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Erasmus+ KA220-SCH Strategic Partnership in School Education

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DIGITAL COMICS OF MIGRATION

[2023-1-TR01-KA220-SCH-000166103]

INTERVIEWS

YILDIZ TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY



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Nickname: K1

Gender: Female

Age: 35

Marital status: Married

Number of children: 4

Children ages: 13, 10, 6, 4

Place of residence: Bağcılar, Istanbul

1. How did you decide to migrate?

We escaped from the war. We were in Aleppo. We went to the village. We had our own villages. Living conditions were very difficult there too. That's why we decided to come here to Istanbul. Our village is Kadra, Kadih village. There was no security there either. There was also a lot of financial difficulties.

2. Could you explain your pre-migration process?

a. What did you experience?

First there was the war. I'm from Aleppo, it was out there. There was also Bera. There was also Laskiye. Then the war spread to Aleppo. We ran away on the first day of Ramadan. So we had to escape. Planes and helicopters arrived. He threw bombs. The two armies, free from the Syrian army, fought each other. There was a war, a conflict.

b. How did you prepare?

We first said we would stay for 3-4 months and return. We came to Aleppo with a term decision. We are not here to stay forever. We always came with the hope of returning. But even now there is no security there. There is life in the villages, but there is no medi(money). We are releasing a lot of money. That's how they get by. No job, no livelihood. We send money there. Aleppo is still in Assad's hands, but those who did not interfere with the free army are returning. It's no problem for them, they can return. But we cannot return. We have no life security. My brother escaped from the military at the age of 19. He also ran away because his life was not safe. His escape meant a lot to us. If we go to Syria, we will be arrested. My brother also escaped. We hid it at home in Syria. But there were Assad's soldiers outside. We hid it at home. We had nowhere else to hide it. He was 19 years old, he was just a kid. I was 22 years old. We were in fear every second. It was unclear when they would come home and take my brother away. If they caught us, they would kill us all. Not just my brother. We were all in danger. We had nowhere to hide it. Sometimes I think. Do people hide in their homes? There is no other place. He had nowhere to hide. We hid it there. When my brother escaped, they tortured and killed all of his friends. He escaped, he survived. But they all died under torture. He showed me his photos. They died under torture. Now my brother went to Germany. He lives in Germany. We are nine siblings. We are each on a side. I don't see anyone. Some are in Germany, some are in the village, some are in Antep. My parents are in the village. It was the third of Ramadan. We fasted. We got up, it was nine o'clock. Planes are in the air, bombs are falling. We immediately arranged a bus or something. We didn't fit. We are a large family. They put the women on the bus. They left the men. We went to the village. My wife and my wife's siblings stayed there. They were stuck in the middle of the war, in the middle of the conflict, for a day or two. Then they found a vehicle or something and came. We couldn't help it, we had to run away. We lived in the village for 3-4 months. Once again, we had to go back under those bombs due to financial difficulties. Bombs were falling every day. Our neighbors



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are dying. We lived under it again. My wife also worked as a shoemaker. We couldn't sleep because of the constant sound of bombs. It would fall every second, every minute. Just like Gaza. People would die. Some of our neighbors also died. We lost a lot. The reason why Syrians are here: financial difficulties. Nobody wants to leave their country. So it's different there. I'm here at home all day. I don't see my relatives, my siblings, my mother there. But why am I here? There is no livelihood there. That's why we're here. Now, if we could make a living there and have a source of money, we would return immediately.

c. How did you plan?

We had to escape. We were caught in the middle of a conflict. We had no safety of life. We decided to return to the villages. When we return to the villages, there is no livelihood, no work. We had a lot of difficulty financially. I lived in the village for about a year. Then we looked. Aleppo will not recover. We won't be able to go again. The Assad army has arrived, it is not safe for us to go. My brothers also joined the free army. Since your brother joined the army, you are also considered guilty there. That's why we came to Turkey. We came this way. We decided to live here.

d. What did you feel?

We were very scared. It was the heat of July. It was Ramadan. I don't know what date it was in July.

e. Why did you choose this country?

They said there are jobs in Turkey and Istanbul. Where can we go? Others did not do anything to the border, the countries did not open the gates. There was a border with Iraq. The others did not open it. We couldn't go there even if we wanted to. It's very difficult to pass. We and our children crossed the border easily. Thanks to Türkiye, it did something, that is, opened the doors. We had a good time.

3. Could you explain your immigration process?

a. What transportation methods did you use?

We came on foot. We are already at the border. Our villages are already Turkmen. Turkmen villages. Everyone there speaks Turkish anyway. Our great-grandmothers don't even know Arabic, they speak Turkish there. We learned to speak Arabic at school. We already see the lights of Turkey's villages, Nizip villages, on the border. A village appears to us there. Very close. We passed by on foot. We walked for 10-15 minutes. We crossed the border. From there we got in the car. To the bus station. From there we came to Istanbul.

b. How long was your trip?

It took us 10-15 minutes to cross the border. It took us an hour to reach the bus station. It took us nearly 20 hours to get to Istanbul from the bus station.

c. What did you do on the road?

We were in a constant state of fear. How should I say it? When we come illegally, people become anxious again. You are in a state you know nothing about. We love Turkey very much. We used to watch Turkish TV series all the time. We loved Turkey. I was dreaming of coming to Istanbul, but I wouldn't have imagined it like this. I used to dream of coming for a walk, but no one wants to come like this. Leaving a state and coming like this. Who did you travel with?

Me, my wife, my wife's brother. As a woman, I was alone. There were three or four men. My wife had siblings. My aunt had children. They were all our relatives. I was the only woman.



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d. What difficulties did you encounter?

We came in 2013. I lived in the war for about 1.5-2 years. I lived under bombs. We came later. We couldn't find any bread. Life was very difficult there. Life was very difficult in Aleppo. You can't find bread, you can't find gas, there is no electricity. My son, who is 13 years old, was a little kid there, about 1 year old. We had a hard time. We couldn't find milk. We couldn't find diapers.

e. What did you feel?

Here you are in a panic. Will they stop it? If they ask you, you don't have an ID. Here we are in these difficult conditions.

i. How did your family members feel?

We are all our first goal; We would work a little and return to Syria. Our dreams were like this. We said we would work, there would be some money, and the war would stop by then. Because in other countries the war did not last very long. It's the Arab Spring. It took us a long time in Syria. The others gathered immediately. Although not immediately, they recovered within a year or two. Only our country took this long. And we said: It doesn't matter in our country, the war is over, we will return immediately.

4. Did you stop in any other country during your trip?

No. We came directly to Turkey. But we had relatives who went to other countries. We had relatives who went to Germany and the Netherlands. My aunt went to Canada. Many people left here.

a. How long did it take?

It took us 10-15 minutes to cross the border. It took us approximately 20 hours to arrive in Istanbul.

b. What did you experience on the road?

My oldest son was around 1 year old. So we did something by fasting. I didn't break my fast either. I didn't want to spoil it. There were people who spoiled it, but I didn't want to spoil it. I said, if I die, let me die fasting. We got on the bus crammed together. We got on the 20-person bus with 30-40 children. You know, we're done. We cooked until we had traveled that hour or two.

c. Who did you travel with?

My wife, my wife's siblings, my aunt's children.

d. What difficulties did you experience?

Nizam, Assad has an army. We were experiencing great fear while passing through them. They are stopping you. They ask for ID etc. We went towards the village. There he comes back to the border. There is a free army. He also asks you. Where do you come from, who are you? That is, in difficult conditions.

e. What did you feel?

We were experiencing great fear.

5. Who migrated with you? / Have all your family members emigrated?

a. What can you say about this?

No. My mother, my siblings, my older sister are there. But there is no living there. We are releasing money from here to those who are there. My wife's brother gives money to my mother-in-law from here. That's how they get by there. Some of his trees are pistachio trees, but he cannot manage them. It's very expensive there. They spend Turkish money, it's the same there too. Syrian currency is no longer valid. Here it is very expensive. It's just as expensive as Istanbul.

b. What was this experience like?



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When you are in Syria it is different, when you are in this world it feels like you have entered a different world. This is how it feels to me now. I feel like my life there is a different world, my life here is a different world. Everything is different. The streets are different. People are different. Is your house there different from your house here? Yes, it's different. Our house there is two-storey, just like Antep houses. Our Aleppo is very similar to Antep. It was our lowest shop. It was built on two floors on top. My mother's house was the same. Before the war, our life there was very good. No one would live in a rented house. Everyone had a home. It's very nice here too, but there is rent. It is very difficult to rent. If I want to move somewhere else when I leave home, I have four children. My oldest child has autism, meaning he is disabled. That's why it's so hard to find a house. When there is a building, there is always sound. I now live in a slum. There is no problem here. I wanted to go here because my child has autism. Otherwise, the neighbors will be disturbed by the child's voice. I'm a little more comfortable here now. Single storey. There is also one outran below. He is also Syrian, so there is no problem now. But once you leave a house, it's very difficult for me. Was your clothing style the same? I was off. It was the same. 15-16 year old kids wear trousers and stuff. But we, 30-35 year olds, have not changed our dresses, skirts and topcoats.

6. How would you describe the post-migration process?

a. How did you settle in?

I first came to İkitelli. An unfurnished house. There was only a seat. We sat on that chair for like two months. We slept on that couch. Thanks to the neighbors, they were hospitable.

b. Did you get help? From whom? How?

Neighbors gave him carpets, curtains, etc. They helped. Someone gave me TVs and stuff. They were very helpful. We repaired the house with help. My wife was also working. He gave rent. He gave a deposit or something. We had no money left. The holiday had come. They gave him furniture, carpets, plates, etc.

c. How did you feel when you arrived in your new country?

Sometimes people become bitter. A part of the person must have remained there. Even though the conditions are difficult, people stay where they are used to. Just like a flower. If you move the flower now, it will fade. So, no matter how many things happened, we got used to that place. So we loved it there. It is very beautiful in Turkey. We love Turkey very much, but our country is definitely different. Whenever there was a funeral, we would see all the people. Now my father-in-law is dead. We couldn't even go to his funeral. There are deaths in Syria, we do not see them. Now, God forbid, if my parents die, I will not be able to see them. They are in Syria. Old people. You come and live here knowing all this. There's nothing we can do. I don't know, it's hard.

d. What are the advantageous aspects of migration?

The kids go to school. The school is very good. The school system is very good. There was beating in our Syria. They used to beat me in the first grade. I was a very successful student. I was always second in my class. There would be sound. They enter the classroom. They would hit the children with rods from beginning to end. I wouldn't make a sound either. I would study in class. But I would still get beaten. They are very bad at beating. They were beating the children a lot. Our children do not receive beatings here. The education system is very good here. There the children would finish the sixth grade. My friends finished sixth



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grade but couldn't write their names. If you worked at home and succeeded, you were successful. Teachers wouldn't make anything work. The system was very bad. But it's not like that here. My son goes to school. My daughter is going to kindergarten. The system is very good by the school. Education is very good here. It is also good economically. We had a house there, but there was no job. There was no work before the war. And bread. Even my father used to plant wheat there for bread. For flour. Ovens were prohibited there. There would only be one bakery in such a huge neighborhood. People would go to the bakery at six o'clock. They wait for the oven until twelve. They buy bread. Bread was very hard there. Why would they do that? I don't know that either. When you want bread here, you can go to the grocery store and buy it from the bakery. Bread was very difficult there.

e. What are the disadvantages of migration?

A person loses his homeland. It's because of their loved ones. It comes from his family and neighbors. Sometimes I call my mother. I ask about my neighbors. What happened to so and so, what happened to our neighbor? The children grew up and got married.

7. Have you encountered cultural barriers?

a. Food

Even the bread we eat is very different. Our bread is similar to lavash bread, our bread is different. When I first came, I also got pregnant with a child. I couldn't eat. How can I say it, everything is organic there. Eggs taste very different. Meat: mutton, chicken. There is whatever you want. Yogurt. If I could, I could salute you, the food there is very different, very delicious. Everything is organic. You milk the sheep and do everything at home. The chicken lays eggs outside, you bring it in, cook it and eat it. I came here. I couldn't eat for like a year. The food here seemed to me like it was drugged or hormonal.

b. Access to cultural events

Cultures are similar. We are also Turkmen and their culture is similar. Our cultures are similar. There is no difference.

c. Entertainment

Weddings are the same. We also hold weddings in such a wedding hall. It is similar as a wedding, as a henna night, as a culture.

d. Sport

8. How did you feel after migration?

a. Culture, society, etc. Do you feel integrated with?

I am a person who does not go out. Even if I go out, people are still nice. Neighbors are nice. Because I have an autistic child, I cannot go out of the house much. But they are good.

b. Do you feel accepted?

I don't know Arabs. If I speak Turkish, they accept me. But I can't say anything on behalf of the Arabs. They speak Arabic. I think it's harder for them.

c. What are your opinions about the local people?

i. Supporters?

Not all of them support it. There are also those who support it. There are also those who do not support it. They are right, they are very right about this rent issue. There are no houses for rent. We Syrians came. We have also made rents difficult here. If so many people from abroad and Iraq came to my state, maybe I would oppose it too.



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ii. Did they help you? How?

I came to İkitelli. An unfurnished house. There was only a seat. We sat on that chair for like two months. We slept on that couch. Thanks to the neighbors, they were hospitable.

iii. Did you experience difficulties?

