

Resisting Turbulence

The following is a translated transcription of the interviews that are part of the sound piece by Nour Sokhon. The interviews have been conducted by Nour Sokhon and Myriam Boulos in October 2019 in Beirut.

I wake up slowly (*French*).
I take my coffee (*French*).
I listen to western news (*French*).
Local news (*French*).
I check my phone to see the agenda, their agenda (*French*).

The news on the television is a disaster!
The politicians are just using slogans, they are all liars.
Liars, liars, liars.
Now they hold meetings for the dollar and then you don't find dollars in the country.
Where are they?

I mean the lira, doesn't have value.
I mean the lira isn't even worth a penny.
They are fighting with us about food as well, now this has become a hunger war.

I don't want money from the government.
I am not an employee.
I am not taking anything from the government.
We give the government. We give!
They should help us get our rights!

I used to go downstairs alone in my nightgown and sleep on the ladder. Everyone in the building used to get scared of me. They used to ask me what am I doing here? And tell me to go sleep at home. I can't fall asleep; you can't sleep if there is no roof over you, even if we aren't exposed to bombing? Strategically speaking or what do they say I mean there aren't any bombs but I mean you can't sleep as long as there is "boom boom boom". Even if the bombing was in Cyprus you can't listen and sleep to "boom boom". What if it was also on the last floor and they don't let me sleep on the ladder. I mean not sleep sit, sit.

When the war started my brother went to sleep with his friends.

We live with memory.
This is the memory of my parents' photo.
And a memory on the Nahar newspaper, where they said a body was found.
My brothers and we went to look and find it.

I go home.
I turn pale.
I sit alone.

In life, I normally like sadness.
What?
I like sadness.

There is no light at night.
The night.
The night for us ended when the war started.

I am the son of the war. From when it began, we don't even recognize the night anymore.
This is between us.

He told me, you want to understand politics, read what is written on the walls.

To build a country you need to be clean.
You hear me! So, it can be clean, you have to be clean.
You can't be extraordinary if you aren't clean.

What are we going to take with us?
Nothing, nothing.
Nothing I swear!
I mean items are better than their owners, they stay.

To build a country you need to be clean.
You hear me! So, it can be clean, you have to be clean.
You can't be extraordinary if you aren't clean.

To think think think think think to arrive at these situations.

For the first time 3000 women from 7- 77 years old express themselves with honesty for
the first time in their life S E X Y L L E (*French*).

The world is all built wrong.

We are in a constant struggle for reformations! (*French*)

I was going on a road I didn't know.
I arrived at a dead end. I arrived at a dead end. You go on a road but you arrive at a
dead end, I stopped.

I dream of having a free mind.
A free mind.

I dream that my kids will live in a better future (*French*)
This is my dream!
And I dream that I don't fall sick. I mean leaving without being sick. (*French*)

The most important thing is love and we don't love each other anymore, honestly.
Yeah, listen the word love is heavy.

Not heavy, it's understood wrong.
We can't live without love (*French*).
We can't live without love (*French*).
What is more important than love (*French*).

More than love.
There is affection (*French*).

How do you see the future and how do you feel about it?

Listen, concerning Lebanon, which is really a miracle country, I mean every time it falls, it
gets a grip of itself, by miracle! (*French*). We always, I don't know, have factors here and
there that intervene in important moments. This means when it really should.
Even if we fall in the void, there always is a drop of hope in the Lebanese people (*French*).