

Arabic Egyptian transcript:

ن: النهارده عايزة أكلمو على الأدب المصري والأدب العربي، بس خصوصاً الأدب المصري. وطبعاً مش ممكن نتكلم عن الأدب المصري من غير مانذكر إسم الكاتب المرحوم نجيب محفوظ. هو نجيب محفوظ بالنسبة لي أحسن كاتب عربي وحشر حلكو دي الوقتي ليه بحبه الأسباب. والحاجات دي. فأول حاجة عايزة أقول أنه هو... اهم... حائز على جائزة نوبل للأدب. وبرضو هو أول كاتب عربي، أو أول كاتب بيكتب باللغة... اه... اللغة العربية الي حاز على جائزة نوبل للأدب. وده من مثلاً عشرين سنة في ألف وتسعمائة وثمانية وثمانين متيألي. فطبعاً دي حاجة جامدة قوي ولازم... اه... نشكر شغله وعمله. عايزة أقول برضه أن هو كان مصري وبيحب مصر بطريقة ما فيش حد بيحب مصر زيه. ماكانش بس بيتكلم على حبه لمصر كان بيعيش حبه لمصر. وفي فرق بين الاثنين، في ناس كثير... بيتكلموا: أه أنا بحب مصر وأنا فخور إن أنا مصري وكله للوطن وكل الكلام ده بس في ناس قليلين جدا بيعيشوا الحب ده في حياتهم. فهو كان واحد من دول. وكان معظم الوقت كمان بيقعد في قهوة، في خان الخليلي في مصر القديمة، كان بيقعد في قهوة معروفة اسمها قهوة الفيشاوي. وكان بيحب يقعد في وسط البلد أو في مصر القديمة. اه... في القهوة يسمع اللي بيحصل حواليه و يكتب عن الموضوع ده.

English translation:

N: Today I would like to talk about the Arabic literature and especially Egyptian literature. We surely can't talk about Egyptian literature without remembering the deceased writer Naguib Mahfouz. For me, Naguib Mahfouz is the best Arab writer, and I'll tell you why I like him. First of all I want to say that...hmm.. he won the Noble Prize for literature. This was about 20 years ago, I think 1988. This is a very big achievement and we should...uhh.. appreciate his work. I would like to say that he is Egyptian and he loved Egypt so much that no one would love it as much. He wasn't only talking about his love for Egypt but he lived this love. There is a difference between the two; there are many people who say: "yes, I love Egypt and I'm proud to be Egyptian," and that they are all for the country and all this. However, there are very few people who live this love. He [Mahfouz] was one of them. He would spend most of the time in a well-known café called al-Fishawi café in Khan al-Khalili in old Egypt. He liked to spend his time in the center of the city or in old Egypt...uhh.. in the café he would hear what was going on around him and write about it.

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