Business is off. My wife could not work. Thank goodness the neighbors helped us.

9. Have you experienced differences in your family after immigration?

a. Would immigration change your family relationships? How?

Inevitably, there was a change. We were together all day before. If I wasn't gone for a week, my mother would call me. We would miss it. It's been seven or eight years now. I didn't see my family. We talked via video or something. But it seems like there is no longing left. I also forgot to miss you. I forgot that feeling too. I also forgot the feeling of longing. Inevitably, it changed.

b. Has immigration changed your family routines? How?

Everyone would come together. We would see everyone. Our friends and neighbors are always together. We used to joke. We would sit. We would spend time. The children were playing outside all day. It was very easy to raise children there. Children played outside. It's different here. Here, my brother's house is in Güngören. I can't go every six months. It is very difficult on the bus with children. You can't leave the kids outside. It's dangerous here.

10. How did you start a new life in a different country?

We established it, we had to establish it. We're just a little bit better financially here. You have to. If we had work there, all our Syrians would go. There are also those who leave. My aunt's family went to Syria the other day. There were about fifty people. They all returned. They returned, but there was no electricity there, only water. The taps are broken. They took videos of the streets etc. They sent us their images. It is in ruins. So I don't know how they will live either. They wanted to go back, so they went. Very difficult.

11. How do you communicate with family or friends in your hometown?

We only meet on the phone.

a. How many times a year do you see family and/or friends in your hometown?

We have a video call with my family every two or three days. With my mother, my sisters, my family, my brother. I can't see you every day.

12. Has immigration changed you? How?

I think he changed it. It's like I'm not the old me. Life seems more empty. We lived there before. We live here now. I think it was better to live there. A person's state is different, his homeland is different. It's nice here, it's okay, but a person belongs wherever he was born. Inevitably, I search there more and more. Even the weather there is different. It is hot. There is moisture, humidity here. Because it's the sea.

a. Has immigration changed your family members? How?

I think he changed it. People have become more distant here. Since it was far away, they had to keep their distance. Everyone is sitting far away. Everyone was closer there. The houses were in ruins. That's better. We would gather and talk. Everyone is far away here. Inevitably, they became distant. I think they've changed.

13. What do you think about immigration policies? What are your opinions/comments?



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We also received an offer. Because my son is disabled, you can go to Europe if you want. We received an offer from Spain. So that you can come. It's been 6 years. We refused. If it was Germany or something, we would go. I have a brother there. I have no one in Spain. My wife wanted to go, but I didn't want to go. At least we are Muslims here. I'm closed here. It would be harder for me to be confined there. Here, at least somewhere on the street, I don't feel like a stranger. I can also speak Turkish. Many people are also closed here. In my opinion, being covered up in Spain would be a visual problem.

I think it was good. Nizam and Assad army came to Aleppo. I think if it had reached the villages; There would be a lot of death. He would kill. He was unforgiving. There were people who joined the army. The children of people who loved Assad ran away from the military again. Because he ran away to live. Even if you loved Assad, if your child ran away there, he would still kill you. I think if Türkiye had not opened the doors, there would have been a lot of massacres. There would be a lot of massacre. He came all the way to Aleppo. The distance between Aleppo and the villages is about half an hour. 50 kilometers or so. I think there would be a lot of carnage. There would be a lot of death.

a. How can you make this country better? What are your ideas?

My opinion; In most places there, they provide Turkish ambulances and Turkish ID cards. They gave me an ID valid for Syrians. Students take Turkish lessons. They take one or two lessons of Turkish. I think I used to think about that all the time. If we had Turkish hands there, that is, if the Turks could enter and exit as they wish, we could enter and exit as we wish. In fact, these people coming from Turkey are people coming from there. They haven't come from our area yet, from Laskiye. Those parties went to Murid. They went to Lebanon. They went to other places. Then there will be no Türkiye-Syria problem. Syrians also decrease. Even if Turkish businessmen go and do business there, there are a lot of empty people there. He doesn't work, he sits idle. Onsar works there. He wins in Turkey too. Syrians win there too. I'm thinking about this. My brother is also in the Turkish army. The army also receives Turkey's salary. He is commanding. But now there is no security there again. It is not clear when he will die. By attack. There is PKK there. It would be very good economically. All Syrians will return. Even if we go back there, Nizam will kill us. He put lines on every house there. There are crosses and lines in our house. My wife has it at my father's house. He wants to say "No problem, come" to the houses that are not marked with a cross. But most people like us have a cross at home. So we have no life security. I think Türkiye would move there, I wish something like this would happen. There is work, there is life, there is life opportunity.

14. Is this place different than you expected?

It was the same as I expected. I knew Turkey very well from television. From TV series or something. We grew up with Turkish cinema. We grew up with Turkey's TV series and movies. It wasn't the same as in the movies, but I knew it. So it didn't feel different. They're just a series. But I knew Turkey. I also knew him in speech. Normally we were speaking Turkmen. We also knew how to speak from television. We didn't have any difficulty, but I can't say anything about the Arab island. We Turkmens were not forced. Arabs were forced.

15. Do you want to return to your hometown?

If there is life safety, if there is job opportunity. Why not? We will return. Even now there is no financial opportunity. It's a tough life. There are people who



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return even though they know this. They are fed up. For example, he has no family. Loneliness and being abroad is difficult. There's a lot of going around. I hear, they are leaving. My aunt's family is gone, now they are afraid there too. Because their sons will be drafted into the military. They could be drafted into the military for 10 years. If a 30-year-old person serves in the military for 10 years, he will be able to quit at the age of 40. Still they went.

16. What dreams do you have for the future?

a. Where do you see yourself in the future?

I see myself in Syria in the future. It will be safe there.

b. What kind of world do you imagine?

I don't know. They already want to divide Syria. We even agree with this. Does anyone want their homeland to be divided? We even agree with this. If it were divided, at least we would be comfortable. We go to our homeland. Let Turkey take those sides. No problem. Better than never leaving. We have no life security. If it stays like this, we can never go. I hope Türkiye will become a strong state. If so, we will go to our homeland happily. We go voluntarily.

17. What do you think when you see immigrants from a different country?

I think it came from financial difficulties. I'm just thinking about it. Because no person leaves his homeland. He leaves because of financial difficulties. Also for life safety. If there is no war, they may have come to their place due to financial difficulties. They have no spouse. I see Afghans here. I've never seen a female afghan. I have not seen it in Afghan children. It's just young people, collecting papers and stuff. There is one in our neighborhood too. 30 people stay in one house. I think they came because of financial difficulties. Why would they leave their spouses and families and come? They are in a worse situation than us.

18. What advice would you give to people who are planning/thinking about migrating?

In my opinion, if there is nothing wrong in your homeland, if there is no war, if your life is not in danger, if you are not in a very difficult financial situation, I would not recommend it at all. How long is the lifespan of human beings anyway? You live like 70 years. Now you don't live to be 70 years old. He wants to live in his homeland. I think you should keep it. I wouldn't recommend it at all. Because everything is changing. Your grocery store is changing. Your house is changing. Your market is changing. Your family is changing. Everything is changing. I think this is a difficult thing for people. How should I put it, even when a house is changed, one gets emotional. Sometimes I even get emotional when I change my house. I look at my house and my rooms for the last time. Even though I don't have my own home, I still get emotional. One should change one's own homeland. Ours has been a gradual process. We didn't know. We said we would go, we would come. We make money, we come back. Little by little we found it here. It would be very difficult if it happened suddenly. Just like in Palestine, they took the keys and left when Israel came. But they still kept the key. I saw it. They keep memories. It's the same with us. We took our keys and left. We still have the keys to our houses in Aleppo. Hoping we return. We didn't even take our belongings. I was married for two years. I had a lot of stuff. They all stayed there. I only used it for two years. We brought our summer clothes with us for summer. We didn't get anything else. We left and went. Everything we have is there.



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Nickname: K2

Gender: Male

Age: 28

Marital status: Married

Number of children: 2

Child ages: Daughter 5 years old and son 3 years old

Place of residence: Bağcılar, Istanbul - Türkiye

1. How did you decide to migrate?

We decided because of the war. So we had to migrate. We came here to Turkey. We had to do this because of the war. When did you come to Turkey, what year was it? I came in 2013. Did you come after the war started? Yes, Syria's war started in 2011. Now, when we made this decision, our entire neighborhood was destroyed. Long-range rockets had crashed. That's why we had to leave our country. We came to Turkey as refugees.

2. Could you explain your pre-migration process?

a. What did you experience?

So we never saw any sleep during the war. We couldn't sleep. We were afraid of airplane sounds. A lot. Long-range rockets crashing. From people screaming and shouting. It has been a very difficult process in these two years. But when we came to Turkey, this fear was gradually overcome. Thank god.

b. How did you prepare?

It happened suddenly. Have you packed your belongings? We came with only the clothes we were wearing. We had nothing else. You said you were going straight to the road immediately, did you start like that? Uh-huh, yes.

c. How did you plan?

It happened suddenly. We set off directly.

d. What did you feel?

I mean, it's hard for a person to leave his country like this all of a sudden, but there's nothing we can do about it. So we obliged to.

e. Why did you choose this country?

This country is the first because it is a Muslim country. Secondly, it has become like the border of our country. It was the closest country. Also, I had been to Turkey a few times before these wars broke out. It's a very beautiful country. That's why we chose Turkey. And Türkiye opened its doors. To the refugees, to us, the Syrians, because of the war. You can come. That's why we came to Turkey.

3. Could you explain your immigration process?

a. What transportation methods did you use?

When we hit the road, I think our family is the only one. We came to the border, so there were thousands of people. Everyone is waiting at the border, waiting for their turn. Thanks to Türkiye, the country opened its doors to us. And he took it. So, I have been in Turkey for almost 11-12 years. We came on foot. After crossing the border, we came by bus. First the church dispersed, then our people dispersed. Some of them came to Istanbul. Some are from Antep. Some are Hatay. We dispersed. Did you stay in Kils for a long time? I am from Kilis. I came to Istanbul in 2018. I stayed in Kilis for almost 4-5 years.

b. How long was your trip?

I can't tell exactly. It took days. So it took quite a day? Yes.



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c. What did you do on the road?

We passed through villages on our way from Aleppo to Turkey. In other words, everywhere except the village has been destroyed. There is no village left.

d. Who did you travel with?

There were people we knew and didn't know, namely our relatives. Some have babies in their arms. She only has the babies' clothes. In other words, the people you see there came with only the clothes they were wearing. His only concern is clothes, not money. It was to save his life or the lives of his children. So is ours. For example, when I came here to Turkey, I was 28 years old. If we fall by 11 years, I am 17-18 years old. I also have siblings. My father made such a decision to avoid any harm to them. So we said okay. For our brothers, for ourselves. We chose migration to avoid endangering ourselves.

to.

e. What difficulties did you encounter?

If we are talking about the cold, let me underline it from the very beginning. So everyone came out with the clothes they were wearing. Cold, rain, mud. Was it winter? Yes. Now, while we were on that road, there was someone who came to help. Some were bringing bread, some were bringing food. To these people, to the children. Some also bring tents. The tent is like that to keep it from raining on us.

f. What did you feel?

Fear, fear of death. And staying under the rubble. For example, when our house and our neighborhood are destroyed, I am alone at home. I mean, I still don't believe how I got out of that house. I mean, we experienced something very scary there. What was your home normally like? Our house is a detached house. It was a big spacious house with 3 rooms. When our neighborhood was destroyed, approximately 30-40 houses were destroyed there. One of our relatives' daughter passed away. We have relatives, we have neighbors. Many people died there. So we experienced these terrible things there. We had to take refuge in Turkey.

a. How did your family members feel?

He is afraid of the same thing every time: dying or not being able to save anyone from where we die. No one to save us. For example, there are people living under the rubble. Even if they stay under the rubble, they will die there. This is our biggest fear. Which district did you live in there? We were living in Aleppo.

4. Did you stop in any other country during your trip?

We came to Turkey directly from Aleppo.

a. How long did it take?

It took days. I can't tell.

b. What did you experience on the road?

If we are talking about the cold, let me underline it from the very beginning. So everyone came out with the clothes they were wearing. Cold, rain, mud. Was it winter? Yes. Now, while we were on that road, there was someone who came to help. Some were bringing bread, some were bringing food. To these people, to the children. Some also bring tents. The tent is like that to keep it from raining on us.

c. Who did you travel with?

The whole family emigrated. There is no one left there.

d. What difficulties did you experience?



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Cold, rain, mud.

e. What did you feel?

Fear. Fear of death.

5. Who migrated with you? / Have all your family members emigrated?

My family, my relatives. / They all emigrated.

a. What can you say about this?

It was good for us to emigrate. It was good in every respect. For example, we come here. When the war started in Syria, there was no work, so once a week the bakery opened and we could go and buy bread. Once a week! We buy enough bread to feed a family. We are starving. When we come here, there is everything, there is work. We worked, thank God. We worked, we earned our money. We had our fill. Then we started to take very good steps. Then I got married, for example. I had the opportunity to get married. Thank God, I got married and now I have a wife and two children.

b. What was this experience like?

It was a very good experience.

6. How would you describe the post-migration process?

a. How did you settle in?

When we first came to Turkey, we were sitting in a park. We were sitting in İslambey park, in Kilis. There was a brother who was Turkish. He saw us. The man took us to his house. We stayed there for the night. After that, the man was kept in a house with us. Of course, he paid for it himself. Since we didn't have any money on us, he paid for a month himself. He said, "You work and pay from now on." So we said okay.

b. Did you get help? From whom? How?

