

Oral History Kosovo

Interviewer: When did you get married, how old were you?

Narrator: I was married in '97.

Interviewer: How old were you?

Narrator: I was 24 years old.

Interviewer: How did you decide to get married?

Narrator: How did I decide, I was indecisive, even though we were known as women who were polite, from a good family. I was very indecisive, because I thought the person you spend the rest of your life with is important. This is the most important thing in a person's life. I always hoped I'd find someone like me, maybe not like me, but approximately, a man who... But it's not bad, moral over everything.

Interviewer: Did you meet him yourself, or did someone introduce you to him?

Narrator: He is my best friend's cousin, and it wasn't that I liked him much, but his behavior made me go out with him and meet him... according to what she said.

Interviewer: Was it hard to change the place?

Narrator: A little I liked the city more, because we struggled with some work, we were more engaged, for example, to gather grass, and this, that, do you understand? And I said that... I was a very clean person, and I wanted to find work inside the house, not outside, you know? And we had to do everything, also outside of the house. And I said that it is important to be a good person, a good marriage, someone like that. But I liked the city more, because I knew there wasn't as much work, shortly, yes.

Interviewer: Tell me, how did you come from your family into a new family?

Narrator: It was very hard.

Interviewer: Explain it to me.

Narrator: It was very hard for me, because we're respectful. I had to wake up early in the morning, serve coffee to all family members.

Interviewer: How many were there?

Narrator: We were seven. And I had to...

Interviewer: Who was, tell me who did you live with?

Narrator: We lived, only one of my brothers-in-law didn't live with us, because all my husband's family members lived there.

Interviewer: Your father-in-law, your mother-in-law?

Narrator: My father-in-law died before I got there, my mother-in-law, my sons-in-law, their children, my sister-in-law. She got married after me, I got married on May 18, my sister-in-law got married after the new year. So, we were all there. God forbid speaking, I never spoke, no matter what you saw, or if someone said something to you, I pretended not to hear, not to see. This was how I was because my mother educated me and said, "No matter what, you just have to say good things and treat them with respect. And don't talk." The time was also like that, but my conscience didn't let me, everyone for themselves and I am who I am, I grew up in that family, I have my family's education and I can't.

Interviewer: Was it hard for you?

Narrator: It was hard. Today, for example, my daughter tells me about some things, now that she grew up and understands life more or less. She says, "Mom, how could you? I can't do it. I know you never spoke. No matter if someone said something to you, or they bothered you, you never spoke, I can't. You are my mother, I know what kind of a mother I have, but I can't do that." For example, yes.

Interviewer: Do you regret being like that?

Narrator: No, I never regret being good. Anyway, everyone for themselves, we have God.