

Arabic Transcript

ا: انتي كنتي في العراق لمن بدت الحرب، كيف كانت تجربتك؟ يعني من اول يوم؟

ب: اول يوم جان يوم خميس، يوم 20-3. اني جنت نايمه واخويه اجه كعدني كلي زهراء زهراء كعدي بدت الحرب، فاني فزيت من النوم وكتله شنو شنو؟ كلي اسمعي اسمعي ... سمعت صوت الغاره، فخفت. الغاره تسوي توت توت توت ... فبابا اجه للغرفه وشافني دا ابجي فكلي لا لا هاي بس ديجربوها للغاره هاي مو حقيقه. فنزلنه كلنه للهول الي يعني مكان مثل ال (لفتك روم) هنا. كعدنه هناك الصبح، لا تلفزيون عدنه، لا كهرياء، كلشي ماعدنه... منعرف شديصير و لهناك بدينه نسمع الانفجارات لانه اول ضربه صارت لقصر صدام الي هو تقريبا 15 دقيقه بعيد عن بيتنه، فسمعناه للانفجار، فوراها بالسسته الصبح طلغ صدام بالتلفزيون، جتي الكهرياء وطلع صدام بالتلفزيون، تقريبا جتي الكهرياء بس علمود الخطاب، طلغ بالتلفزيون وكال جان مبين عليه تعبان، ولابس مناظر، و صدام حسين ابد ميلبس مناظر بالتلفزيون، وشعره ابيض، ولابس الزي العسكري، صدام طلغ بالتلفزيون وكال يالشعب العراقي لتخافون لانه احنه رح ننتصر على الامريكان وهمه صحيح بدوا الحرب عليه و دخلو ومعرف شنو بس احنه عدنه الجيش والقوه والايمان ومعرف منو ... فرح ننتصر بعون الله على الامريكان، والامريكان عدهم اسلحه وطيارات واحنه عدنه رشاشات واسلحه قديمه والدبابات مالتنه ماتتحر كخطوتين، فيعون الله خسرنه الحرب ف ... تقريبا عشرين يوم احنه مانعرف شديصير بالدنيا، منعرف شديصير بره، كل الي نسمعه (دش بوم دوشش) شديصير محد يدري. ويعني كهرياء ماعدنه، مي ماعدنه، اكل ماعدنه، كلشي ماعدنه ... جان اكو يم بيتنه مدرسه وجان بيها كاعدين الجيش، فلمن انهزموا، لكينه مولده .. عدنه مولده كهرياء، فشاب المنطقه مالتنه كلهم اجتمعو وسحبوا هاي المولده من المدرسه وحطوها بالشارع مالتنه وقسمو وايرات وانطوا لكل بيت خمس امبيرات مال كهرياء، فهاي الخمس امبيرات كدرنه نفتح التلفزيون .. بس شكو؟ كلشي ماكو بالتلفزيون، الفتاة الوحيدة الي نكدر نسحبها، فناه زين يمكن الي معناها حياة او فد شي هيجي شي ... ف قناة زين تطلع اخبار العراق اول باول بس بالفارسي كلشي مانفتهم شديصير، بس كدرنه نشوف صور زين، فتخبينه لمن شفته الصور، ناس دتموت وهاي واحنه كلشي مندري والعالم اكيد كله ديتفرج على الي ديصير بالعراق، بس احنه العراقيين الناس الوحيدة الي مدتعرف شديصير.

English Translation:

Girl behind the camera: Were you in Iraq when the war started? How was your experience ... since day one?

Zahraa: The first day of war was Thursday, March 20th. I was sleeping when my brother came to wake me up saying: Zahraa, Zahraa... get up... the war started! I jumped out of bed and was asking, "What, what?" He said, "Listen! Listen!" Then I heard the sound of the siren, so I got scared. The siren is the one that makes the 'toot, toot, toot'. So my dad came to the room, and saw me crying and said, "No, no... this is just testing... it is not real." So we all went down to the living room. We sat there in the morning, with no TV or electricity... nothing. We didn't know what was happening... and there we start hearing the sounds of bombing and explosions, because the first hit was on Saddam's palace that is like 15 minutes away from our house. So, we heard the explosion, and later at 6:00 AM, Saddam appeared on TV... the electricity came back and we watched Saddam on TV... the electricity only came for the period of the speech... He was on TV and he looked stressed, and was wearing glasses – and Saddam never wears reading glasses on TV – his hair was all white, and he was wearing the military uniform... Saddam was on TV and he was saying, "Iraqi people, don't worry, because we will win against the

Americans, and it might be true that they started the war on us, but we have the army, the strength and the will to win...so with the help of God we will achieve victory"...and the Americans have the weapons, and aircraft...and we have old rifles and old weapons and our tanks can't move two feet, so with the help of God we lost the war ... so for 20 days, we did not know what was happening, we didn't know what was happening outside, all we hear is '*diiiiishhhh, booooooom!, dooooooosh*'.... What's happening? No one knew! And we didn't have electricity or water, or food ... nothing. Next to our house, there was a school that the army decided to station in...and when they ran away, we found a generator – we have an electricity generator! So the young people in our neighborhood gathered up and they dragged the generator from the school to our street and divided it by wires into five amps to each house. So with these five amperes we were able to operate the TV ... but what's in it? Nothing! The only channel we were able to receive the signal from was an Iranian channel...its name meant life or something...so this channel, "Zen", I think the name was, broadcasted news about Iraq on the spot, but it was in Farsi. We did not understand a thing, but we saw the images, and we went crazy, because people are dying and we don't know ... and the entire world is watching what's happening in Iraq but the Iraqis...are the only people who did not have a clue.

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.