There was a lot of help when we first arrived. There is God, now let me tell the truth. Everyone was running to help us. He was running and running. For example, some of the homeless people were bringing tents, some were bringing carpets to those staying in the park. Some were bringing sponge mattresses, some were bringing blankets. Some were bringing food. So that was a lot of help. He also helped the government a lot, thank you.

c. How did you feel when you arrived in your new country?

Life! We felt life. I mean, I never thought for a moment that we would get out of there alive. Not just me, I mean, not just thinking about my own life, but thinking about my whole family. I said we would never get out of here alive. Thank God we got out of there. We came here. Our life is a thousand times better than this war. Our life has become better.

d. What are the advantageous aspects of migration?

It added responsibility to myself. For example, I am responsible now. I have to support a household. I had such an obligation too, but I overcame it. It seems like I don't have such a responsibility, I'm used to it now. Thank God, I am working. My wife also works with me and helps me. Thank you very much. That's why I don't seem to have any problems anymore. I can say that I am at a very good stage right now.

e. What are the disadvantages of migration?

There was nothing negative.

7. Have you encountered cultural barriers?

a. Food



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Some foods are different, for example, we have some dishes that people in Turkey do not know at all. Which ones? We do not know their Turkish names. Noah. This is a dish that Turks do not know. Some people saw it too. They asked, "What kind of food is this?" We fill a plate and give it to them to eat. They like our food very much. Stuffed fillings are also different from ours. Our cooking method is different. Yours is different too. But in the end, stuffing is stuffed. Did you find any food here that was different? Yes. There was only one meal. When I first ate it, I said, "What kind of food is this?" That's Alexander. I only ate here. It wasn't there in Syria. And kokoreç. The desserts are pretty good. I liked it.

b. Access to cultural events

Culture is just culture. What's the difference between here and there? It makes a big difference. For example, before these wars broke out in Syria, breakfast was served early in the morning. Early in the morning. Breakfast is served there at two and three o'clock. For example, let's say dinner is at eight o'clock in Turkey. There at twelve or one o'clock in the evening. Very different culture.

c. Entertainment

The fun is the same.

d. Sport

Sports are the same. Nothing changes.

8. How did you feel after migration?

a. Culture, society, etc. Do you feel integrated with?

No. Years ago yes. But right now no. What is your reason for saying no? Prejudice. For example, let me explain it with an example. You are going to the grocery store. Let's say you will buy a kilo of apples. You pick the apple by choosing it. You don't buy what's broken. There are good people in every country. There are bad people too. For example, let's not say that good people become bad because of bad people. So it's like this. Does society exclude you? Not everyone. Those who do not exclude are few and those who exclude are many. It becomes bad in the future because of these bad people. That's why you don't feel integrated? Exactly.

b. Do you feel accepted?

Those who do not exclude are few and those who exclude are quite many.

c. What are your opinions about the local people?

a. Supporters?

Some yes. So there are few people. There are also Turkish citizens and immigrants.

b. Did they help you? How?

Some did.

c. iii. Did you experience difficulties?

There is no difficulty.

9. Have you experienced differences in your family after immigration?

a. Would immigration change your family relationships? How?

No. The same continued. Do you continue to have family ties? Yes, we are seeing each other.

b. Has immigration changed your family routines? How?

No. The same continued.

10. How did you start a new life in a different country?

When we came to this country, we knew this: If the war does not end in our country, we will stay in different countries. For example, we chose Turkey. When



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I come to Turkey, I have to live the way this country lives. For example, living in Syria doesn't make the same difference, but when I come here, there is a little change. Since I am in this country. I will live by the rules of this country. So we live this way.

11. How do you communicate with family or friends in your hometown?
We talk on the phone.

a. How many times do you see family and/or friends from your hometown during the year?

They live in Kilis. We communicate via video call via WhatsApp. I call and see some of my friends. But some people, where are they, are they alive or dead? We have no information.

12. Has immigration changed you? How?

My sense of responsibility has increased. Other than that, nothing has changed.

a. Has immigration changed your family members? How?

Not everyone has changed the same.

13. What do you think about immigration policies? What are your opinions/comments?

It was very, very good. If it weren't for this country, is there any alternative country you would consider going to? I will not mention Arab countries at all. Because they opened neither their borders nor their doors to us. For him, only Türkiye remained. So we came to Turkey. For example, I have acquaintances. My friends, my relatives. They always went to Germany. They went to Europe. For example, my preference is to never go to Germany or Europe. Why don't you choose those places? The first is Islam. I am a Muslim, thank God. I can pray anywhere. Because there is no Muslim country there. Also, the rules are different. I have friends who went there first. So I'm asking. Everything is closed there after 6 o'clock. For example, I would not prefer it at all because it is a different country and the lifestyles are very different.

a. How can you make this country better? What are your ideas?

So I never thought about it. I have no idea.

14. Is this place different than you expected?

It's a very beautiful country. That's why we chose Turkey. Türkiye opened its doors. To the refugees, to us, the Syrians, because of the war. You can come. That's why we came to Turkey.

15. Do you want to return to your hometown?

In this case no. Because there is no security? Subject to. Let the war end and everything go back to the way it was before. Then I'll be back, yes. But if I go there now. Will I live, will I stay, will the war start again? I wonder if a rocket will fall on my head? This fear. I don't want to go, for fear of security.

16. What dreams do you have for the future?

Everyone has a dream, but when I came to Turkey, my dreams changed. For example, if you ask me right now, what is your dream? My dream is to work, earn money and buy a house. Let me have my own home. Let me own a house. Let me finish my school first. Let me become a professional. I wanted to build my home. When I came here, my dream changed. I got married. But right now I have only one dream. That means working, earning money and buying a house. If I stay here, I'll buy it here. If I cannot get it here, I will get it in Syria if I am sent there.

a. Where do you see yourself in the future?

This question is very difficult. Nowhere.



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b. What kind of world do you imagine?

It was a sudden question. Wars must end and that's what we hope for. Especially because I am Syrian, especially my country. There has been a war in my country for 14 years. It's still not over. It seems like it will never end. So we hope very much. Syrian situation. Of course, wars in other countries should end.

17. What do you think when you see immigrants from a different country? I don't think anything of it, but of course I say this: May God bless Turkey for taking in so many refugees from different countries. This is the only thing that comes to my mind.

18. What advice would you give to people who are planning/thinking about migrating?

I say no. No one should migrate, come or approach. It's a very difficult thing. I think they should stay where they are if they are comfortable.



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Nickname: K3

Gender: Female

Age: 26

Marital status: married

Number of children: 2

Child ages: Daughter 8 years old, son 6 years old

Place of residence: Bağcılar, Istanbul

1. How did you decide to migrate?

The war has begun. 5 years later the situation got very bad. My husband needed military service and was going to do it, but he could have served for 5 or 10 years. He doesn't know. This is the time we made the decision. We got married in Syria. He came. I came here a month later. We did not come together. We got married in front of the court without anyone present. What year did you come? 2015.

2. Could you explain your pre-migration process?

a. What did you experience?

People are afraid. What is the soldier doing? Nobody does anything. For example, they ask, "What is your name and surname?" If there was one person in the family, they were saying that he or she was guilty. He was given imprisonment. What was happening around? Bomb every day every day. We are few in Damascus. But there were many elsewhere. But I don't know what happened after a year. We were living in Damascus. There is no peace. We are sitting at home, but what will happen? Who died? There were problems every day. We were uncomfortable in Syria.

b. How did you prepare?

We were happy in my hometown. But I hope we will return one day, I said. I set out thinking this way. But when I went out to Syria, it got worse. There is no bomb. But there is no electricity. Very expensive. There is no water.

c. How did you plan?

There is no other country, so we only know this place as the future. For example, Saudi did not want another place, Syrian. Either we would come here or my wife would go to the military. My father didn't want us to get married. He said if you go to the military, don't get married. "Maybe he became a child when you went to the military, but you won't," he said. Were your children born here? He was born here.

d. What did you feel?

I said, "I'll be the first one." My mother will come a little later. But the doors were closed here for a year. Türkiye closed the doors. I missed you so much that year. I didn't see anyone, I mean they are all in Syria. Me and my husband were left alone. So what will I do? My opinion is that I will be happier when I come here, but when I came here, I became unhappy.

e. Why did you choose this country?

There is no other country, so we only know this place as the future. For example, Saudi did not want another place, Syrian.

3. Could you explain your immigration process?

a. What transportation methods did you use?

I came by plane. I came from Lebanon.

b. How long was your trip?

It took 2 and a half hours. I came alone.



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c. What did you do on the road?

What will I do? What awaits me? I thought.

d. Who did you travel with?

I made one trip.

e. What difficulties did you encounter?

My family said: how will you go alone? I said: Allah is hafiz. And then I came.

f. What did you feel?

So what will I do? What awaits me? My husband is here, there is no life there. There is no electricity. How will I talk? We talked on the phone for maybe 5 minutes one day. But there is no other.

a. How did your family members feel?

They were afraid for me.

4. Did you stop in any other country during your trip?

I came by plane directly from Lebanon.

a. How long did it take?

2 and a half hours.

b. What did you experience on the road?

I thought about what would happen.

c. Who did you travel with?

I came alone.

d. What difficulties did you experience?

My family was afraid for me because I was alone.

e. What did you feel?

I thought, what awaits me?

5. Who migrated with you? / Have all your family members emigrated?

I came alone.

a. What can you say about this?

My brother came here. It stopped for 1 year. Then he returned. I have no other relatives living here. All my relatives are in Syria.

b. What was this experience like?

I was happy then. But now I really wanted to know when we would return.

6. How would you describe the post-migration process?

a. How did you settle in?

My husband came. It worked. His profession was painting. But he worked in Esenyurt. The distance was 2 hours every day. Every day I'm home alone. I don't know anyone. He leaves at seven o'clock. He returns at nine in the evening. He just goes to bed after dinner. So there is nothing. We slowly acquired the items.

b. Did you get help? From whom? How?

No. We settled in alone.

c. How did you feel when you arrived in your new country?

I just wanted a Syrian friend. We will talk, we will sit. But I didn't want anything else. I was so scared. Then I got used to it.

d. What are the advantageous aspects of migration?

It's better here. It would have been harder if we stayed there.

e. What are the disadvantages of migration?

For example, there is no ID. Just sit at home. For example, we do not know when the house rent will be due.

7. Have you encountered cultural barriers?

a. Food



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We have slightly different dishes. Cooking meals is a little different. Noah. Bread is different. When the Syrian shops opened, we also received bread. We take it. The leaf is the same. I cook my own meals at home. I don't know about food outside.

b. Access to cultural events

Same

c. Entertainment

all the same

d. Sport

Same

8. How did you feel after migration?

a. Culture, society, etc. Do you feel integrated with?

I don't leave the house. Sunday is my husband's day off. We're going out together. I stay at home for a month, two months.

b. Do you feel accepted?

Yes. 5 years ago Yes, we are loved. But not now.

c. What are your opinions about the local people?

a. Supporters?

Yes, but not now. They don't want us. I say.

b. Did they help you? How?

No. It was my wife and me. We didn't get any help.

c. Did you experience difficulties?

Yes. They cause difficulties. For example, we do not know when the house rent will be due. For example, my mother will be able to stay at home, but my sibling will not. I always wanted my brother to come here, but I said no. My brother was coming. 5 years ago I would have said yes. But now no, it's different.

9. Have you experienced differences in your family after immigration?

a. Would immigration change your family relationships? How?

No, it's the same.

b. Has immigration changed your family routines? How?

In Syria, business is relaxed, for example, if we leave at eight o'clock, we will return by four o'clock. But the salary is too little. For example, 1 month is 500. But everything is expensive. For example, coffee costs 100. Everyone in the family had to work. For example, there is my husband's restaurant here. So I don't need to work. There is always no money to come here. At first, my husband's salary was 1000 and the house rent was 700. I lived with only 300 lira. Then my husband met a friend. The painter worked. Then it got better.

10. How did you start a new life in a different country?

Good morning my baby. Beautiful.

11. How do you communicate with family or friends in your hometown?

I'm talking on the phone.

a. How many times a year do you see family and/or friends in your hometown?

My family comes and goes.

12. Has immigration changed you? How?

No, I'm the same.

a. Has immigration changed your family members? How?

No, it stayed the same.

13. What do you think about immigration policies? What are your opinions/comments?



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Of course it's good. All my family will come here. So he lives here. Was it good for both you and your family? Good good.

a. How can you make this country better? What are your ideas?

I have no idea.

14. Is this place different than you expected?

I came because of my wife. It's no different. We are waiting for something. So we are waiting for life. There is no war. Our children go to school. There is no fear. So it's as we expected. So we don't want anything else.

15. Do you want to return to your hometown?

Yes I want.

16. What dreams do you have for the future?

a. Where do you see yourself in the future?

We are very afraid now. If we go back, there is nothing right now, but we are afraid. We are very afraid that we will be told to go.

b. What kind of world do you imagine?

It would be best if the war ended. This is important. Let it be said that electricity has arrived, water has arrived, and the war is over. All Syrians will leave.

17. What do you think when you see immigrants from a different country?

I feel very happy. I'm glad to meet you if you come from the same hometown.

