

Turkish transcript:

Sonra işte ilkokula başladım. Beş sene yine aynı okulda devam ettim, Salim Güven İlkokulu. Aynı öğretmenle devam ettim. Sınıfımız bayağı kalabalıktı böyle, otuz, otuzbeş, kırk kişi vardı. Ve biz üçüncü sınıftayken müdürümüz değişti. Sonra önlük kalktı bizde. Okul üniforması diye birşey geldi. Diğer okullar önlük giyiyordu, biz okul üniforması bulmuştuk böyle.

Kahverengi etek, beyaz gömlek, kahverengi kravat, çocuk yaşta kravat taktırıyorlardı bize. İşte kahverengi svüter, kahverengi triko ceket falan şeklinde. Ama birçok insanın almaya gücü yetmiyordu üniformaları, çok pahalıydı. Hani lise formasından bile pahalı bir üniformaydı. Zaten okul bir firmayla anlaşmıştı üretiyordu. Sonra...şimdi mesala benim bir tane fotoğrafım var ilkokuldan kalma, bütün sınıfın fotoğrafı. Bakıyorum fotoğrafa yarısı önlüklü, yarısı üniformalı, garip bir fotoğraf yani.

Sonra bir de kantin olayı vardı ilkokulda, çok net hatırladığım simit ve gazoz alırdık. O zamanlar cam gazozlar vardı böyle, cam kolalar vardı. Nedense böyle ailemiz hep tam ucu ucuna yetecek para verirdi. Yani simit ve gazoz alırdık, simit ve gazoz ya da işte simit ve ayran, simit ve su falan şeklinde. Öyle şeyler vardı, hiçbir zaman hani ekstradan param olmadı. Bir tek biriktireceğim şey, hani simit yemesem mi, şunu içmesem mi, para biriktiririm şeklindeydi. Tutumlu olmayı öğretiyordu annemiz babamız bize. Ama şimdi maşallah bakıyorum yeğenlerime. Hem annesi yanına yiyecekleri koyuyor, hem orda alıyor, hem ekstra parası oluyor. Yani garip şeyler bunlar bizim için. Bizim zamanımızda böyle değildi dünya.

English translation:

Then I started primary school. I attended the same school for five years, Salim Güven Primary School. I continued with the same teacher throughout. Our class was pretty crowded; there were 30, 35, 40 people. And our principal changed while we were in third grade. Then smocks were phased out. Something called a "school uniform" came. Other schools wore smocks; we found [started to wear] a school uniform. Brown skirt, white buttoned blouse, brown necktie; they made us wear a necktie at such a young age.

But a lot of people didn't have the means to buy their uniforms; they were really expensive. The uniform was even more expensive than the high school uniforms. In fact, the school had an agreement with the firm manufacturing (them). Then . . . now, for example, I have a photograph from primary school, a photograph of the whole class. I am looking at the photograph now; half with an apron, half with a uniform . . . that is, it's a weird photograph.

Then there was also this notion of a snack bar, something I clearly remember. We would buy *simit*¹ and soda pop. Then there were glass (bottles) of coke, glass (bottles) of soda pop. I mean, we would buy *simit* and soda pop, *simit* and soda pop, or *simit* and buttermilk, *simit* and water.

There were things like that. I mean, I never had any extra money. The only way I could save would be by thinking, like, if I didn't eat *simit*, if I didn't drink this, then I would be able to save money. Our parents were teaching us how to be economical. But now, for example, *maşallah*, I look at my nephews and nieces. Their mom sends food with them; they also buy [food] there, and they also have extra money. I mean, these things are weird for us. The world was not like this in our time.

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.

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¹ Sesame pastry