

Egyptian Arabic transcript:

أنا أصلاً اسكندراني من الإسكندرية، أنا موليد 1987، اتولدت في الإسكندرية. الإسكندرية بلد جميله، بلد صغيره، حلوة، الناس كلها جميلة، البحر طبعاً هو أحلى حاجه عشان هو بيحسن الجو هناك، بس هي طبعاً في الصيف الرطوبة عاليه جداً. بالنسبة للإسكندرية طبعاً زي ما قلت لكو أنا، البلد ساحليه، حلوه جداً، من أحلى يمكن محافظات مصر. بلد بحرنا الحلو إلي بيحسن الجو، والجو حلو جداً، في الصيف تلاقي كل الناس إلي عايشين في القاهرة يجوا يزوروا، إلي عايشين في الإسكندرية يعودوا للإسكندرية في الصيف، طبعاً تبقى زحمة جداً. الإسكندرية طبعاً يمكن للي ما يعرفش عنها، طبعاً هي تاريخياً من أقدم البلاد الموجود في العالم يعني كان من أيام حتى اليونانيين لما احتلواها وقبل كذا الرومانيين وكان فيها كليوبترا، طبعاً إلي بناها أصلاً الإسكندر الأكبر، ولحد الوقت الإسكندر الأكبر زي ما أنتو عارفين أنو هو مدفون أصلاً في الإسكندرية بس هم مش لاقين القبر بتاعوا. تمتاز طبعاً بعجائبها، كان فيها أحد عجائب الدنيا السبعه زي الفنار الموجود فيها، بس الفنار طبعاً إتهد وفي الميه دلوقتي، ولقوا بعض من قطع بتاعوا يعني. موجود فيها القلعة، قلعة الإسكندرية، إلي برضوا من أقدم القلعات الموجودة في الإسكندرية، موجود فيها قصور حلوه جداً، عندك قصر المنتزه، زي قصر الملك فاروق. قصر المنتزه من أكبر القصور الممكن موجوده في العالم، إلي كان عايش فيه الملك فاروق قبل ما يحصل الثورة عندنا سنة سته وخمسين ويطردوه بره البلد.

المرأة: هو الملك كان بيحب يجي اسكندرية كل صيف، صح؟

الرجل: هو كان عايش في اسكندرية، آه، كان عايش في الإسكندرية، في القصر أساساً، طبعاً كان عايش في قصر القبه هنا في القاهرة بس اسكندرية دايماً بالنسبه لو كان أساسي. بعد كده عندك قصر ستين بتاع الملك فاروق، عندك... نتكلم في حجات جديده بأه شويه، أنتي عندك بأه دلوقتي مكتبة الإسكندرية. مكتبة الإسكندرية دي أصلاً طبعاً بيعيدوا ذكرى أكبر مكاتب العالم الي تحرقت واتهدت، برضوا هنا في اسكندرية أيام اسكندر الأكبر، وإلي حرقها كان الرومان. بعد كده المكتبة دلوقتي بات مبنى من أحلى المباني الموجوده في العالم. وفيها من أحلى وأكبر، أكثر كتب نادرة في العالم موجوده حالياً في مكتبة الإسكندرية. غير كذا، اسكندرية طبعاً من يحدث زي ما اتفقنا كشغل وناس محدودين يعني. كمستقبل شغل يعني برضوا أنتي زي ما أنما قلت كنت اشتغل في الإسكندرية نقلت القاهرة. لو كنت سألتيني ليه عشان الموضوع دا. يعني ليه أنا من الإسكندرية للقاهرة، عشان برضوا محدوده كمستوى دخل، كمستوى شغل، كمستوى ناس، كمستوى فكر، ككل حاجة. طبعاً اضطررت الروح للعاصمة إلي هي القاهرة عشان أقدر أعلى من مستوايا الإجتماعي، وأعلى من مستوايا العلمي، وحاجات زي دي. يعني أنا أصلاً تخصصي كمبيوتر، فكبيوتر أو الحاسب الآلي زي ما أنتو عارفين أنو هو في تطور مستمر، فإنتي لو قاعد في بلد زي اسكندرية عمر حضرتها ما حضرتها حتتطور لأن محدوده جداً، فلازم أروح على بلد زي القاهرة عشان أقدر أطور في نفسي يعني.

