

## INFORMANT C (NEGAR PAZ)

### Reminiscences

(1) *ga-ʔIrán na-rahàt-yeli.* | *pqartì mārāwa.* | *ga-ʔIrán na-rahàt-yeli.* | *tāmām-e duktóre kúle zilan* | *là kéwalu māʿalijí hòliwa.* | *Báhrām gyán mìre* | *dày gyán* | *sé baqá ʔIsràyəl.* | *Faršíd dokà-y.* | *Dànəš doká-y.* | *lablílax l-dokà.* | *báška ʔalhà-y māʿalija xārát.* | (2) *ʔána hìyan.* | *Bahrám ga-ʔIràn-yele.* | *Bahrám là-hyewa.* | *hiyàna,* | *ləblánanu bimaristán-e Hădăšà.* | *ʔăxonì ləblánanef,* | *Dànəš ʔăxoní.* | *ga-dokà* | *xà-xmata dyálu ga-ʿăsábe bar-reší-u* | *ʔaná dméli máe drèlu réša nurá trišan-ò.* | (3) *ʔaná* | *fawrí* | *bəqātef-ò* | *telefon wíli baqá* | *Bàhrām gyán.* | *mìri* | *Bàhrām* | *xáran saqòx* | *bsiman-ò* | *ʔarəm xirán.* | *kmár dáy-gyān* | *ʔəqrà ʔlu* | *ʔaná ga-lăxá tăxăšúš lá qārəna.* | *ʔána kéna báqa ʔIsràyəl.* | *ʔăzizakam* | *ʔaná ʔəa šmli mən-Bahrám-u* | *bár xá čəkmà-ì* | *tré təlĥà yarxé lăxà-yeli-u* | *ʔaná mìri* | *daxóm măĥanqili.* | *xor-ʔIsráyəl ʔăxá là-yela ʔó-waxtăra.* | *tlái-u təlĥà-šəne qăme d-éa-yele.* | *ʔaná ʔăgár Bahrám hé lăxá tăxăšúš qārè,* | *xét là-ke-o báqa ʔIsráyəl.* | *ʔaná-č gbé hezán-o lága belá-u yali.* | (4) *qìman* | *zilán-o.* | *míre dáyka* | *ʔána gbəna tăxăšúš qārənaf* | *bár-d-o ken-ò.* | *sé ròla* | *ʔalhá hăwé mənox.* | *Bahrám qím zil.* | *zil-u* | *bár xa-müdat* | *xa-tré təlĥà-šəne zil gáef* | *xéli Bahrám gyán* | *telefon wíle baqí* | *yáni ta-Soqrát bronì* | *míre ʔaná baxtà gəwrí.* | *Soqrát zàng díle baqí* | *míre dáyka* | *Bahrám baxtà gəwrá-y.* | *tʷká d-óa xoš-ĥəl xārán,* | *ʔili wíli bəxoè.* | *bəxyàn,* | *bəxyàn.* | *kmár yătümta* | *mà baxyát?* | *mìri* | *tazà* | *Bahrám* | *ʔaná b-ʔeni la-xăef.* | *zəndəgí dăx-ye!* | *dăx čér!* | *hič* | *rába na-rahàt xíran-u* | *xéli Bəhrām gyán* | *míre dáy gyán* | *là-zdu,* | *ʔaná ʔarbá yarxé xèt* | *ʔaná kèn-o lágax.* | *híye məntáke baxtəf* | *bəxle réša dilu.* |

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(1) In Iran I was not well. My neck ached. In Iran I was not well. I went to all the doctors. They could not cure me. My dear Bahram said ‘Mother dear, go to Israel. Farshid is there. Danəš is there. They will take you there. Perhaps it is (the will of) God that you will be cured.’ (2) I came. Bahram was in Iran. Bahram had not yet come. I came. They took me to Hadasa hospital. My brother took me, Danəš my brother. There they injected a needle in the nerves behind my neck. I thought that they put water on the fire and I was cured. (3) Immediately in the morning I telephoned my dear Bahram. I said ‘Bahram, my dear,<sup>73</sup> I have been cured, I have been relieved (of my pain).’ He says ‘Mother dear, you should know this, that I shall not study a specialism here. I shall come to Israel.’ My dear, I heard this from Bahram, then after a little longer—I was here two or three months—I said ‘Even if they strangle me (I shall not stay).’ Israel was then not like this (as it is now). It was thirty-three years ago. ‘If Bahram comes here to study a specialism, he will not come back to Israel afterwards.<sup>74</sup> But I must go back to my family and children.’ (4) I went back. He (Bahram) said ‘Mother. I want to study my specialism, then I shall come back.’ ‘Go, my dear. May God be with you.’ Bahram went away. He went and after a period of two or three years had passed, it happened<sup>75</sup> that dear Bahram telephoned me, that is Soqrat my son, and said ‘I have married.’ Soqrat rang me and said ‘Mother, Bahram has married.’ Instead of being happy, I began to cry. I cried and cried. He says ‘Poor woman,<sup>76</sup> why are you crying?’ I said ‘I shall not see Bahram with my own eyes again soon.’ How life (is hard)! How it turns out to be! Well,<sup>77</sup> I was very sick and then dear Bahram said ‘Mother, do not fear, I shall come back to you in another four months.’

