

English Translation:

Woman behind camera: I have even heard from my mother that they used to participate in the Muslim religious rituals. I mean for example, you know, the new Hijri year's eve or sometimes, for example, fasting in Ramadan. They used to take part as much as they could. I mean they would celebrate just like us.

Man: Certainly, or they used to, for example in Ramadan, when they see us, when they see the Muslims their neighbors fasting, they wouldn't eat in front of them.

Woman behind camera: True.

Man: They try to eat nothing but one meal per day secretly; they eat it secretly among themselves; they would close their door and eat it.

Woman behind camera: Respect.

Man: Respect for the fasting neighbor.

Woman behind camera: Correct.

Man: They wouldn't cook, or cook something with good smell. I mean they try to eat cold food.

Woman behind camera: True.

Man: In order not to cook and cause food smell and a fasting person would smell the food and get hungry, feels hungrier.

Woman behind camera: Exactly.

Man: So they used to care for many issues. They used to come to Muslim funerals, to the funeral receptions and do what they have to do with the Muslims and attend and sympathize and pray their prayers [Jewish prayers] in their own way.

Woman behind camera: True.

Man: ...aaa... during funeral receptions.

Woman behind camera: True.

Man: They used to take part in all occasions for the, the, the neighbors. And they were, I mean many of the Iraqi neighbors or the Muslims or the Christians, they used to do the same with their sad [Jewish occasions] and happy events. There were mutual relations and many....I mean one of my friends ...aaa... mentioned a story for me about, about his grandmother's neighbor, a Jewish woman...

Woman behind camera: uhmm...

Man: ...because she loves her so much; the migration to Palestine happened.

Woman behind camera: Yes.

Man: And she loves her very much and felt she was in danger. She told her "even if I die, I won't leave, I won't leave Iraq. I love Iraq..."

Woman behind camera: Correct.

Man: "... so I want to stay in Iraq until I die." So she stayed in Iraq and lived. She had no kids, she had no husband, she had nothing. So she asked the Muslim woman, her friend, to bury her.

Woman behind camera: Yes.

Man: ...aaa... the Jewish woman died, so where did she bury her? She [Muslim] took her [Jew] and buried her in a cemetery for Muslims and put her beside her husband.

Woman behind camera: Yes.

Man: Beside the Muslim woman's husband, so that she would visit both. She would say "to visit both graves together at the same time. When I go, I visit their graves together."

Woman behind camera: Yes.

Man: And she's still buried at the same place.

Woman behind camera: Yes, correct.

Man: This, this, this is love, I mean. There is pressure, I mean, there are, are political pressures sometimes that would affect the society.

Woman behind camera: True.

Man: An occupation...aaa... I mean Palestine's war in '48 and the announcement of the State of Israel, and...

Woman behind camera: I hope, by God, if you tell us for instance what happened to the Iraqi community, excuse me, not a community, to the Iraqi Jewish society after the announcement of the State of Israel.

Man: In fact many Arab countries, after the announcement of the State of Israel, decided to exile the, the Jews from their countries.

Woman behind camera: Correct.

Man: This is one of, of, of the historical mistakes that are very hard; I mean, I mean and some countries tried to avoid it in following years such as Syria. ...aaa... president Hafez el-Asad, May God have mercy on him, ...aaa... made a decision to allow the Syrian Jews who were exiled from Syria in the year of '48 to return to Syria protected and respected; he protected their property for them and all their properties were returned to them and currently there is a street in Damascus named the Jews street. It has their homes, it has a Jewish synagogue.

Woman behind the camera: Yes.

Man: People are living comfortably, there is no problem. The bottom line is that was a big historical mistake, and a political mistake, of course, and [there was] huge Arab anger. People started to do the same. A political decision started in a certain country, they tried to mimic and repeat it in another and another country.

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