English translation:

Man: I am originally an Alexandrian, from Alexandria. I was born in 1978, in Alexandria. Alexandria is a beautiful, small city; all the people there are nice, and, of course, the sea is the most beautiful thing, because it improves the weather. But naturally, in the summer, the humidity is very high. Regarding Alexandria ... as I told you, it is a very beautiful desert city, and possibly one of the most beautiful governorates of Egypt. It is naturally a beautiful city that has its sea, which improves the atmosphere, and the weather is very beautiful. During the summer, all of the people who live in Cairo come to Alexandria, so, of course, there is a lot of overcrowding and traffic. For those who do not know Alexandria, it is one of the oldest cities in the world, from the days of the Greeks, who occupied it, and before them the Romans, and Cleopatra used to be there. The man

who built it was Alexander the Great, and until now, as you know, he is buried in Alexandria, but we cannot find his tomb. Alexandria is distinguished by the fact that there used to be one of the Seven Wonders of the World in it, the Lighthouse of Alexandria,¹ but naturally it collapsed, and it is in the water now, and they have found pieces of it. Alexandria also has the citadel, the citadel of Alexandria,² which is also one of the oldest citadels present in Alexandria. There are also beautiful palaces in Alexandria, like the Palace of Montaza, the palace of King Farouk. The Palace of Montaza is possibly one of the biggest palaces which exist in the world; [it is] where King Farouk used to live before the Revolution happened in 1956³ and he was kicked out of the country.

Woman: The King used to like to come to Alexandria every summer, right?

Man: He used to live in Alexandria, yes; he used to live primarily in Alexandria, in the Palace. Naturally, he used to live in the palace of Qobbah⁴ here in Cairo, but for him, Alexandria was the base. You also have the palace of Ras el-Tin⁵ of King Farouk; you also have Now let's talk about the things that are bit new, like the Library of Alexandria -- naturally the Library of Alexandria is a way of commemorating the former Library of Alexandria, one of the biggest libraries in the world, which was burnt and destroyed, also here in Alexandria, during the days of Alexander the Great. And the ones who burnt it were the Romans. After that, the library today has become one of the most beautiful buildings in the world, and in it you can find some of the oldest, most beautiful, and rarest books in the world, present at the moment in the Library of Alexandria.

Apart from this, Alexandria is limited, as we agreed before, in terms of work, and people; it's limited in terms of work prospects As I told you, I used to work in Alexandria and then I moved to Cairo. If you had asked me why, I would have told you that it is precisely because of this situation. Why did I move from Alexandria to Cairo? Because it [Alexandria] is limited in terms of income level, work level, people level, thought level -- in terms of everything. So naturally, I was pushed to go to the capital, Cairo, in order to improve my social level and my level of knowledge, etc. My specialization is originally in computers, which, as you know, are in constant development, so if I stay in a city like Alexandria, I will never progress because the city is so small and limited, so I have to go to a bigger city like Cairo, so that I can develop myself.

¹ The Lighthouse of Alexandria was a tower built in the 3rd Century B.C. It is thought to have been destroyed by earthquakes in the 14th century but some remains were found by diverse people in the 1990s.

² The Citadel of Alexandria, also known as the Citadel of Qaitbay, was built in the 15th century and served as a defensive fort. It was built on the remains of the Lighthouse of Alexandria.

³ He refers to the Egyptian Revolution of 1952.

⁴ The Qobbah palace was built in the 1800s, and has since then served as an official residency for Egypt's rulers. Today, it is used as the main guesthouse to receive foreign dignitaries.

⁵ The Ras el-Tin palace was built in the mid-nineteenth century to serve as summer government headquarters. Today, it is one of the oldest remaining Egyptian palaces, and it is used as one of the official residences of the Egyptian president.

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