18. What advice would you give to people who are planning/thinking about migrating?

Don't come here while you're like this. So Syria is better. Sit there and do whatever you want, but don't come. It would have happened two days ago, but don't come now. I don't know what we will do or what we will do. We will come to Syria later.



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Nickname: K4

Gender: Kadın

Age: 31

Marital status: Evli

Number of children: 3

Ages of children: Kız 9 yaş, diğer kız çocuğu 6 yaş ve oğul 3 yaş

Place of residence: Bağcılar, İstanbul / Türkiye

1. How did you decide to migrate?

We didn't have to decide, we had to. We escaped. We ran away immediately. My mother, my two older brothers and I came. I said to myself: Where have we come to? I said this is Türkiye. OK, but what do we do? There is no language, I don't know how to speak. Then I sat down, worked, it all happened. I just got comfortable. What year did you come? 2014. Where did you live there? Aleppo.

2. Could you explain your pre-migration process?

a. What did you experience?

That's very difficult. I can never forget. I am scared. All electricity was cut off. There is no water left. Bombs came every day. Many, many planes arrived. We are going to bed at six o'clock, the plane is returning right outside. Everyone ran out. I ran outside in my prayer dress. When did the building fall? It got better outside. When the bomb came. The building has 5-6 floors, they all went out. This sound can't go out of my mind. I can still hear the plane sounds. A long time has passed, but I still hear that voice. I came here single. I got engaged and married. Now my daughter is 9 years old. He doesn't know anything. I said, God did not show them. My children do not see what we see.

b. How did you prepare?

I had a lot of clothes in my room. Like every girl, I loved them all. While I was preparing my bag; I love them all. How can I leave the Lord? My room, my television. My room was very nice. I was the only girl. I was very special in my family. However, I was able to buy some of my most important, favorite books about teaching. I was a teacher in Syria. I bought books, but when I came here, they were all lost on the way. The most important of my belongings were lost on the road. I was a mathematics teacher there. Then on the second day, when I was teaching, I was teaching at one school in the morning and at another school in the evening. There is one year left until I finish my university. I couldn't go because of the war. I was studying economics and commerce.

c. How did you plan?

We didn't have to decide, we had to. We escaped.

d. What did you feel?

I am scared. All electricity was cut off. There is no water left. Bombs came every day.

e. Why did you choose this country?

We came from Aleppo directly through the border gate.

3. Could you explain your immigration process?

a. What transportation methods did you use?

Walk to the border and then take the bus. We came by bus.

b. How long was your trip?

It took 3 days. We arrived at the border gate after walking for 15 hours.

c. What did you do on the road?



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We walked to the border. Then we got on the bus.

d. Who did you travel with?

My mother, my two older brothers, my aunt.

e. What difficulties did you encounter?

It was cold and winter.

f. What did you feel?

I said to myself: Where have we come to? I said this is Türkiye. OK, but what do we do? There is no language, I don't know how to speak. I am really sad. But now I'm comfortable. Everyone has. Nobody died. I thought maybe it would be better here.

4. Did you stop in any other country during your trip?

We came from Aleppo directly through the border gate. We came to Antakya. Then we came to Istanbul.

a. How long did it take?

It took 3 days.

b. What did you experience on the road?

c. Who did you travel with?

My mother, my two older brothers, my aunt.

d. What difficulties did you experience?

Cold. Winter. We left everything. The most important of my belongings were lost on the road.

e. What did you feel?

I was so scared. I said I was on the way. Oh thank goodness. The nightmare is over. But I don't know what's coming. What did I say? There is no bomb sound today. There are no airplane sounds. I mean, I'm Rahat. I miss you so much. I am sad. Two sides. Part of me remained there. What did I say? Thank God, Rahat is now. There is no fear. There is a mother, there is a brother. Not all of them died. Thank God. But what is it all gone? I mean, they all left, but maybe God willing, it's better here. The nightmare is over, this is very important. Then we came here. My brother rented a house. At that time, rent for a house was 600 lira or 400 TL. We all worked in the factory. But I was crying every day when I came home. I am a teacher, I was working in a place called Hadi Basi, Hadi. I was cleaning thread. We were all getting 600 liras. We didn't eat meat or sausage for a year. I asked for pea sausage from my mother. She said no. I said, how come Lord? My mother said: now we are zero.

5. Who migrated with you? / Have all your family members emigrated?

a. What can you say about this?

My mother, my two older brothers, my aunt. / We all came. There is no one there now. My mother's older brother is there. But it's been a long time since we met.

b. What was this experience like?

There is something beautiful. There's one thing I don't forget. I am very comfortable now. I don't want anything but the world now. Then I got married. I have no one. Like every girl, I wanted someone to be with me, but the neighbors came. Then we settled here. My mother, me and my husband paid 400 liras to rent here. We returned to work after a week's holiday. We had to. There is 400 rent and living expenses.

6. How would you describe the post-migration process?

a. How did you settle in?



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My brother rented a house. Then the neighbors brought things. We slowly settled in.

b. Did you get help? From whom? How?

The Turks were coming to our door. Knock knock who? We. We said we don't know Turkish. Plates and containers were all given away. My mother was praying. Neighbors helped a lot. I was very pleased. So we don't want anything else at home for a week. I was praying. I, my mother, was praying, saying, "You gave me so much stuff." I said mom: no chips, no coke, life is hard. I've had a hard time already. I saw the worst here. I said fine, okay. I accepted. But there is no fear here. I worked for 2 years. Then I got married. I got engaged in Syria. I got married here. I had a very bad experience. What year did you come? 2014.

c. How did you feel when you arrived in your new country?

Oh thank goodness. The nightmare is over. But I don't know what's coming. What did I say? There is no bomb sound today. There are no airplane sounds. I mean, I'm comfortable.

d. What are the advantageous aspects of migration?

It's good. I saw and met many people. I liked it. Even my neighbor sister Halise, I miss her so much. He went to his hometown. She was like my second mother. He works in a restaurant. He brought pizza and cake every day. "Come on, get it," she said. I was thanking you. I was saying thank you mom. There were many good people. I don't know many people in the building here right now. But I loved it very much, I am satisfied.

e. What are the disadvantages of migration?

I don't forget. A man on the bus, I came from home. My little girl was so hot, she was crying. That man said: You, Syrian! I said what does he want? Come on girls! "He's crying," I said. Why is he crying? Come on, get off! You Syrian, come on down! I got off. This man was a very bad person. Then there is identity. We waited in line outside, maybe he doesn't answer? Where do you go from? I experienced the stress. So there are two sides of people. Some very bad and some very good. It is not always Turks, there are also Syrians, bad people and good people. We have been here since 2014. It is said that we have damaged many houses in 5 years.

7. Have you encountered cultural barriers?

a. Food

Food in the factory was only beans. The first chief stranger arrived. Then I got used to it. Bread is different. There was no Syrian bread or goods here for a year or two. It was very difficult. Then I got used to it. It was very difficult to eat the egg with bread. Then we gradually got used to it.

b. Access to cultural events

I didn't go to the cinema here. I was going to the cinema there. I had many friends there. We were always having picnics. I'm an only girl, my mother said, do whatever you want.

c. Entertainment

We were always having picnics.

d. Sports

I wanted to swim, but there was no sea. I was going to the pool every week. But I can't go here. I don't even know where it is here. I learned later, but there was no queue left at the place I went to. I couldn't go.

8. How did you feel after migration?



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a. Culture, society, etc. Do you feel integrated with?

I was so scared. I came with the Turks, they all want to be friends. The enemy does not want it. I am satisfied with the Turks. I love it very much. I don't want to be sent to Syria. It became the second homeland. I felt comfortable. Don't be afraid, it's over. I thank everyone in this nation. There are also those who approach well. But it's not the same two years later. They said Syrians are bad. They said it was too crowded.

b. Do you feel accepted?

Yes. At first, the Turks said to me, you are Syrian. Oh! He said welcome. Now you Syrian, oops! Why? There are many Syrian bad people. Okay, you guest, sit down. When did you leave home? You paint, clean, sit down. They said be a good person and sit down or leave. This nation said, "You came from war, okay, sit down." Why does it hurt now?

c. What are your opinions about the local people?

Yes.

a. Did they help you? How?

Neighbors helped.

b. ii. Did you experience difficulties?

We arrived and the house was empty. We sat at home idle for a week. They asked. Where did you come from? I said Syria. Then they helped. No blankets for a week. We slowly settled in. Then I worked.

9. Have you experienced differences in your family after immigration?

a. Would immigration change your family relationships? How?

Our relatives were far away from us there anyway. My only family was my mother. If I had my mother, it was okay for me. I didn't want anything else. My father had already died a long time ago, when I was a child. My aunt and aunt are all far away anyway. My siblings act the same. My wife is the same.

b. Has immigration changed your family routines? How?

I worked here. I was studying there, not working. Our house was not rented, it was our own. I was going to school and coming home. When I came here, I started working. We live in a rented house. There are rent and bill expenses. But there is no help here. School costs a lot. My need has increased even more. The more we came here, the bigger the difference became.

10. How did you start a new life in a different country?

Very difficult. When do you live? There is everything. There is a mother. I don't know how hard life is. I started from scratch. For example, how much is this glass? I tried to manage. I'm working today. There was no financial aid from outside. I bought it with my work. The old days are over, Mother always said. Now take care! You don't need many dresses. 2 or 3 dresses are enough. But now, thank God, I worked, life is very good now. We started from scratch. Thank God. I have a dress shop. My husband works. We have a car. Nobody helped.

11. How do you communicate with family or friends in your hometown?

I don't have my friends' numbers either. I have many friends from university. I was curious about them. Did he marry or die? My friend and I are going to university. He died before my eyes. It fell. Afterwards, I told my mother that I am not going to university. Today my friend, maybe tomorrow I will die.

a. How many times do you see family and/or friends from your hometown during the year?

I have no one to meet. I'm not going or coming.



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12. Has immigration changed you? How?

I changed my mind. I'm more afraid now. Why? I have daughters, I have children. I always say: God, protect my children, my wife, my siblings. I don't want anything else. In the past, my belongings, my room, my mother were important. But not now. It's not all important. Let it be my family now. I don't want anything else.

a. Has immigration changed your family members? How?

My siblings act the same. My wife is the same.

13. What do you think about immigration policies? What are your opinions/comments?

Of course it's good. Now Istanbul is very full. There is life there, there is home. There is no war there now anyway. Why did you come? There is life, if you work, just sit there. Because we passed two days. I started to get scared.

a. How can you make this country better? What are your ideas?

I am ready to do whatever Türkiye asks of me. Türkiye is like my second mother. I'm ready. I am also ready to teach.

14. Is this place different than you expected?

Not now. But when I first came, I felt different. Now we are very used to Turkish neighbors.

15. Do you want to return to your hometown?

No. There is no one. There is nothing. There is no house. Everything has changed. It's been 10 years. I also forgot the way. There was war everywhere in the country. Maybe the whole place is gone now. Whenever I return I will have to start from scratch. So how many times will I start from scratch? When will I live comfortably? The first zero was very tiring, I worked hard. Maybe there will be a different order. The leading person leaves. There is no fear. Then maybe it will happen. Then maybe we'll start from scratch. Now whatever my children want is ready. I am from scratch now they are living this life. Why am I tired now, why am I working? So that my children can have whatever they want immediately. So that my children can have a good life, not me.

16. What dreams do you have for the future?

a. Where do you see yourself in the future?

I don't know this question. Not sure. It is unknown what will happen.

b. What kind of world do you imagine?

There is no fear. Comfortable. Let the whole family be. So. Let my children continue their education. The children are good, the children have learned, everything is there. Nothing else is needed.

17. What do you think when you see immigrants from a different country?

I remember what I went through. I would like to help. Because I worked, there is money. It starts from scratch. I have to help, I think.

18. What advice would you give to people who are planning/thinking about migrating?

There is no war there now anyway. Why did you come? There is life, if you work, just sit there. Don't come here.



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Nickname :Turcan

Age : 43

How did you decide to migrate?

Because of their oppression on tribes of Turkish origin, especially the Uyghur Turks in East Turkestan. So the pressure was increasing day by day. So to save myself from that cruelty. I realized the only way was to Migrate. That's why I decided to emigrate.

What did you experience before migration?

Before the migration, I was born in East Turkestan in 1981. When I remembered, there were Chinese people. It wasn't that busy, but we had neighbors. But their cultures and everything are different. Actually, nothing of ours overlaps. as language, as culture, as religion. We have no partnerships. Their culture is dirty (he is talking about food culture). I don't like them since I was little. They don't like us either. We were neighbors, but everyone was like that. I grew up that way, as a native of East Turkestan.

I heard the word East Turkestan after I decided to immigrate, I didn't know it. I considered myself a Chinese citizen until I grew up, that is, until I graduated from university. Because I had no thoughts about the independence of East Turkestan. I went to school at that time, everything that belonged to China belonged to China. Education is in Chinese and the Chinese education system is implemented.

Did you study Chinese?

At first it was Uyghur, that is, in our own language. But we had to learn Chinese starting from the 3rd grade of primary school. When we went to university, that is, in the 2000s. The training was completely included. Our books and everything are in Chinese. There were also teachers from Uyghur Turks, but they had to teach in Chinese.

After graduating from university, I started working as a civil servant. So that wasn't easy either. I graduated in 2004. It was very difficult to be appointed as a civil servant in those days. Because there are many students graduating from university, young people. He can't find a job.

