

# Oral History Kosovo

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**Interviewer:** Can you tell me a little about your childhood, what kind of childhood you had?

**Narrator:** I was born in Batllava, my family is there. Not my parents, but family, my brothers and everyone else. We had a good childhood, it was good. With those conditions like the parents, the children, good. We didn't have very hard conditions because we know what it was like then, but good. For example, we finished school hours, we went home, we did housework which our mother assigned us, but she didn't make us work too hard like other mothers. Not like some mother who just gave all the work to their children, "You have to do this. But if you want, if you don't..." But we were interested and our conscience didn't allow us to stay and look at our mother working. We dealt with work whenever they gave it to us. We dealt with work, we came home on schedule. We were never late, everything was okay.

**Interviewer:** What kind of work did you do?

**Narrator:** Housework, but I also worked the land, for example, for work in the garden. You know, helped our parents, we didn't go out much, we didn't see the city much, because we went out rarely. No, no, because back then people talked, the village was different from the city. And for example, we had the lake near the house, we didn't see it much. "No, you can't, they will say she went to the lake, you can't, she's not polite." (laughs) Do you understand? There were some primitive things.

**Interviewer:** Can you swim?

**Narrator:** Yes, yes, because the river was near, in the river. But we didn't go to the lake much because, "We're religious, if people see you," for example, "at the lake." And we stopped ourselves and did what they told us to. Because we know how it was back then, but good, good.

**Interviewer:** What did your father do?

**Narrator:** My father was a farmer, with land, garden, all of these. He reached his goal and took care of us financially, with food and everything, natural, everything. And it wasn't bad.

**Interviewer:** What about your mother?

**Narrator:** My mother, housework, and garden, like all of us.

**Interviewer:** Which of your parents were you closer to?

**Narrator:** I was closer to my mother.

**Interviewer:** Why?

**Narrator:** Well, I don't know, women are more sensitive and understand some things, also more sensitive. I had a very upright mother, she educated us, she always taught us good, not bad. And we took their education and did what they advised us to do. Not, for example, today, some don't like those, even though we were right. When they said something, that's what we did, there weren't any, for example, doubts why do that. We tried to stick to that and that's it. But even though my parents are dead now, I'm thankful to them. I pray that God blessed them with heaven, "They have taught us such good lessons, education..." Because I kept them with me until now and until the day I die, I will never give up the good.

**Interviewer:** Tell me, do you have siblings?

**Narrator:** Yes, I have four brothers, two sisters.

**Interviewer:** Which one were you closest to?

**Narrator:** I was closest to my younger sister, she is 18 months younger than me, we were like twins. Whoever saw us didn't know we were twins.

**Interviewer:** Are you still that close?

**Narrator:** Well, she got married, she lived in England for twelve years. But because of the children, they didn't want to leave them there, they came back and live in the Prugovc village. We're still in contact, of course, not like before because we both have obligations. But, we still have that love, that... we can't do without each other.

**Interviewer:** Tell me, what kind of child were you?

**Narrator:** A very polite child, very educated. In school, I only finished elementary school because I had to travel, even though I was very excited to continue my education but I couldn't because I had to travel, there were no bus lines. So I couldn't, but school was my dream. I could have done it because I was a very active child. I took parts in plays, I was the best singer, reciting. And this is where I am today, I couldn't reach my potential, do you understand, reach my goal, it's hard. But I like women who are educated, independent, I really like it and I feel very good, very content when I see them.