

**Turkish transcript:**

Hiç birşey hatırlamıyorum kreşten. Ana sınıfından çok şey hatırlıyorum tabi ki. Hatta ana sınıfı öğretmenim vefat etti sonradan, onu da gördükten bir hafta sonra vefat etti falan.

İşte ana sınıfına altı yaşında başlamıştım ana sınıfı o zaman kırmızı önlük giyiyordu, ilkokul mavi önlük, gri önlük giyiyordu pardon. Hatta o kadar kırmızıydı ki önlüklerimiz, bir kere yağmur yağdığına içimdeki atlet kıpkırmızı olmuştu. Ana sınıfı ve ilkokul aynı yerde olduğu için biz, ilkokul ders yaparken, biz dışardaki dersleri yapıyorduk, yani bizim teneffüsümüzdü. İlkokul teneffüsteyken biz içeri giriyorduk, hani büyüklerin arasında ezilmeyelim falan diye.

Bayağı küçük bir okuldu, bir sürü insan vardı. İşte ana sınıfında beslenme olayını öğreniyorduk. Herkesin ailesi sırayla birgün beslenme getiriyordu, beslenme sırası diye birşey vardı. Böyle unutmayalım diye öğretmen cebimize not koyardı, hani yarın sizde sıra falan diye. Biz de notları ailemize verirdik, o zaman okuma yazma bilmiyorduk tabi. Bir de yemek yemeden önce bizim bir duamız vardı, çok komik bir duadır. İşte ‘yemezsek büyüyemeyiz, okula gidemeyiz, çabuk çabuk yiyelim, okulumuza gidelim’ falan diye böyle. Beslenme alışkanlığını kazandırmaya çalışıyorlardı bana. Belki de onun için artık hiç yemek yemiyordumdur.

**English translation:**

I don't remember anything else about kindergarten. But I remember a lot about pre-school, of course.<sup>1</sup> In fact, my pre-school teacher died later; she died a week after I saw her.

I had started pre-school when I was six years old. At that time, red pre-school uniforms were worn; primary school children wore blue uniforms . . . sorry, gray uniforms. It was such a (strong) red that one time it rained, and my undershirt went completely red. Since pre-school and primary school were in the same place, when primary school students were doing their classes, we used to have our classes outdoors; it was our recess, I mean. When the primary school had its recess, we would go in, so that we would not be bullied by the older kids.

It was quite a small school; there were a lot of people. We learned nutrition in pre-school. Everyone's family used to bring in food every day; there was something called the food order. The teacher would tuck a note in our pockets, so that we would not forget, saying, "It is your turn tomorrow." We would give our notes to our families; obviously, we were not literate then. There was also a prayer that we used to say before we ate our food. It is a really funny prayer. It was like, "We would not grow if we did not eat; we would not be

---

<sup>1</sup> In Turkey, kindergarten comes before pre-school.

able to go to school. Let's eat quickly, so that we can go to school." They were trying to teach me food habits [healthy eating]. Maybe that's why I don't eat anything anymore.

**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.

© 2003-2009 Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and Five Colleges, Incorporated