Couldn't you find a job because you are from East Turkestan?

Yes, there is discrimination. As I said, he became a civil servant, but it was very difficult. Because there is an exam every year. In fact, the government needs employees very much. You have to pass the exam. I experienced this many times while applying for the exam. After applying for the exam 3-4 times. I passed the exam 4 or 5 times. There are requirements for each application. Nationality is the most important thing in the exam. So it says clearly. It states how many people from this profession can apply to this administration, but it clearly states their nationality (it should be China).

I remember it very well. Because I wanted to apply, there is a list of thousands of people. To find a job suitable for the field I graduated from. I sorted the list and saw that it always says China China China. There are places that say Uyghur, but they are very few. When I find them, they do not match the field I graduated from. I couldn't even apply for the exam a few times. You passed the exam and I was appointed as a civil servant. Because it wasn't in my own province, but in another province. After graduating in my own province, I waited for about one



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and a half or two years. I was living in Korla. Since I couldn't find a job around Horn that I could apply for, there is a place called Aksu, 800 kilometers away from my place. I could only apply there. I found it very difficult.

I went to work and worked for about 7 years after I went to work. I witnessed many things while working. One person is required for a job, but thousands of people apply. I had to resign after working for 7 years. Because it was very difficult for me to become a civil servant, but after 7 years, working as a civil servant became even more difficult. I have witnessed so many things. All the things they do are a privilege.

Can you give an example?

I will tell you about this now, but it would be better if we did not mention it in the things you will write. I worked as a police officer. Normal cases, for example a fight, occur. Two people are coming. If they are both Uyghurs, I can enforce the law, it's easy for me. But when one is Chinese and the other is Uyghur... for example, you will have negotiations now. If you ask other Uyghur Turks here, how do the police treat you or how do you view the police? The police in East Turkestan have become a symbol of Chinese atrocities. There are also Uyghur Turks like me. This is how they force the police who sing Uyghur folk songs. Sometimes he openly tells us that we should do something for the benefit of the Chinese. For example, the Chief of Police is definitely Chinese. There are provincial directorates, provincial directorates and all of them. Because they are appointed by the government. The deputy chief may be from East Turkestan. So, for example, it is a normal case. He doesn't tell me clearly. But for example, there was a fight between a Chinese and a Uyghur. As for, if I did something exactly according to the law and the Chinese beat a Uyghur Turk, for example. I have to go to the supervisor and get it approved, but the supervisor does not approve it. The police officer, whose chief is a Uyghur Turk, is also looking for fault. When this happens, the work takes longer. I have to work overtime. They are trying to suppress and victimize the people of East Turkestan. He cannot say it openly, but he does not approve of anything that would harm the Chinese. As chief, he excludes the East Turkestan police. That's why all East Turkestan police are becoming more and more cruel and are forced to commit cruelty.

You have been under pressure from the Chinese in your education, social life and professional life, but what happened that you reached the breaking point and decided to emigrate?

I thought this. Even if I work, I can't achieve anything here. I am also very disturbed. I come across such things every day. When an East Turkestan comes as a victim, I cannot help him. So no matter how difficult it was, it wasn't easy for me either. Resign. Everyone was surprised then, relatives...

After I resigned, I started to have more problems. Because I had worked there for so many years, when I suddenly wanted to resign, they started putting pressure on me. Why are you resigning? I had to hide some things. I couldn't say I'm resigning because you did this. They tried to persuade Me by doing some tricks, but I said that I wanted to do business. The administration told me to remain a civil servant until my resignation was approved. They wanted me to work, but after I gave my first resignation, I never went again, no matter what. So they started following everything I did. I started trading after I resigned, but I had problems. I wanted to live like a normal person after resigning, but the Chinese government does not take kindly to a Uyghur civil servant resigning. I



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started to have more problems. I wanted to live like a normal person, but I couldn't. While doing business, I met other brothers there and understood their problems. I resigned in 2012. The Urumqi (Massacre) incident happened in 2009. There were also some police officers who resigned after the incident. But even though they resigned, they were imprisoned.

As is the normal general situation, China's pressure has begun to increase. After 2005, 2009 was already the Urumqi incident, those incidents were at their peak on July 5th.

Some of my family members were arrested. For example, my brother was praying and had a beard. His wife wears hijab. That's why he was being followed. I realized that if it continues like this, I cannot continue my normal life there. They will take me to jail too. That's why I had to go abroad, but they don't give me a passport. He doesn't give it to others, that is, people from East Turkestan, but he never gave it to me. Because I left the police force. They already have laws, it is forbidden for someone working in the government to go abroad. The nerves apply such a policy to the people of East Turkestan. I couldn't even dream of getting a passport.

That's why in 2013, our brothers started coming to Turkey illegally via Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand and Malaysia. It was the only way for me.

How did you come to Turkey illegally? Which countries did you follow?

As I explained before, I had to emigrate. But so did others, of course. I seem clear (In danger) What will I be? Since I cannot apply for a passport, I have to go illegally, I researched. East Turkestan Brothers went to China. For example, China is on the Eastern side here on that map. It is bordered by Russia and Mongolia to the north. In the west, for example, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Pakistan and Afghanistan are like this. 8 countries border each other. Why did we go to China? On the contrary, Turkey is actually on the Western side. We went to China, to China's cities? Why? Because those who previously had to migrate due to oppression and persecution have crossed these borders. Then the Chinese government deployed its army within the borders of these 8 countries. For example, starting from Kazakhstan, Russia and all the way to India. It was not possible to cross those borders. That's why we looked at how the friends who were able to escape found it. China's cities bordering Vietnam. There were Illegal Routes, that is, there were trade routes between the Chinese and the Vietnamese through which they could trade illegally. Our people found those roads. When they went to the illegals there and paid them, they took the Uyghurs to human traffickers. It was the only way.

When I heard about it, I went to the inner regions of China. After waiting there for a while, I went to Vietnam through illegals. From Vietnam to Cambodia, from Cambodia to Thailand. I stayed in Thailand for about a month.

Did you live with illegals in Thailand for a month?

Only smugglers take it when crossing borders

What means did you use when migrating?



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Sometimes to cross the borders on foot, vehicles are not possible at the borders. There are those who passed by ships. Most of us took refuge in the mountains. We passed by on foot. Within that country, for example, we went to Vietnam. In Vietnam after walking for hours. We need to go to Cambodia. Vietnamese illegals took us by car throughout the country. From one end of the country to the other. After that, we crossed the border from Vietnam to Cambodia on foot again. In Cambodia, sometimes a place was arranged to stay for 2-3 days. After staying there, the path to follow is determined in that way. We had nothing until Taylan came. Among the fugitives, there are Vietnamese and Thai people. When we passed through China, there were also Chinese illegals. That's how we came to Malaysia. After we came to Malaysia, we had nothing.

Didn't you take any luggage, money or anything with you?

We got money, but we got little, we can't get much. So those who were carrying a little extra money were robbed by illegals. We can't buy any items. For example, at most one spare change of clothes. That's how we got to Malaysia, in a way.

After coming to Malaysia, we contacted our brothers in Turkey. We also went to the Turkish Consulate and applied. To come to Turkey Because it is not possible to come from Malaysia to Turkey by land. Then there is such a thing as a travel document from the Turkish consulate. Some of us, some of us, came with travel documents.

Did you come with a travel document?

I had to come with a fake passport. In fact, almost all of them come to Malaysia. Then he goes and applies. Then, when our application was approved, we were given a travel document. But this is very slow and takes a long time. In those periods, sometimes 1 month or 2 months. If it is fast, a month. Because after we apply, it is directed to Ankara and the document comes from there. But as our number increased, we waited for the document, but it was not enough. There was also an incident at the end of 2014 and the beginning of 2015.

They started searching using the excuse that a Chinese plane disappeared. That's why our East Turkestan brothers waiting at those borders were arrested in Thailand. There are still about 50 people there. When the situation gets worse, if we wait for that travel document, it won't be enough, we have to go. Some people were caught after that plane incident. some were returned to China.

If we have a passport, even if it is fake, it is obvious that we are Turks. He writes, "I am a Turk" and then he is deported at the border. In this case, you are sent to Turkey.

Did they deport you and send you to Turkey?

Yes, that's why I had to use the Turkish passport anyway. In 2014 -15

Did you come to Turkey alone or with your family?

I was alone when I left East Turkestan. Then, when I came to Malaysia, we arranged a route for my wife. She was able to come 3 or 4 months after me. We met in Malaysia. We came to Turkey from Malaysia together. Not together, actually I sent my wife and child to Turkey in Malaysia. I had to help our brothers who wanted to cross from Malaysia to Turkey. Regarding the language, I knew a little English. I came to Turkey a month after my wife and child, my child was sick.



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So, did any of your family members in East Turkestan experience difficulties because you came to Turkey?

Yes of course. Until the end of 2016, I could communicate with my family secretly but not openly. There are some applications on the phone. You know, the one that isn't used very often. I could communicate through them. After I came to Malaysia, I actually had to hide myself. But our brothers there had so many needs. At least 7-8,000 people were concentrated in Malaysia. But going to Turkey is very difficult, very slow. He desperately needed a translator regarding the language. I had to show up when I walked around trying to help everyone. Who I am has been revealed. When the Chinese learned about this, they put pressure on my family.

I was a little worried in Malaysia when it was revealed who I was. When it was learned that our brothers around us had immigrated, everyone in his family was arrested. It was obvious that he would do the same to mine.

My brother was also caught and arrested while he was waiting in Chinese cities to immigrate. My mother, sister and brother were waiting in China to migrate. It carries the identity for them. They could actually go back and forth to China. But my family went to China and when the situation started to get worse, they were all arrested there. They didn't do anything, in fact they didn't even set out. But they were arrested because of me. They sentenced my brother to 7 years in prison. Then, when they found out that I was in Malaysia, the Chinese took my brother out of prison and tried him again. They gave my brother a life sentence. I can't hear from my brother right now.

My mother was 78 years old at that time. There were my 2 sisters, my brother and 9 children there. They sent them back from China to East Turkestan. They sentenced my older sister to 5 years in prison, my younger sister to 6 years, and my brother to 16 years in prison, but I can't hear from any of them right now.

How did you settle in this region of Turkey? Who helped you?

After arriving in Turkey, we first landed at Ataturk Airport here. Our brothers who came to Turkey from Malaysia before us welcomed us at the airport. everyone settled in Zeytinburnu. So we went there and stayed there. Actually, I didn't think much about it, because thank God we were saved from that cruelty. Because we saved our lives. We stayed in Zeytinburnu, rented houses etc. We live here with my wife and 7 children.

If I were in East Turkestan, I would only have two children. You can't even imagine more children.

Let's say you had 3 children, what would happen while you were there?

I can't be. Because there is something planned birth Administration. an official government agency. Their job is to constantly control all families. When a woman is pregnant, she asks how many times she is pregnant. If it is determined to be 3, she is immediately taken to the hospital and the child is taken away. She kills the baby. Sometimes, there were people who gave birth secretly at that time. China has implemented this population restriction policy since the 90s. There is



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an open genocide going on in East Turkestan, even though we have some difficulties.

Do you experience any difficulties in Turkey, the country you immigrated to, socially, politically, culturally or economically? Or maybe there are other difficulties that come to your mind?

Of course, we are having difficulties, as I said, because we do not have any contact in our country. If only we could bring something from there. We have no news. I only got news once. How could I get that? The Chinese police went to our house. They had my mother search for me. I was able to receive news that way, but I did not want to continue receiving news. Because what is their purpose? Now this is our association. As I said before, we couldn't do anything against you yet. Just by doing some work as an association and announcing ourselves on social media. They were disturbed. They went to my house.

Does the existence of this association and the work you do through the association make your life here difficult?

It doesn't make my life here difficult, but the Chinese always follow me. very seriously. I'm still under surveillance right now. We made a distribution before, only our philanthropic brother came from Germany. We helped the families of orphaned children and widows from East Turkestan and gathered them. We had a little conversation. We did not talk much about the situation in East Turkestan. My friend shared this on Facebook after he went to Germany. When 5-6 thousand people shared it, they were disturbed. They immediately went to my family. I was surprised, my sister called me. But we already know what you're doing. According to what we heard from those around us, some people are calling and openly threatening the people of East Turkestan here. The Chinese call and say work for us. There are also those who do this to give the information and address of the people there, but as an association, we work in terms of Humanitarian Aid. And as I explained before, we are trying to keep our nation alive. That's why we are on the road to litigation. They know that we won't give up easily like normal people. They are very cunning. That's why he searches, what does my sister say? "The government makes everything easier, we can meet," he said. They take very good care of us. They say this and make us say: Let's stop the work here. But I know it's not like that. So I stopped receiving news. I want to communicate but I have to give up. If I continue to contact them. Then they want something from me.

You said that there were people in your family who were arrested. Did you or your family experience any difficulties in East Turkestan after you came to Turkey?

While I was in East Turkestan, there were no arrests, but when guests came, there was serious follow-up. Who came? What did you talk about? There were many people around us who were imprisoned because of their headscarves. That was the case until 2016. It was forbidding, but it was not as oppressive as it is now. A person, a woman, for example, is being followed because of her headscarf.



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Her statement is taken and when her statement is good, she can save herself by saying, "I will never use a headscarf again," but there are also some people who defend their rights were sentenced to 10 to 15 years in prison. As of 2017, everything has been completely banned.

