

Turkish transcript:

Zeliha: Peki yemeklerden bahset biraz. Öğlen yemeği oluyor dedin, akşam yemeği oluyor dedin. Okulun kendi yemekhanesi vardı herhalde?

Mine: Evet herkes yatılı okumak zorunda olduğu için okul herkese yemek veriyordu. Öğretmenler de bizimle yemek yiyordu. Öğretmenler de yerleşkede yani kampüste kalıyordu.

Yemekler her sene yemek ihalesi olduğu için, her sene alan, yemek ihalesini alan şirkete göre değişiyordu. Bazı seneler güzel şirket alıyordu, bazı seneler kötü şirket alıyordu. Yemek yani mesala ilk başladığım sene ve son sene gayet güzeldi yemekhane. Ayrıca son sene olunca, galiba bu Türkiye'deki bütün okullarda var, lise sonlar bir nevi okulun şahı oluyor. Böyle her istediği yapılıyor, ÖSS stresi var üzerimizde falan diye, ya da üniversite stresi, çünkü bizim okulda SAT'lere girenler de vardı. Böyle yemekhaneden istediğimiz yemeği istediğimiz saatte alabiliyorduk, yemek saatleri dışında da, nazımız geçiyordu. Sonra geç saatlere kadar çalışanlar olduğunda, öğretmenlerin lojmanlarına gidip öğretmenim biz açız falan diyip, tabi öğretmenine göre, öğretmenler bize börekler yapıyordu, dolmalar yapıyordu falan.

Hatta coğrafya öğretmenimiz bizim annemiz gibiydi Fatma hanım, sürekli bize börekler yapıp, çağırırdı evine.

English translation:

Zeliha: Well, tell us a little bit about the food. You said there's lunch, there's dinner. The school had its own cafeteria, it seems?

Mine: Yes. Since everyone had to be boarded, the school gave everyone food. The teachers ate with us. The teachers also lived on campus.

Since there was a food auction every year, whoever won the food auction every year took it.¹ It changed every year. Some years, a nice company got it; other years, a bad company got it. For example, food was very good in my first year, and the cafeteria [in my] last year. Also, when you are a senior -- I think this is the same in all schools in Turkey -- the seniors are treated as the *shahs* of the school. Whatever they want is done, because they have the stress of the national university entrance exam (or the stress of college [applications], because in our school there were those who also entered² the SAT exam.) We could get any food we wanted from the cafeteria, at

¹ i.e., "took charge of the cafeteria"

² i.e., "took"

whatever hour we wanted, at times other than usual meal times; our capriciousness was accepted. Then when some people¹ worked until late at night, they would go to the teachers' flat [and] say that they were hungry or something like that. The teachers made us *börek*² and *dolma*. In fact, our geography teacher was like a mother to us, Ms. Fatma . . . she would invite us to her house and make us *börek*.

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 Lit., “When there were those who...”

² Flaky pastry filled with cheese, meat, potatoes or vegetables.