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<sup>73</sup> Literally: May I become your cleansing (of sins).

<sup>74</sup> I.e. he will return to live in Iran.

<sup>75</sup> Literally: I saw.

<sup>76</sup> Literally: orphan girl.

<sup>77</sup> Literally: nothing.

(5) 'áy 'olamà, | 'azizakam, | ràba zorté-ya. | 'əlhá 'asxá wile | čárx mčre. | məntáke d-èa | bəxle qímex híyex baqá lăxà. | híyex baqá diyání yalăkè. | Báhrām míre dáy-gyān, | həlax! | 'áy belà | 'áy 'ərə bayər-yela | xa-tika 'ərə ga-dóka ga-Denyà-yela | šaqlèxila. | 'áy 'ərə | xá-tikaf 'axtù ntúmu | xá-tikaf 'əxni. | (6) fkər wili-ó. | míri là<sup>3</sup> | fayà-lite | 'aná həwšälá-e 'ára tārošè líti-u | 'aná | gezan-ò | yalı ga-Kursàn-yen-u | 'aná | šoquí ba-t<sup>w</sup>kà-u | hiyán ga-lăxá yătàn?! | míre dáy-gyān, | mà gbát? | míri | hezék xa-béla šqùli, | har-o-kăràt. | híyex, | tǎbăqá-e garé zilex. | 'əqrá ləbí 'əxà-yele, | ga-penhàws-yele. | míre 'əa šqúle. | míri là<sup>3</sup> | qáwme 'ána máre năwagè-yan-u | năwagí hén-u hezí ga-garè-u | 'əlhá la holanè | lapli. | bəšár xet- 'əxà-y. | là šwáqli. (7) híyex lăxà. | 'ay-bèla xélan. | míre dáy-gyān 'əa gbáte? | míri 'i Báhrām gyān, | šqúle. | wále 'ána 'ətá là-kyāna. | 'aná gezan-ó báqa 'Irān. | 'ò-waxtāra | qáwe qúye Xomenì | pílwa-u là pílwa, | heštán ma'lúm là-yele. | qíman məntáke d-èa | bəxle zilex-ò. | 'azizakam | zífex-o baqá Kursàn. | 'áy ləbí | čúnke Báhrām lăxà-yele | tăxăšús qărèwa | xéli hóš-u xyalı lága d-èele. | məntáke d-áy bəxle zilex-ò. | (8) béla trəšwalan. | <sup>H</sup>vilà<sup>H</sup> hítwalan. | ba-'əlhá xà zəndəgí hítwalan ga-'Irān. | ba-'əlhà | xa-'əstáxr ga-ħafšān-yela. | tré karmalè-yelu. | həlí hár danù | hamrána čəkmà | 'əlhá-hiwula gáu. | šóa tmánya 'otaqè-hítwalan. | qímex zəbnilan belăké. | 'éa 'orxéf dəwqàle | míre həlax | šoqék bá-t<sup>w</sup>ka-u hezèxin. | həlí ba-harzàn | ba-'əlhà | ba-nurà, | ba-nurà | mətílan belăkè. | ba-'əštà-me | 'əštá-me 'alpè | zəbnán. | míri ba-Tún jähānām. | ba-'əlhà | malkàn, | dārayàn, | 'əlha-hiwulàn, | malàn, | 'ilanè, | hər-či hítwalan | míri jähānām hezèx. |