Do you know how the current situation is? In East Turkestan, no one dares to wear a headscarf, grow a beard, pray or fast. They put all those who committed this in prison or in training camps according to their own laws. Now, as I said, no one dares to grow a beard while fasting, but the Chinese government now blames the people of East Turkestan for what was done in ancient times. For example, a woman doesn't even have a headscarf now, but she says, for example, you used a headscarf in 2013, so she is being prosecuted. Because you grew a beard in 2010

How is life in Turkey for you, your financial situation and how do you make a living? Have you been able to get used to here socially? Are there any difficulties in your environment?

Our economic situation is like this, we are doing business now. As for the negativities, of course we are experiencing our biggest difficulty; we have not solved it yet. We don't know if it can be solved, but we are having a lot of trouble with treatment. Regarding health, because so far, when an East Turkestan goes to a hospital, we have to pay 3 times the normal amount, that is, free of charge provided to Turks, and we cannot benefit from any health aid. I don't want to make comparisons. They were also persecuted, but they could not do to us what they did to other immigrants. I don't know if it is due to Chinese pressure or economic agreements or trade agreements, but I cannot benefit from any health aid.

I think you have a baby in the hospital right now, in intensive care.

Now I say thank God, they gave Turkish citizenship to approximately one quarter of the people who came. I couldn't get citizenship myself, but thank God my wife and children did. If my wife and children did not have Turkish citizenship, the daily cost of intensive care is now 5,000 TL. It's been 15 days, my baby will stay in intensive care for another 10 days. We do not experience this because my wife is a citizen, but I have many siblings who experience this problem. Those living with a residence permit cannot receive any insurance.

Apart from this, are there any difficulties you have experienced, such as a situation where you feel alien to yourself, that is, I came here, but I am having a hard time here, or something that makes you say that you miss this thing in East Turkestan very much?

Of course, because we suffered so much oppression, when we came here in the first place, we felt like heaven, we were saved from those oppressions, but we have to continue this life. As East Turkestan, even though we are of Turkish origin, we have some differences. Maybe there are some things we have gotten used to because of China's pressure. Maybe we have cultural differences.

For example, we live in Sefaköy now, like some people here. Turks here complain a lot about us. We don't feel accepted here. .



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We have been subjected to oppression for too long. This has affected our behavior. How did it affect you? For example, we do not want anyone to tell us anything because we have been under pressure for a long time. When we say this, we immediately get angry. This is actually our mistake. Actually, we were not like this, but because of the pressure of the Chinese. We had some bad habits (he considered it negative for him that they were intolerant of the people in the place he immigrated to).

People who immigrated here from East Turkestan are people who attach more importance to their religion. Once we leave East Turkestan, we can never go back. We will be separated from our relatives. It's not an easy thing. There were people there who were oppressed more than us, but they could not give up on their families and stayed there. They were imprisoned and killed. The Chinese destroyed it. But those who come here are people who care about their religion and can put their trust in our Lord. When you look at it, almost all of us have beards and our women wear headscarves. The people here, that is, the Turks in Turkey, cannot accept him. They complain a lot.

Have you experienced any negative incident related to this?

Yes, I have lived a lot. Because I have too many children. I've had 6 children so far, but when I go out and play a little, the neighbors don't allow it. So they always complain about my children. The reason for this is that I understand this from my own perspective. I mean, I can't say why I can't get used to it here, the people here are complaining about us. While we were walking on the street, there were people who openly said, "These are dirty refugees." There are also those who openly insult. Do you know why? I understand it that way. I perceive it that way because East Turkestanis are not the only ones taking refuge in Turkey. I looked from all over the world, I mean Africa, there are Syrians, there are Afghans, etc. That's why Istanbul is a very crowded place. Even before we came, they did not like foreigners.

Actually, we are not strangers. It's a Uyghur folk song, but they always exclude it. I just remembered an example. There is a place called Sitele Mosque here. There is a street of ours there, always known as Uyghur Street. There are shops. I love it too. Sometimes, when I remember my mother and relatives and feel sad, I immediately went there and stayed in peace, so everyone was there. Like in East Turkestan.

There is a park there. There is a wedding hall under that park. Our folks always hold their weddings there. I think it's been a month since I attended a wedding and I left the wedding a little early. To meet a friend. I was standing on the side of the road. Others started to come out in large numbers. Our East Turkestan people. There were two women and three men, local but I don't know if they were Turkish. There are those who consider themselves Turks. Immediately; "What is this Afghanistan? He says, what are they doing here?" They openly exclude people, and it's the same when going to school. We started to hear more **Your children go to school, right?**

Yes. I heard something, I was going to the gym. There was a young man there (from East Turkestan), a boy between 15 and 16 years old. Maybe he is studying in high school. He was doing some sports there too. I heard a news a few days



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ago that he left school. Why? Because while he was at school, a boy came and he was drunk. He attacked her in the school garden. And when he tried to attack with a knife, he was from East Turkestan and did boxing because he was into sports. He fought back and beat him. Two or three people came and the children stopped them too. Then they decided to suspend him from school. In fact, he was the victim. We encounter such things a lot, so they immediately exclude us as foreigners.

Have your children had such problems at school?

My children had started the Quran course in Malaysia before coming here and they were going to become hafiz. That's why I didn't send the children to school here. Now we have a Quran Madrasa here. My 3 children go there. They did not go to public school. they didn't want to go. I didn't want to take them to school either. If they go to school. From what I know now... The mentality is very bad. Okay, let them be excluded, it will pass, but...

My neighbor had a daughter. Now he is 12 years old. He went to school. She has a headscarf. Her normal clothes are the same as yours. That's why she's been excluded from her teachers here.

That's why you didn't want the children to go to school here?

Actually, I didn't want it, but it is mandatory. They didn't invite me to school and I didn't take them to school either.

Being in Turkey. So, how did this new country you immigrated to affect your daily life and daily routines?

It changed me and my family a lot. The thing that affects me the most are holidays. Holidays in our East Turkestan are different from here. Everyone goes to visit each other during the holidays. The streets are full on holidays. It gets crowded. We have such a culture. For example, holiday celebrations may be different in different parts of East Turkestan, but in the province where I grew up. For example, no one calls anyone during the holidays. I don't invite. But there is no need to invite anyway. For example, we know each other. I must go to the home of every person I meet. If I don't go, I won't be welcomed. Then when I meet him again, he will say, 'Why didn't you come during the Eid?' And our relatives. On the first day, everyone said, for example, if we were in East Turkestan. My mother, my other siblings, my brother, my sisters, everyone gathers there. We spend the holiday there in a very crowded way. But sometimes I don't want Eid to come here. Because I don't know where to go when it's Eid. But thank God, since we have been in the association, we have been organizing a celebration event every holiday for the past 3 years.

For women, for children. To get over this holiday sadness. We have a meeting room down here. We did it last year and it was very crowded there. Because everyone wants to come anyway. This year, there is a wedding hall during Ramadan Feast, we did it there.

I go to work, for example I work in an association. I earn my income by trading. Actually, I would like to work somewhere, but there are many things we can do here. We only trade in partnership with other friends.



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In normal life, for example, if I were in East Turkestan, if I got off work, I would go to my mother, my friends, my relatives. Here, for example, I only work in an association. I only come to the association and after work I stay home. Where can we go? We actually have friends. Complaining has become a habit for people here (laughs). We cannot go to each other's houses comfortably. Because almost everyone lives on rent. The apartment I live in is all from East Turkestan, thank God, there is no problem, but if I leave, for example, the neighbors will immediately complain. That's why we can't even visit each other much here. I'm leaving work. I am going home. That's why I do sports. I take the kids with me and we forget everything.

What I have recently realized is that there is no kinship for these children... There is no such perception. I told you so. Last week we invited an aunt to our home. I told my mother a lot to the children. I had a mother, how old is she? This is like our mother for the aunt we invited to our house (I said). Her children stayed there. Our mother is also there, this aunt is at our mother's place. Children stay like this, they do not know how to behave, how to talk or how to communicate. This surprised me very much. They don't know what an uncle or an aunt is. The concept of kinship has not been formed.

What I noticed about myself is that in East Turkestan, for example, we were subjected to so much oppression. We were also very saddened by the daily troubles we faced in our normal lives. Now there is nothing left that hasn't happened to us. That's why I look at things a little calmer.

For example, you said something that caught my attention. I wish we were as known as Gaza. I wish it were easy to migrate. Now, considering these, what can you say about Turkey's immigration policies for someone migrating from East Turkestan? How can we make this place better for you?

I am understanding, that is, I know everything. My opinion is a little different from the East Turkestan people here. If I tell you from my perspective, Türkiye, for example, we could not even benefit from health aid before. Türkiye is now in power as the Turkish state. Of course, it wants to give us aid. But Türkiye is not an ordinary country. They have many problems. Because it is an empire that has ruled the world for 60,700 years and affects the entire world. They, especially America, never leave Turkey alone. He is dealing a lot with Türkiye. That's why they have many enemies.

If there is oppression anywhere in the world, Türkiye only calls out. For example, Gaza wants to help Gaza, while helping Gaza, it wants to help East Turkestan, but it cannot confront everyone. What I've noticed is that even if he can't help us, he's still progressing a bit. It has been developing the defense industry in these 20 years, but it needs to be developed further. China is not an ordinary country either. It is a country that has a lot of influence on the economy and the international arena. It would be difficult for him to stand up to China to help us in the current situation. There are some commercial agreements with China for the survival of the Turkish state in order to improve itself. He has to do it. He can't do it now, I understand. I don't condemn him, why didn't he help



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Turkey? can't help. My understanding is that Türkiye is moving forward. If he had gone back I would have said he should do it once but he is getting stronger and he needs to get stronger to help us.

I am a little curious about history and politics. Relations between states are not like personal relations. If I fight with someone over a pen, I will cut off all my relations. But relations between states will not be like that. Making a trade agreement with the Chinese is not necessary in the sense that they like it. I hope he can help later when he gets stronger.

If Turkey wants to do something for us... We are in Turkish territory now, but our culture is running out in East Turkestan, so even though we are Turks, we have some cultures that are special to us as Uyghur folk songs. For example, we must protect this, especially our language. But now we are starting to assimilate. We live together here but we have no ties. Do you know what I want so actually? If the state can help this. Actually, it would be better for us if it was an East Turkestan village or something. Everyone stays in Sefaköy. They say the Uyghurs stay here, but everyone is different. There is no connection. Children, for example, we are walking on the street. Uyghur youth, even girls who are 14-15 years old, always speak Turkish. Okay, let them talk. We are learning too. But if I didn't have a cold day in East Turkestan and everything could be preserved there, it would be okay. Everything there is about to run out. Our culture is disappearing here too. As I said before, we cannot celebrate holidays in accordance with our own culture, for example, we cannot celebrate holidays, the same is true regarding language. We have some children who cannot speak Uyghur. Since he normally goes to school, everyone has to speak Turkish at school. Of course, he excludes them when they speak Uighur among themselves.

As an immigrant from East Turkestan, what are your dreams for the future? Do you want to return or do you have any dreams about here? Could you please explain?

Of course I want to return to East Turkestan. I can't explain my feelings, for example, about the elderly people staying here. I miss the old people there more and more each day. My relatives, my own land. Thank God, we encountered a lot of trouble because we came illegally. We were able to achieve some things. That's why we matured a little, but not everyone is like that. There are people who come with a passport. They want to go, but it is clear that if they do, they will be imprisoned or killed. That's why he stayed here.

Sometimes, someone comes towards me from afar and I say he is from East Turkestan and it turns out to be true. I came across it a few times while walking with friends. I looked after him and said, "This is Turkish Islam." We caught up with him and looked at him, and it was true. Men's sorrows are reflected outside as they walk the road. That's why I'm thinking of returning to East Turkestan as soon as possible. I never give up hope, because we are Turks and Muslims. I hope we have hope in everything

What do you think and how do you feel when you see an immigrant coming to Turkey from a different country, for example when you see an Afghan here or when you see a Syrian?



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As I said, we were not strangers here actually. The word foreigner is very harsh to me, refugee... this word is very harsh to me. Since we are experiencing many difficulties, we need to be very careful in normal life. with neighbors. For example, here you can do 10% of things wrong because you are Turkish. Nobody cares about your faults. But if we make 5% mistakes, everyone else... Let's not call it cruelty here, but there are exclusions because we suffer so much. I feel sorry for them too, if there is no difficulty. The best thing for everyone is actually their own hometown. People say so and so, but it is not easy for people not to let this happen to them. It is not easy for a person to want to live in another country as a foreigner.



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Nickname :Tursun

Age : 28

How did you decide to migrate?

I am Tursun. I was born in 1995. I went to school for 9 years. After I finished school, I was working as a courier on a motorcycle. I worked as a courier for 2 years in East Turkestan. Then I went to the gym to learn sports. I had some problems there. I went to the gym for 4-5 months. Everything is prohibited for Muslims in East Turkestan. It is forbidden to do sports. The gym was closed. Then we went to the teacher to learn religion. We had problems there too. To read and learn the Quran. Quran courses are not open, they are all closed and secret. I learned the Quran for 3 or 4 months, but then the police raided me. Some of our friends were imprisoned for 9-10 years. Living there has become a little difficult.

Have any of your family or relatives been oppressed by the Chinese administration?

Normally, one of my brothers does business. He was arrested by the Chinese police. He went to prison. We still haven't heard from him.

