

### Yemeni Arabic transcript:

ل: أربعة وتسعين، بدأت الحرب، حرب الانفصال. بدؤا يعني.. جابوا أسلحة أصحاب الجنوب و عملوا لهم حزب وبدؤا يضربوا على الشماليين والشماليين جابوا قواتهم كله وكانوا يضربوا.. أذكر الحرب كان عمري أربع سنين. و بعدين يعني كانوا الناس يموتوا في الشارع. أذكر في واحد من الجيران كان ماشي في الشارع و بعدين فجأة أجت قنبلة انفجرت في الشارع و الشظايا .. وبعدين مش إلا قنبلة القنبلة لما تتفجر الشظايا تروح في كل مكان- الشظايا أخرقت دخلت على ظهره و دحين معد يقدرش حتى يمشي، مايقدرش يتحرك. حقه النظام العصبي كله دخلت في العمود الفقري. يعني أبي كان ماشي كان ماشي في الطريق في الحافة و لو أنه ما لفش فاته كمان كان واحد من ضحايا الشظايا.. أول ما لف انفجرت القنبلة. يعني أتخيلي كنا في البيت أني كان بتجي شظية فيبي.. كنت أعب أني و أخي في .. كنا في السقف كنا في آخر دور.. و السقف مفتوح . كنا جالسين نلعب و عادي وكنا.. كنت عمري أربع سنين و هو عمره ثلاث سنين. و كنا نلعب و عادي ما فيش حاجة إلا فجأة صوت إنفجار. أفتجعنا رجعنا رحنا على طول جرينا لا داخل.. و نحنا نجري، شطنا شظية واجبه على طول على مستوى راسي.. فايش استوى... كنا داخلين على داخل مش عارفة ان نحنا المفروض نوطي لأنه أول ما تشوفي رصاصة ولا شي لازم نوطي.. ما تقدرش تسقي الرصاصة و أنتي تجري و نحنا مش عارفين كنا نجري نعم بنسبق الرصاصة و سبحان الله يعني لو ما كانتش في.. كان في زي الخشبة في الارض. ما شفتهاش.. كنت أجري و أخي يجري بعدي - هههه خليه يموت... و بعدين ما شفتش الخشبة و اتحنجلت بالخشبة و سقطت و أخي اتحنجل معي و سقط فوقي .. و الشظية جزعت من نفس المستوى حيث ما كنا نجري.. من نفس مستوى ريوسنا و دخلت في الجدار و خزقت الجدار... يعني سبحان الله كيف أنه كان مكتوب لنحننا عمر.. ولا لو ما كناش لو ما سقطناش فاته أخي دخلت الرصاصة في راسه.

### English translation:

L: In 1994, the civil war broke out. I mean, people of the South brought some guns and formed a party and started firing against the Northerners. The Northerners used all their forces and fired back. I remember the war; I was four years old. People were dying in the streets. I remember one of our neighbors was walking in the street, and suddenly a bomb exploded. When a bomb explodes its shrapnel pieces spread everywhere. A [piece of] shrapnel went through his back and now he is paralyzed; he can't move. It went through his spinal cord and damaged his nerve system. My father was walking in the neighborhood, too. If he hadn't turned [in]to the next street he would have been one of the war victims. Once he turned [on]to the next street, the bomb exploded.

I mean imagine, my brother and I were playing on our house roof—we used to live in the top floor—and the roof was open. I was four years old and he was three years old. We were just playing, and suddenly the sound of an explosion broke out. We panicked and rushed inside; while we were running into the house we saw shrapnel approaching at the level of my head. We didn't know that we should get down, because if there is shooting you should get down. You can't beat the bullet by running in front of it; we thought that we could exceed the shrapnel. *SubhanAllah*<sup>1</sup>, there was a piece of wood on the floor that I didn't see. I was running and my brother was running behind me. I didn't see a piece of wood and I tripped and fell down with my brother. The shrapnel passed exactly through the level of our heights and reached the wall and made a hole in it. *SubhanAllah*, we weren't meant to die that day because if we hadn't fallen down the shrapnel would have killed my brother.

<sup>1</sup> SubhanAllah: an Islamic phrase used to express exclamation.

**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 every day. 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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