(5) This world, my dear, is very small. God worked (our fate) in such a way and turned the wheel. I came here together with him.<sup>78</sup> We came to see the children. Bahram said ‘Mother dear, come! This house, this land, which was waste ground, a plot of land that was there in Denya<sup>79</sup>—let’s buy it. This land—you take a piece of it and we a piece.’ (6) I thought about it. I said ‘No. There is no point. I do not have the patience to build on the land. I shall go back. My children are in Kurdistan. Should I leave them there and come to live here?!’ He said ‘Mother dear, what do you want?’ I said ‘Let’s go and you buy me a house, only then (will I come).’ We came and went to the floor (under) the roof. My heart was so (shaken) like this, it was in the ‘penthouse.’ He said ‘Buy this.’ I said ‘No. In the future<sup>80</sup> I shall have grandchildren. My grandchildren would come and go onto the roof and, God forbid, fall off.’ Well, it is only human (to think like that).<sup>81</sup> I did not allow it. (7) We came here. We saw this house. He said ‘Mother dear, do you want this one?’ I said ‘Yes, dear Bahram, buy it, but I shall not come now. I shall go back to Iran.’ At that time the twittering of Khomeini, whether it had started or not, was still not widely known about. I set off with him (my husband) and we went back together. My dear, we went back to Kurdistan. As for my heart, since Bahram was here to study a specialism, all my thoughts were indeed with him. I went back together with him (my husband). (8) We had built a house. We had a villa. Indeed, we had a (good) life in Iran. Indeed, there was a pool in our courtyard. There were two orchards. (You should) understand, in each of them, let me say, there was so much divinely given produce. We had seven or eight rooms. (Despite this) we sold all the properties. He (my husband) set off and said ‘Come, let us leave (it all) in its place and go.’ You understand, (we sold) cheaply, indeed, we put the properties in the fire (so cheaply did we sell them). We sold for six hundred, for six hundred thousand. I said ‘(Let it be turned) into Tun,<sup>82</sup> to hell (with it).’ Indeed, our property, our possessions, our divinely given produce, our village, trees, everything we had—I said ‘To hell (with it)’ let us go.

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<sup>78</sup> The speaker points to her husband.

<sup>79</sup> A district of Haifa.

<sup>80</sup> Literally: tomorrow.

<sup>81</sup> Literally: A human is like that.

<sup>82</sup> A city that was totally destroyed.

(9) 'éa ... xá-lele zíl be-bratì. | ga-televizyón m'ínwale | xá-náfar mən-d-áy  
 'a'yanè malàk-yele | q̄təlwalu. | hiye-ò | kmár Negâr | 'ána là yátúna. | 'ána didì-č  
 qatlí. | fawri | bəqāta | hāwapaɣmà, | xətní hāwapaɣmá dwəqle baqéf-u | 'áy hiye-ó  
 baqá lága Taymùr, | baqá Fărănsa, | zāminì | xor-hāwai litwa. | (10) qím híye lāxà. |  
 ba-són-e d-áy-əč | 'ána hīyan. | hīyan | wāle | tāmām-e hōš-u | fəkrì, | 'ātá 'al'ān  
 haqyàn, | lága yalì-yele. | ga-'Irān šəwqìwali-u | xa-məqdāru ga-'Isràyəl-yelu. | 'ila  
 wīli bāxòe | nōša qātòle. | har-dāx-yele xét? | bārux ha-šəm | 'áy-bela hitwalan,  
 belākè hitwalan. | bəxyàn. | 'áy 'āsasiyà-u | 'èxa-u | kúle mēlan | kúle twir | kúle  
 pərtix, | kúle mən-báyn zil. | (11) míri kèt má holéx. | māšín-e raxt-šurì mēwalan,  
 'ó-č twira, | yaxčalan, | kúle twiri. | ga-'orxá kúle mən-báyn zili. | mirì jāhanām  
 hālox | 'áy jālan čalkən-yen. | mandyānanu ga-wanākè. | xor-'axnì là-kelan  
 xālélilu. | kmár mà honá? | míri 'āt | ba-'aqlè | sé réša 'áy jəlè. | ba-'aqlè 'áy jəlè  
 'ūclu | 'ūclu 'e-jəlākè | 'aná-č 'asrānanu. | 'əlhà wílá-y. | 'aná bəxyàn. | 'áy bxè-u  
 'ána bəxyàn. | míri kət má hūl. | hálox se-ò. | (12) hezan-ò? | 'olām 'axór xārà  
 daxóm ga-'Irān. | 'aná ga-'Irān là gezan-ó. | 'anà | talxí grəšli | ga-'Irān. | zāhamtā  
 grəšli. | ba-šiwè nurá koléxwa-u | ba-tənà, | bad-baxtì, | be-čarāgì. | gáz litwalan. | ga-  
 'axər xirá-y máre gáz-u | yaxčāl. | xor-híči litwalan, | híči. | kulfát litwalan. | nokár  
 litwalan. | wāle báqa didì | wījud-dídi xa-šahì lá šāwé. | míri 'āt gezét se-ó, | 'ána là  
 gezán. | (13) xolāša | ba-'ānazé kafì | zāhamtā-u | bad-baxtì grəšlan, | wāle barúx  
 ha-šəm, | barúx ha-šəm | 'ātà | 'anà | xà sa'át-e Yəsráyəl lá ... | ba-xamsì 'Irān lá  
 kwán. | 'Otríš ziltè-yan. | 'arbà-kārat zilté-yan Fărănsa. | 'əštà-kārat zilté-yan  
 'Amrīka. | 'əlhà káe. | hāli xārèt, | wáxt-e kyanwà-o | báqa Yəsráyəl, | kəmránwa  
 'əlhá ya-rābí škùr | 'ána hīyan-ó báqa Yəsráyəl. | Yəsráyəl behtarín zəndəgì ya-mirì  
 baqóx. | 'əqrà 'axnì saxtì-u | bad-baxtì-u | be-čarāgì-u | grəšlan ga-dóka hāli xārèt. |