What did you experience on the migration path?

Some Uyghurs went to Chinese cities and made marble (He refers to marble workmanship.) I went there too. I worked there for 3-4 months. To make money. I earned some money. While we were there, we heard about people going to Turkey. Living here has become difficult for me. So I said let's go. First I went to Gansu (Chinese province) and then to Ning (a district in China's Qinghai province). Then we crossed Vietnam illegally. We walked incognito for 2 days in Vietnam. We passed through Cambodia and came to Thailand. We lived in Thailand for 10-15 days. While we were about to cross from Thailand to Malaysia, the police caught us near Malaysia. Police put him in jail in Thailand. I was in prison for 4 years. Thailand is a very hot place. It was a bit difficult to live there. They moved us from there to another place for 3 years and 8 months. An apartment in a new solid building. We stayed there for 15-20 days and then decided to escape. There were 24 people in that building. They were all Uyghurs. 12 in separate rooms, 12 in separate rooms. There was no choice but to break through the wall, we cannot escape from anywhere else. That's why we worked to pierce the wall. We made a nail to pierce the wall, we call it a nail. We spent 4 days to penetrate that wall. We worked as two people, day and night. If we didn't drill slowly, we would have trouble if people outside heard. We escaped around 2.30-3 at night. in 2017. In winter in February.

The police heard us running away. While we were there, the police were checking us 4-5 times every evening. They were taking our pictures with their phones. The police heard that we escaped, 10 of us escaped (10 people from 2



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separate rooms, a total of 20 Uyghur Turks escaped). 4 people could not escape. 20 people came out.

We fled to Jangala (forest). There is nothing to eat or drink in the jungle anyway. It rained a lot there. We stayed in the Thai forest for 8 days. We went to the market and bought phones. We wrote a message on the phone to Turkey. We had friends in Turkey. I came to Turkey alone. We sent a message to our elders in Turkey saying that we had escaped. To see if there is anyone who can help us. In Thailand, the police put out a message (announcement) to catch us. These people are fugitives. We will give 150 Thai baht (the participant did not know the currency. I wrote this part after learning it later) to those who see it. They gave our photos to TV.

We went from where we were to Malaysia. We left at 6pm and arrived in Malaysia at 7am (the next) morning. Walk, walk. We traveled in the jungle for 3 days in Malaysia. We wrote to our friends saying "We came to Malaysia". There is one thing in Malaysia, it is illegal. He guided us. He brought us to a house and gave us food.

Did you pay for these?

We paid. The association here collected the money for us. We did not have money, the association paid the money. (We reached this participant through the association. As far as we understand, the association provides financial aid to Uyghurs migrating to Turkey, but could it be risky to state this? I leave the decision to our teachers. It would be appropriate for the illustrators to get their opinion on this issue.) We do not have money either. . We stayed in Thailand for 4 years and our money was taken by the Thai police.

-He continues to tell about his Malaysian days..

We came to Malaysia and talked to illegals in Malaysia. The car came from Malaysia to emigrate and we had some trouble there. We had to go somewhere else and stayed there for 8-10 days. 10 to 11 people in one house in Malaysia. Thai police learned that we escaped to Malaysia. China informed Malaysia that our fugitives are in your country. He put us on TV in Malaysia so that people who saw these people could be informed. They put it on TV because we were paying people to see it. The cops caught us at the house in Malaysia. Chinese police informed Malaysia, saying "These are dangerous people." Big police caught us in Malaysia. They threw us in prison and we all stayed in separate cells for 26 days. They were questioning us every day, asking if you came from China. We said no, we came from Turkey.

What did you experience during the interrogation? Did they beat you?

Malaysia's police officers are also Muslims. We said, Erdoğan, we will go to Turkey. Some of our friends said, "We came from China and we were persecuted a lot in China." The police did not believe that we came from Turkey. Those who said they came from Turkey had a harder time and were interrogated for 10-15 days. I said I came from Turkey. In winter, they put our legs in icy water and then shot us. We had difficulty walking. (His leg was limp right now.)

We stayed in prison in Malaysia for 6 months. There were people from all over the world there. Malaysia decided that we are not Chinese because they are in our country without passports. We went to court once a month. Lawyers from



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China and Malaysia came for the cases. Chinese lawyers said: "They escaped from China. They are Uyghur folk from East Turkestan and are going to Turkey. "

We went to court for 6 months. After that, they transferred us to a different place. We stayed in prison there for 3 months.

Then the news came. So that you can go to Turkey. We were all very happy. We arrived at Turkish Airport. By Turkish plane. We came to Turkey in the 10th month of 2018. We stayed at Atatürk Airport for 2 months and could not go out. Because the passport we came with was fake. We stayed at the police station, we went out here in January, at the beginning of 2019

6. I came alone and they all stayed in East Turkestan. My father passed away in 2008. My 3 brothers and 1 sister are currently in prison in East Turkestan because I escaped. My mother and my other sister are out. But I can't hear any news from them either. I don't know if they are alive or what their situation is. It's been 4 years.

What difficulties did your family experience or are experiencing there? Or your friends in East Turkestan? Is there anyone in prison or in camps?

It's very difficult to live there right now, my four brothers are in prison. It's not their fault just because I ran away. We are 6 siblings. Those in prison were sentenced to 12 years. As men, we cannot say some things. We cannot accept it ourselves. They force women to be at home in the same environment as Chinese men. They force marriage. We cannot watch anything by Turks and Muslims. It is forbidden to say Aleykumselam when we say Selamünaleykum. . You cannot fast during Ramadan in East Turkestan.

How do they prevent you from fasting?

In East Turkestan, he gathers Muslims together in schools. They force me to eat before iftar.

Who helped you after you came to Turkey? How was your process of settling here?

I was very skinny when I came to Turkey. (He ate very little during his imprisonment in Thailand and Malaysia.) We stayed at the police station in Turkey for 2 months, ate and slept. After leaving the police station, we had to work because we had no money in our pockets. I worked in textile. After staying there for 2-3 months, I learned cooking. I worked as a cook for 4-5 months. I worked in a restaurant. I worked at a gas station.

I got married in 2022. I currently have a 9-month-old daughter. My husband and I escaped from prison in Thailand together with his father in East Turkestan. We met his daughter later and he gave it to us. We got married in 11 months of 2022.

Did you experience any difficulties during your time in Turkey?

I am happy here, I am a Turkish citizen now. My wife and I both received citizenship. We do business with my wife's brother here. We have no financial problems

I'm asking because you say you don't have any financial problems. When you came to Turkey, was there anything that was foreign to you and that you had difficulty getting used to, whether it was culturally, eating or drinking, or human relations?



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There are many Uyghurs in our area, so I didn't have any difficulty. But our Turkish is a little weak, we speak Uyghur because they are always Uyghurs. Do you think it is accepted as a Uyghur folk song in Turkey? Is there any negative event or exclusion towards you? We talk when I go to the mosque.

Do you have any friends?

No.

How did migrating to Turkey affect you as a character? Have there been any changes in your thinking, daily life or habits?

We have relatives and friends there in our own homeland. Even though there was cruelty there, it was not this much in 2012-2013. It increased after 2016. I missed my family and friends because I came here alone.

Would you like to return to East Turkestan?

We cannot live there as Muslims. If we could, I would like to return. Let me put it this way: we pray here, we go to the mosque, we fast. We cannot say anything when the unbelievers oppress us. If we say so, he throws him in prison.

You immigrated to Turkey. What do you think about Turkey's immigration policy? How can Türkiye help you more? Or what arrangement should be made for you?

East Turkestan is our first homeland, Türkiye is our second homeland. We received citizenship and had no problems. We are happy with this situation

Do you have a dream about the future?

It would be nice if we could visit East Turkestan in the future.

As you know, there are not only East Turkestan people but also Syrians, Afghans and other immigrant groups in Turkey. How do you feel when you see an immigrant other than yourself in Turkey?

I feel a little strange, they can talk to their families over the internet and on the phone. I feel a little bored when I see him.

The participant did not make any suggestions for those who will come to Turkey.



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INTERVIEW 7

F. Özdemir: If we start like this. How did you decide to emigrate from there? Isn't my country already Syria? How did you decide to emigrate from Syria? What was the reason for migration?

A. A: We were sitting at home now. We lived in a normal house. We live in the village. Suddenly they started shooting each other. Things are Isis, they started shooting each other, so they started hitting each other. In other words, in the middle of the bay, the people heard an opposition from outside. They are on the other side, we are in the middle. All the villagers were left in the middle. They are firing rockets, they are hitting us, they are hitting homes. They cut it off until the evening. After that, we left the house and went to my aunt's. They are in another village. My father also decided, let's go to Turkey, he said. We went out in the morning and came back.

F. Özdemir: Has Türkiye done anything before? Did you make a sound? Were there any signs that such turmoil would arise?

A.A: It happened suddenly. It just happened. My father said, "Well, if that's the case, my uncle's son or something was here." They lived in Adana. We left the house around 12 o'clock. We entered Gaziantep at one o'clock. It was 1 o'clock in Gaziantep.

F. Özdemir: Was the preparation process rapid in Gaziantep?

A. A: At that time, we came to Adana, Gaziantep, which is very close to us. After that, we cut the ticket from Gaziantep. We got on the bus and came to Adana. We stayed there for about a month. But we did not know Turkish at that time. We learned later. So it was Arabic. But we learned Turkish in four months. Because I was going to say our main side is the Turkmen side. Since the parents' side was Turkish, we solved it immediately in 4 months. For example, you would never know that my little brothers are Syrian.

F. Özdemir: Did you come here without any plans?

A. A: No, we didn't. We went straight out. My father said that we went to Turkey and came back but he did not go to another country. He will say: My father was ill, he could not see. When we came to Izmir, we sat in an olive grove. You know the olive grove. I heard about Tepecik Hospital and we sat there downstairs. My father's eyes were disturbed, he could not see at all. My father also came here to need help, so they were going to send him to another country. They said if they want it to America, let's send it. I was little, but those were the early days. At first, I was only 14 or 15 years old. My father did not accept. He said we cannot go anywhere else but Turkey.

F. Özdemir: Did you encounter any difficulties?

A. A: During the trip, you came directly to the bus, we did not use a vehicle.

F. Özdemir: Who immigrated here with you?

A. A: I went to some relatives in pieces, went to other bays, so we went and came here. Neither the entire family nor other relatives came with the family.

F. Özdemir: Are they the only ones there right now?

A. A: My uncle, there is no one else there. He's having a hard time right now. He has trouble. Frankly, I was wondering what you experienced here after immigration.

F. Özdemir: What happened, what did I experience, were there any problems here?



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A. A: There are many things I have experienced. I am more satisfied in this aspect. No one does evil when he does not do evil. But of course it's not good. For example, I have traveled to many places, I have been everywhere. I first settled in Adana. We stayed there for a month. Then we came to Izmir. I've been in Izmir from Adana for two years, but I've been to many places. So I met very nice people. People are good in that way, they welcome you. But if you want something evil, you will follow the path of evil. You are bad, they hit you. When you're good, you'll find whatever you want, bro. For example, I went to Istanbul once. He went to Istanbul on the European side. I was going to Istanbul for the first time. I am a relative there. I have an uncle there. Relatives when I go. I don't like going at all. I don't like it. I have such a habit. Turkey's general culture is generally non-existent. I have such a habit. I mean, I don't like going to relatives. Well, they usually cover their faces etc. I mean, I'm ashamed to ever go. They wear black clothes and cover themselves with veils. I'm ashamed. You know that thing that's ashamed to leave? If it leaves, maybe I'll just leave.

F. Özdemir: Did you get help from anyone during this process? What kind of aid did you receive from Turkey? What kind of help was it from the people you sought help from or not? Have you experienced the helpfulness of people?

A. A: When we first came here to Izmir, we entered the house. There was nothing in the house. So the house is empty. There isn't even anything to sleep on. We entered the house, it was empty. When we entered the house, all the neighbors, for example the mosque teacher, brought a refrigerator. Everything helped a lot. Direct to home was filled immediately on the same night. The place, kitchen, furnishings, bed, and everything in the house were immediately filled with everyone from around the same night. That same night, I was accepted by the neighborhood in that regard. Everyone was helpful from start to finish. Thank God I had no difficulties. I've never had a problem here, thank God. Thank God, I never had any difficulties because you came here.

F. Özdemir: Are your feelings good or bad? How do you feel now?

A. A: I was a child when I came here, I got used to it here. So we opened here because I got used to it. I came when I was 14 years old. Then we opened. Now my friends are all Turkish. One is Syrian. You can't find it. Because you won't find any Syrian friends here anymore.

F. Özdemir: I remember the first aid sessions. I also worked in the company. This is normal because companies etc. There too, our bosses and all were rich, everyone was setting up a business.

A. A: When all the Syrians first came, everyone helped Turkey. Everyone helped. Later, of course, a group of Syrians who started to change a little later committed evil. Everyone started coming to the moon. That's a general generalization. An evil comes to everyone he does something to. But thank God I haven't seen anything yet. There is no one who interferes with me. Wherever you go, everyone loves me. I was sitting in the olive grove, the olive grove. Ask at the fountain, ask here. Climb up to Toros Şahin hill. There are so many people who know me, that's all. They love me, thank you. When my father passes away, your uncle is in Turkey or will you take him to Syria from here to there? We buried it here. They live here, you visit here and there. My father passed away in 2020, he had to undergo surgery because his eyes were disturbed. My father lost his memory in 2010.



