

**English Translation:**

**Man:** What happened during the time of the Jews<sup>1</sup> was that people didn't have enough time, due to the mass pressure; they feared because many Jews were exposed to, were severely beaten, to, to, people attacked them in the streets...

**Woman behind camera:** Killing...

**Man:** They beat them; they killed some, many of them...aaa... people started to be afraid. People became a family, became unable to live alone. Many of them sought refuge with the Muslims and Christians and the Kurds and Arabs and many others as you know the Iraqi society. ...aaa... People sought refuge in other houses and left theirs. So when people come and see that this Jew has left his house, they start to loot his possessions which mean they take them without paying the price.

**Woman behind camera:** Correct.

**Man:** This term<sup>2</sup> was applied to the same method, which means that you take a good or a thing and don't pay its price. So they called it *farhod*. So they mass looted, mass looted the possessions of the Jews...

**Woman behind camera:** Yes.

**Man:** ...because they would enter an empty house thinking that its occupants had traveled to Israel and left the house empty.

**Woman behind camera:** True.

**Man:** People [Iraqis in general] started to take their [Jews' possessions] and considered it lawful. And this is of course taboo in Islam, taboo. And many of the Muslim sheikhs opposed this subject. But it's considered, I mean, popular ignorance at that time.

**Woman behind camera:** Right.

**Man:** That people had and, I mean, it ended back then and it was certainly one of the big mistakes that happened.

**Woman behind camera:** Yes ..aaa... fine, the stance of the Jews regarding...aa... the war, I mean regarding the announcement of Israel, the stance of Iraqi Jews ...aaa... what was their stance at that time? Were they...?

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<sup>1</sup> He means when Israel was announced a State.

<sup>2</sup> By term here he means the term of *farhod*, which is the Farsi word for mass looting.

**Man:** Iraqi Jews didn't participate in the issue completely and they didn't know the issue. They are Iraqi people I mean. I mean they had no, no hand in the subject whatsoever.

**Woman behind camera:** You mean that...

**Man:** They were a mere victim, a victim of a political decision that was made in, in another place in the world.

**Woman behind camera:** True.

**Man:** Fine...aaa... the State of Israel was established...aa... they have nothing to do with this, they are victims. Because they are Jewish, they paid the price; I mean it's their religion to be Jewish...

**Woman behind camera:** Yes.

**Man:** ...they paid the price and this is, I mean, this is a major mistake. I mean these are, these are our people, our people. Their religion, I mean, religion belongs to God. So there is no reason for you to come and hurt him just because the State of Israel was established.

**Woman behind camera:** True and we heard that most of the Iraqi Jews who left didn't go far away. I mean they went to Jordan and some went to Israel.

**Man:** The countries that accepted receiving them that they went to included ...aa... I mean... some of them went to ...aa... Morocco, it accepted them.

**Woman behind camera:** True.

**Man:** Some of them went to Tunisia...aaa... some of them went to Turkey ...aa.. some of them went to, to some of the Arab countries that I cannot remember

**Woman behind camera:** Right.

**Man:** But in general, most of them, the air bridge transported them daily. Planes transported people between Baghdad, Baghdad Airport and Al-Quds Airport.

**Woman behind camera:** Right.

**Man:** Many of the Jews who, who ...aa.. were received by Israel, the Iraqi Jews who were exiled to Israel and left their beloved ones and neighbors and houses and society and trade, the poor people lived a very hard life in Israel.

**Woman behind camera:** Right.

**Man:** Because I mean, basically Israel was not ready to receive them. When it received them, they were a big, crowded population.

**Woman behind camera:** Yes.

**Man:** ...aaa... some statistics suggest 110,000 Iraqi Jews, only from Iraq, not to mention the huge numbers that they received from some Arab countries.

**Woman behind camera:** Exactly.

**Man:** So it [Israel] had no capability to get them settled.

**Woman behind camera:** and...

**Man:** They lived in tents.

**Woman behind camera:** Yes.

**Man:** They suffered, there was no work ...aa... they lived a very hard life.

**Woman behind camera:** Because for them, they left, left ..aa.. I mean suddenly...

**Man:** Certainly.

**Woman behind camera:** ...so they were also not prepared.

**Man:** Not prepared originally.

**Woman behind camera:** People only left with the clothes they were wearing.

**Man:** Exactly. They had nothing [with them]; their money was confiscated, they were not allowed to take their money with them.

**Woman behind camera:** Right.

**Man:** They didn't let them take their possessions, their gold, no they were not prepared for this. So they have also lived a very hard life.

**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 everyday. 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.