(9) One night he (my husband) went to my daughter's house. He watched the television (and he saw that) one of the dignitaries who was a landlord had been killed. He came back and said 'Negar, I shall not stay. They will kill also me.' Immediately in the morning my son-in-law booked an airplane for him (my husband) and he went to Taymur,<sup>83</sup> to France—by land, there was no (possibility of travelling) by air. (10) He then came here. I came following him. I came but all my thoughts, now I am telling it, were with my children. I had left them in Iran, some were in Israel. I began to cry and to beat myself. How else could it be? Thank God, we had this house. We had the house. This furniture and so forth, we brought it all but it all broke, everything shattered, everything was destroyed. (11) I said 'Do you know what we shall do.' We had brought a washing-machine but it also was broken, also our refrigerator, all were broken. They were destroyed on the road. I said 'Hell, come, these clothes of ours are dirty. I shall throw them in the bath. Indeed, we cannot wash them.' He says 'What should I do?' I said 'You go onto the clothes with your feet. Trample the clothes with your feet. Trample the clothes and I shall wring them out. God has willed this.'<sup>84</sup> I wept. He wept and I wept. I said 'You know what you should do, go back (to Iran).'

(12) Should I go back? The world will come to an end, even in Iran. I shall not go back to Iran. I suffered bitter hardship in Iran. I suffered a difficult life. We made fire with wood, with smoke. (We suffered) ill-fortune and desperation. We did not have gas. In the end he (my husband) acquired gas supply and a refrigerator. We had absolutely nothing, nothing. We did not have a maid. We did not have a servant. But as far as I was concerned, my life was not worth a penny (in Iran). I said '*You* go back. I shall not go.'<sup>85</sup> (13) In short, we suffered enough<sup>85</sup> hardship and misfortune, but thank God, thank God, now I would not give one hour of Israel for fifty hours of Iran. I have been to Austria. I have been to France four times. I have been to America six times. God knows. You understand, when I was coming back to Israel, I said 'Oh thanks be to God. I have come back to Israel. The best life is in Israel, as I have said to you. We suffered such difficulty, misfortune and desperation there (in Iran), you understand.

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<sup>83</sup> A member of the family living in France.

<sup>84</sup> Literally: God has done (this).

<sup>85</sup> Literally: in a sufficient measure.

(14) yá rābī škūr<sup>l</sup> ba-ʿəlhá zəndəgiyán raḥāt-ye.<sup>l</sup> yalí kúle ḥəšta kolí.<sup>l</sup> kúle zəndəgí ʿayzà-hitu.<sup>l</sup> ʿay-broní ya-kəmrán híye təxəšúš qrèle,<sup>l</sup> mašāǎ,<sup>l</sup> xa-šəmə-hite ga-tāmám-e Xáyfa.<sup>l</sup> ʿəlhà manté,<sup>l</sup> ba-zəxút ʿo-sefarè<sup>l</sup> na-raḥātí ta-hič bāné ʿolām là-həwə<sup>l</sup> ʿəlhá parḥáz ʿáy Yəsrəyəlān.<sup>l</sup> ʿəlhá šóqla baqàn.<sup>l</sup> bé bálá hawyə.<sup>l</sup> ʿəlhá káram hól ba-kúle ʿómte ʿolām.<sup>l</sup> <sup>K</sup>dās-e gúl-u<sup>l</sup> dās-e nargèz<sup>l</sup> márgetān nà-binam har-géz.<sup>K<sup>l</sup></sup>

(14) Thanks be to God, indeed our life is comfortable. All my children are working. All have a good life. The son who I said came to study a specialism, by good fortune, is well known<sup>86</sup> in the whole of Haifa. May God grant (this), by the virtue of the Torah scrolls, may He not give distress to any person. May God protect this Israel of ours. May God preserve it for us. May it be without catastrophe. God grant grace to all the nations of the world. A bunch of flowers, a bunch of narcissus (I offer you), may I not ever see your death.

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<sup>86</sup> Literally: He has a name.