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F. Özdemir: Through memory loss? The memory came from a shot (bullet) in his head.

A. A: He lost his memory in the 1990s. We came from here. We were going to chat here. In the conversations, they were all Turks. Everyone loved my father. They come, they take my father from the door by car because he can't see, and take him to the classroom. The same thing happened here with the Naqshbandi group. Not here. He was horny, this teacher was horny. He's a pretty great teacher. His origin is not even from Syria, but from another country. From a different country but from Anatolia. Now he is a great teacher in Adana. There are people who truly love. For example, go to Mardin, everyone in Mardin knows that teacher. There are many in Izmir too,

F. Özdemir: Does it have a name?

A. A: Muhammet Mukhtar, everyone knows him on the internet. If you write to YouTube, it appears immediately.

F. Özdemir: Was he a representative of his?

A. A: No, that's not it right now. He had a father. Okay, they were going to chat. They love their students so much. They have a father, everyone is trying. He's such a good person. At least as good.

F. Özdemir: I came across what we call any culture. I came across a cultural difference and this entertainment would be food, notice if it is similar or it is too much. For example, do you follow any sports here? Were you following from there? That's why you say nothing happened. Is there any difficulty in accessing any cultural event of this kind here? Can you go?

A. A: For example, there might be theater, there would be entertainment, something might happen, I'll go there one day. Thank God, I'm like a normal person. In fact, no one here compares me to the fact that I am Syrian. Speaker1: They already know that I am Turkish. They don't even know that I am Syrian. When you say Syrian, the man says, "Oh my God!" he says.

F. Özdemir: In general, you feel that your work is accepted even if you are polite and positive. As we see here, relations with the local people are good. Have you experienced any differences in your family here? Wasn't there a difference in your family when I came here? Did it continue?

A. A: We did not experience any problems. God continued. But when I got married, I came here. They did something, because the house is two plus one. I also had two siblings. Among the three siblings, one got married and now there are two left. But now the woman had to take comfort.

F. Özdemir: How do you communicate the communication status with your family or friends in our hometown? Do you communicate?

A. A: Well, now normally, for example, my mother meets with my uncle and my brother. We are talking on WhatsApp. There is no such thing, if we call normally, they charge a lot. Very true. They meet on Whatsapp.

F. Özdemir: Do you go to your hometown sometimes?

A. A: We have never been to the others. Sometimes some go. They have been here for 12 years. We did not go outside Turkey.

F. Özdemir: Did you miss your hometown?

A.A: I didn't miss it. I feel foreign. Because until you're actually here. Now ask my little sister, come on, let me take you to Syria, I would never go there. She says: Cut off my head and take it to me, she.



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F. Özdemir: Do you think this place was different than you expected or did Türkiye turn out as you expected?

A. A: Well, I love you very much, brother. I'm better, very good

F. Özdemir: We had already said that he would not want to return to his hometown. What dreams do you have for the future? What kind of dream do you dream? If you were to do something.

A. A: How about dreaming? Keep dreaming. So we'll go to bed now, we might not wake up in the morning. It's true, God knows that. Here, I learned the auto tire business with tires, there are there, there are here. I learned as a student here, and there was also Abi at that time.

F. Özdemir: How many years?

A. A: I have been doing that job for 7 years. In that respect, we started as mastery in 2017 and 2016. As a master. Financially good. The conditions of that time were good in that respect. Beautiful.

F. Özdemir: What kind of world do you dream of? You found Turkey very positive. Could it be more beautiful?

A. A: Well, now, for example, some people. I mean, how can I say it, brother? So they say it's done. I'm asking too. So what happened? Finished? He says he gets minimum wage for 17 thousand hours. For example, the rent of your house is 10 thousand TL. For example, I live in Toros now and I make ends meet. Thank God, I'm getting along just fine. Thank God, I also have two children. I mean, I get along so well, thank God. I mean, I don't understand what they are talking about, bro. How nice. Thank God. Speaker1: If you work or don't work, if you stay at home and want money to come to you 24/7, of course it will go bankrupt. But if you go out and work, when you come in the evening, dinner will be ready and everything will be ready. You're in a good mood. Every evening when he comes, then look, now in the morning, for example, my little daughter wakes me up. He gets up early in the morning, yes, at half past six and wakes me up. He's only three years old. We get up and sit here together. I'm going to work. He is waiting for me from that direction at half past seven. But in the evening, I will go home again and sit with the children. My dream is, look, I haven't been out in two and a half years, I haven't gone out in two and a half years, I'll go out like that, get into the business, sit somewhere, hang out, etc. I never went there so I could do everything with my family. In that sense, I can't go out with my family.

F. Özdemir: Whenever you go here, for example, when you go out with your spouse or something, you encounter such a difference, and when you go out for entertainment like this, etc. That's why it's beautiful.

A. A: For example, we went to the last thing, we went to the Urla side for a while. We were so happy, so happy. My little daughter, she was so happy, Abi, something like that could never happen. This is the first time I've seen something like this. The more it opens up, the more relaxed one becomes. When he is a child, he immediately comes and tries to enter the house. Because there is something inside the house. Of course, such a thing cannot happen, I'm serious. For example, I had a friend. In other words, he is Turkish, not Syrian, and lives in Buca. He is the same age as me, now he is 28 years old. We sit and chat.

Speaker1: We worked together for 3 years, and while we were working, he also left, got married, got married. Fortunately, six or seven months have passed. He said: Aren't you thinking of having children? He said he won't do it. He says why won't I do it? So now I have a little daughter, I tell her about it. Brother, the child



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believed, went and had a child. Now a child who loves so much never wanted to go out. He also loves his job very much. They had money and were traveling together. But when you become a child, something else happens, there is a bond. Look, for example, when I had a child, I appreciated my parents very much.

F. Özdemir: Children affect life.

A. A: But when you have a child, you appreciate your mother, your father, your father. I had a very difficult night with my daughter, but that's what she explains to someone who knows. You know, you had a hard night, but thank God your mind is still strong. They never did it in a row. We were lying awake all night until the morning. I wake up in the morning and go to work with two hours of sleep. I had never done it until that day. In that respect, a child is something different. Something is happening to that child. Is there something wrong? We were living together at my brother's house. My brother also has a daughter. I took my brother and two sisters. My brother and I got married in the same family, from the same family. We were staying at my brother's house that night. Dude, it's like 11 or 12 o'clock. We were sitting in the evening, my auntie mistakenly had to drink normal parol. You can't drink Parol plus. It's heavy, she's breastfeeding the child. He gave the child away. Brother, you should see it. The child has become bad. The child is starting to strain his breathing. While his breathing has become excessive, has he also developed an allergy at this point? It was like an allergy or something. Brother doesn't know how the child cried when he had a blister and rushed to the hospital. The doctor said there was nothing. So, something normal happened. It happened because something was wrong, or because it was too late. My brother was so happy that he found it difficult to get in and out of the house.

F. Özdemir: The child is very important, especially if it is a girl.

A. A: I have two daughters, they kiss your hands. I love you so much bro. It's not like you know, kid. The girl child is very different. I'll tell everyone. Or a girl in her own way. Very rare person. There is no such thing. We go to the owner of the house. I am sitting. I take my daughter, she comes out to me. My daughter is sitting next to me. He doesn't move anything, he does anything, he sits together. He doesn't take something just because I give him something. Because he doesn't take any good manners, he doesn't take it in life, he just sits there. Homeowners love it so much, too. The landlord got used to that landlord's wife. He got used to it. Now every day the owner of the house comes and picks it up and takes it to him. They hang out together. Now I'm going home. My daughter says sister, sister. He wants to go to his sister. And I make him work, I take him out to your sister's place. He speaks Turkish, but mostly Arabic, a little more, he is just starting to speak.

F. Özdemir: So are their languages speaking Turkish at that time? Do you speak Arabic at home?

A. A: Speaker1: When I go to my mother, we speak Turkish. We don't speak Arabic. I have a brother, he is also 21 years old. Now he has forgotten fifty percent of Arabic. Because he did not use Turkish things, he forgot 50 percent of them. Now he is the pastry chef. He is much better than me. Because he took it from the basics. He's hanging out with his friends now.

F. Özdemir: Then we have a few more questions. How do you feel when you see immigrants from a different country? So it's not just Syrians, it's Afghans. There are things. How do you feel when you see them?



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A. A: We are in the same situation as we were. They are actually helplessness and desperation. Because. Do you know why? Now they start shooting each other there. That is, when I was in the village. Look, think about it, for example. They also loved rabbit meat very much. They were going to the mountains. Rabbit meat was very good. The two brothers left, the older brother is the one. One of them shoots one of them with a gun and they shoot the rabbit with a gun very, very quickly and successfully. There are also hunting here, here and here. They went, brother, one of them caught one, that is, he shot one, and the other one did not hit anything in that village. They came, brother, they came to the village in times of war. My brother wants the rabbit but he won't give it to me. Since he didn't give it up, he took out the gun. His brother was injured. He shot six bullets into his feet.

F. Özdemir: For a rabbit?

A. A: He took the rabbit and went for another rabbit. I was a child, he hears the conversation. So, this is the situation that the war actually brought. They fell. I mean, think about it, when that ISIS conversation first started, there were two brothers, two brothers. One entered ISIS, the other entered Free Syrians. So we called us village there before. Türkiye was interfering, another country was interfering. Everyone was complicated at that time. Actually, it was very complicated there. It is free between them when there is a fight. Those in Syria come home to their mother, that is, they go home to their family. He entered the house, and his ISIS brother also came to the house. They fell out with each other. Look, he says, come and hang out with our Özgür. He doesn't accept it either, he says come to us. They hung out with each other and killed each other. It happened that they both shot each other. Look at your mother now. I mean, imagine, they fell into that situation.

F. Özdemir: Is this happening in your villages or in nearby villages?

A. A: No, it is like that in our village.

F. Özdemir: How many such things happened in the village? Events hitting each other.

A. A: It is like a town with 69 villages. Just like our village. 69 villages are connected. They've fallen to that level, man. That's how people shoot brothers and sisters. They did not confront each other as one. This is what we were like when things got messy. I remember, I was a child. Our neighbor across the street. The man has no money for a living, that's it. He raised those people and deceived them. So they actually deceived those poor people. The man is our next door neighbor, across from us. The man doesn't have a penny of bread and butter. That's it. By the way, look, I remember, I was a child. His wife was coming. He was coming to my mother. He cries and asks for the money to buy bread.

F. Özdemir: Among them, did they deceive you with money first?

A. A: The man suddenly stopped talking to anyone. The man jumped out. Latest model car. Look, that's why they started like this, under the latest model car. Twenty or thirty people gathered. He made a free one next to him. He made a name for himself. That's what they did. They began to become enemies of each other.

F. Özdemir: At that time, they gave money to people from region to region. Then they distributed it with that money.

A. A: Actually, they came from America and mixed it up. There is 80 percent. Their origins also come from North Africa. In fact, these were the first paid,



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educated men who came and found the poor people there, and that's what they did to them. Suddenly everyone formed their own group. After that, they start fighting each other like enemies. So, for example, now there is interference from America, and there is interference from Lebanon. America, Russia, Iran, there is meddling everywhere. Everyone has different things. Look, now Türkiye entered Syria and it got better. Fifty percent improved. Because there is a regular army in Anatolia. When Türkiye entered Syria, fifty percent recovered.

F. Özdemir: Other parties did not enter. Is there any chaos right now?

A. A: I don't know that. My uncle's son passed away and became a martyr. He ate his head and my ends. After that, he cut the news and we don't watch it.

F. Özdemir: Was there anything? Was he in the group or doing business in the village?

A. A: In fact, he's actually going for a blind bullet.

F. Özdemir: How is it happening in the villages now? Empty or full?

A. A: I don't know, I don't see anyone. It's here because I'm not seen at all right now.

F. Özdemir: Is there any relative connection?

A. A: It's here. I'm not seeing you. He never meets with relatives. My uncle lives in Adana. in Gaziantep. My uncles are on the Adana side. It may also be that I haven't talked to my uncle for 9 years.

F. Özdemir: Is there any hostility?

A. A: There is nothing normal, nothing. Only distance gets in the way. How should I say it? For example, I was calling them and asking them. I was calling and asking everyone, but as you grow up, something comes to your mind and I always call and ask, why don't they call and ask? They are my father, for example. When I passed away, my uncle did not come. Türkiye was here in Turkey. No problem, he didn't come. You ask, why should I talk to my uncle? When we came to Adana, we came to Adana. My uncle did not come to see my father in Mersin. So they found themselves in such a situation.

F. Özdemir: Then there was no hostility between them. As for here. Then, do you think there is a loosening of family ties when you come to Turkey? Are there other Syrians who migrated like that? Do the Syrians who come here have such a kinship bond? When it comes to Turkey, for example, when it comes to Turkey, Syrians, for example, do not think that they are your country, but they come and go to each other while they are comfortable. Do you think it decreased when you came here?

A. A: He moved away, they were getting it done a lot. But when he came to Turkey, for example, how should I put it, they found everything a little more comfortable. It's like everyone retreated to their own castle. Okay, okay.

F. Özdemir: It was nice. If there is anything else you want to say, we can talk in half an hour.

A.A: We talk. We met.

F. Özdemir: Okay. Very pleased to meet you. Thank you very much.