

Levantine Arabic transcript:

زينه: والجامعة اللي رحت عليها كانت مخلوطة؟ شو إسمها؟
الأب: رحت على كليتين, وحدة اسمها الجامعة اليسوعية اللي كمان كانت تابعة لنفس الرهبة واللي كانت تعلم أساسا بالفرنساوي, ورحت على كلية آداب وعلوم إجتماعية كانت فرع من جامعة فرنسية مباشرة, من جامعة ليون, إسمها "Ecole des Lettres" مدرسة الآداب العليا, ودرست بمحل, درست اقتصاد, وبمحل تنائي درست علم اجتماع, سوسيولوجي. وكانوا مش كثير بعاد عن بعضهن, يعني كنت فيني روح مش من وحدة لوحدة, يعني عملت مثل double major اذا بدك. وآيه, كانوا كثير مختلطين من الناحية السياسية والإجتماعية, ومن ناحية يعني الطوائف, كان في يعني طبعا أغلبية مسيحية, بس كان في إسلام كمان.

زينه: باليسوعية؟

الأب: آيه آيه, كان في شي عشرين-خمس وعشرين بالمية. لأنو كانت جامعة منيحة, ومثلا فيها فرع طب كثير مهم, وفرع حقوق للمحاماة وهندسة, يعني الجامعتين اللي بعلموا بالفرنساوي والإنجليزي المناخ بهذيك الفترة اللي الطلاب الشاطرين حاولوا يروحوا عليهم هني كانوا الجامعة اليسوعية والجامعة الأمريكية. الأيوبية. فحسب من أي مدارس جايين واللغة اللي بيعرفوها منيحة وكذا, كانوا يروحوا على هيدي أو على هيدي. والجامعة اللبنانية كانت عم تنمي بسرعة بهذيك الفترة, الجامعة الوطنية, جامعة الدولة يعني, public university. بس كانت بعدها بأول أيامها, وما كان عنها بعد كليات يعني للمهن, professional school, بعدين صار بأخر. ينص السبعينات. بلشوا يعملولها هندسة ويعملولها طب وكذا. بس كانوا بعدهن بأولهن, يعين إلي بدو يدرس مهن معينة كان بدوا يروح على اليسوعية يا على الجامعة الأمريكية.

زينه: وكانوا يسافروا كثير من الطلاب للدروس..؟

الأب: كانوا يسافروا عادة من بعد. يعني كانوا يسافروا للتخصص, يسموه التخصص, أو للدراسات العليا, يعني graduate studies أو specialization. قليل كثير الطلاب اللي كانوا يبلشوا تعليمهم الجامعي برات البلاد, لأنو الجامعات اللي على مستوى undergraduate كانوا كثير مناخ.

زينه: بعدهن مناخ؟

الأب: هلا يعني عم بيرجعوا يصيروا معقولين.

زينه: منون مناخ فيك تقول؟

الأب: منون كثير مناخ, تدهور, يعني تراجعوا خلال الخمس طعاش-عشرين سنة من الحرب, ومشاكل بعد الحرب, وترك كثير أساتذة, والتجهيزات يعني ضعفت وكذا. بس هلا الجامعات عم تبذل صرلها ثلاث أربع سنين خمس سنين مجهود كبير تترجع توظف اساتذة شباب مناخ تترجع تبني تجهيزاتها ومبانيها. يعني عم بتعمل مجهود, بس أكيد مقارنة بمستوة قبل الحرب بدها بعد شغل تترجع تصير كثير منيحة.

English translation:

“Jesuit University”

Zeina: Was the university you went to mixed? What was it called?

Dad: It was called...I went to two colleges. One was called the Jesuit University that also followed the same order and taught mainly in French. And I went to a college of social sciences and humanities that was a direct branch of a French university, University of Lyon. It's called Ecole des Lettres. And I studied economics in one place and in the other I studied sociology. They weren't very far from each other; I walked from one to the other. I 'double-majored,' if you will. And yes, they were very mixed politically and socially. As for sects, most of the students were Christian but there was a lot of Islam too.

Zeina: At the Jesuit University?

Dad: Yes, yes, about 20, 25%. It was a good university and has good medicine, law, and engineering programs. The two universities that taught in English and French that were good at that time, that good students tried to get into, were the Jesuit University and the American University (AUB). So depending on what schools students came from or the language they knew well, they would go to one or the other. The Lebanese University was growing quickly at that time, a national university, public university. But it was still beginning and didn't have professional schools yet. Then in the beginning of the 70s they started to have engineering and medicine but it was still at its beginning so if you wanted to study certain professions you went either to the Jesuit University or the American University.

Zeina: Did a lot of the students travel?

Dad: Generally, they traveled for...they traveled for their specializations or for graduate studies. Very few students started their university studies outside of Lebanon because at the undergraduate level the universities were very good.

Zeina: Are they still good?

Dad: Now they're getting better again.

Zeina: They're not good -- you can say it.

Dad: Not a lot of them are very good. They collapsed because of 15-20 years of war, troubles after the war -- professors leaving, and the facilities weakened and so on -- but now the universities have been recovering for three to four years, five years. There has been a huge effort to have the universities start working again, to hire young faculty, and to start rebuilding its facilities and buildings. They're making an effort. But, of course, compared to where they were before the war they still need work to be really good again.

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