the Arabic language from learning the Qur'an and I learned the Qur'an from my grandfather (may Allah be merciful to him). I don't remember how old I was, but I believe very little—I would say I was around three years or so—my grandfather (may Allah be merciful to him) started to teach me the Qur'an. He started to teach me the short chapters like: "Say: He is Allah, the One!"¹ And "Say: I seek refuge in the Lord of mankind,"² which is the An-Nas (Mankind) chapter. And this is how I learned Arabic. I remember that my father used to take me to a little shop where they made shoes and that was filled inside with equipment to make shoes—shoes and other things. But there was a corner that had a black-board and chalk, and there was a man who taught us Arabic. He taught us the alphabet, how to write Arabic, and things like that. When I started, I believe that I was about four or five years old.

¹ This is the first verse of Al-Ikhlās (Sincerity) chapter of the Qur'an and it is chapter 112.

² This is the first verse of An-Nas (Mankind) chapter of the Qur'an and it is chapter 114.

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