

## Episode 10: Ya Habibi Ya Lebnen

### *Original Script:*

D2i2et samet abel ma nbalesh! D2i2et samet means moment of silence. B tarikh 4 ab, 2020 infijar 3ala port Beirut atal aktar min 150 shakhes, w jara7 aktar min 6,000 shakhes w sharad aktar min 300,000 shakhes. Enfijar 7az el-dene w 7ara2 a7lem. 7atam byut w zekrayet w amel- hayda eza aslan el-sha3eb el-lebnehen ken 3indo amel. August 4, 2020 destroyed everything! A day that my Lebanese people will never forget!

Awal 7al2ah 3emelta lal hayda el-podcast ken esma, “10 interesting facts about Lebanon.” W wa7ad min el- facts ken elit fi, “Lebnen tdamar w t3amar 7 marat!” Hal2 saro 8 marat. Albe 3am yoja3ne 3ala balade, albeh ma7ro2, albeh 3am yebke 3ala sha3beh yale 3am ymot mit matweh bil nhar. Lebnehen ken already 3am ywejeheh meshkleh eqtisadiyah w lira fa2adet aktar min 80/100 min emeta. Nes kenit e3de bala shoghol, nes jo3anehen min ghala el-ma3ishe, el-nes kenit 3am t7awel titjanab el-corona la eno iza enta lebnehen w ma 3indak ta2min aw masareh, el-mestashfa ma btista2blak, fa fi e7timel ktir kbir enak tmot 3ala beb el-mestashfa. In Lebanon if you don't have money or insurance you can't be admitted to hospitals.

Over 2750 metric tons of ammonium nitrate that have been stockpiled at Beirut port warehouse just minutes' walk from the city's shopping and nightlife district exploded. Iza kamen btitzakaro b 7al2et “10 interesting facts about Lebanon” zakaret w elit inu Lebnehen balad ktir sghir, asghar min weleyit Connecticut. Tkhayalo mada ewit w aza hal enfijar. Mas2olijet aya seyeseh hayde? Ma 7ada ba3ed bya3ref! Bus yale akid ma3rouf inu hayde natijet dawleh fesdeh; corrupted, tami3ah; greedy, 7aramiyeh; thief's, bala aleb; heartless.

Sem7oneh ya sha3beh! Bil wa2et yale mafrod tkon 3am tnem b baytak, hal2 3am tfatesh 3ala ma7al tnem fi. Bil wa2et yale mafrod tkon

3am ted7ak w mabsout w nater el-weekend ta tedhar w teshar, hal2 3am tkans el-2zez w dob ahlemek. Bil wa2et yale mafrod 3am te7tefil b eid miled ebnak, 3am tidfon ebnak. Bil wa2et yale mafrod 3am t7ader la 3ersak, 3am timshe b jnezit sa7ebtak aw khatibtak. Bil wa2et yale mafrod to3ah fi sobo7 ta tro7 3ala shoghlak, hal2 3am tfatsh 3ala shoghol w ma 3am tle2e le2an ma 3indak wasta. Let me explain wasta, wasta means connections. In my country if you don't have any connections through political sects you can't be employed. Regardless of how smart and skilled you are. Badak wasta iza badak shoghol.

Dawleh akaleta el-ta2ifiyeh, dawleh akelta el-3onsiriyeh, dawleh akaleta el-fased. The total Lebanese population is estimated to be between 13 to 18 million in total. And around 13 million of that population are diaspora. Which leaves around 4 million living in Lebanon. Dawleh w soltah fesdeh 7aramet aktar min 13 million y3isho ma3 ahlon w y3isho b baldon. Mishte2ah la ote b Beirut, w tabkhat eme, mishte2ah la bayte bil day3ah, mishte2ah etsaba7 bil naher. We spent all our summers on the river in my village and I miss everything about it. 7ajartona w 7aramtona min baladna w ahelna.

Seme7ne ya sha3beh le2ane mish tale3 b ede jibak la 3inde. Ya ret fiyeh e7melkon kilkon w nayemkon 3inde. Bus sawa inshala 7an3amer hal balad a7la min ma kenit. Sawa 7an3amer a7la byut b ras Beirut. Khalina nraje3 13 million mhajar 3ala balado w ahlo.

Se3done raje3 w erja3 3ala balade. Ni7na bi7aje la da3emkon. Da3em ma daroreh yukon medeh, el-da3em fi yukon inkon tse3do twaslo aswat el-nes el-mawjo3ah la kil el-3alam. Tse3dona nefda7 or expose el-mas2olin w el-solta el fesdeh balke byeste7o w byesta2ilo. Ya habibi ya Lebnen!

### ***Translation:***

Moment of Silence before we start for those, we have lost in the latest Beirut explosion. On August 4, 2020 an explosion took place at the Beirut port. Killing more than 150 people, injuring more than 6,000 people, and leaving more than 300,000 homeless. An explosion that took the attention of the whole world. Destroyed houses, memories, dreams and hopes- that if there was really any hope left for the Lebanese people. August 4, 2020 destroyed everything! A day that my Lebanese people will never forget!

In the first episode of my podcast, “10 interesting facts about Lebanon.” In one of the facts I mentioned was; “Lebanon was destroyed and rebuilt 7 times!” And now it will be 8th time. My heart is hurting, my heart is crying for my people that is dying by the hundreds every day. Lebanon was already facing economic crisis and Lira- the Lebanese currency lost more than 80 percent of its value. People are unemployed, people are hungry because of the rising prices, people are trying to avoid COVID19 because if you are Lebanese and you don’t have insurance or money, hospitals won’t admit you, so you might die at the hospital door.

Over 2750 metric tons of ammonium nitrate that have been stockpiled at Beirut port warehouse just minutes’ walk from the city’s shopping and nightlife district exploded. If you remember in the first episode “10 interesting facts about Lebanon”, I mentioned that Lebanon is smaller in size than the state of Connecticut. Imagine the amount of destruction the explosion has caused. Which person or should I say which political sect is responsible for this as nothing in Lebanon is approved without the direction of a political leader? No one knows yet! But what we know for sure that this is a result of a corrupted, greedy thief’s, irresponsible, careless, and heartless government.

Forgive me my people! Instead of sleeping at your house, you are looking for a place to sleep tonight. Instead of being happy, excited, and

awaiting the weekend to go out and party, you are now weeping the glass and packing your dreams. Instead of celebrating your child's birthday, you are burying your child. Instead of preparing for your wedding, you are now making last arrangements for your fiancée's funeral. Instead of waking up in the morning to go to work, you are now looking for a job and you can't find one because you don't have the political connections. In my country if you don't have any connections through political sects you can't be employed. Regardless of how smart and skilled you are. You need connections to find a job.

A government filled with religion sectarian, a government filled with racism, a government filled with corruption. The total Lebanese population is estimated to be between 13 to 18 million in total around the world. And around 13 million of that population are diaspora. Which leaves around 4 million living in Lebanon. Corrupted politicians and government forced more than 13 million people fled their own country for survival. I miss my bedroom in Beirut, my mother's food, and my house in the village. We spent all our summers on the river in my village. I miss swimming in the river and I miss everything about it. You (Politicians) forced us to leave and deprived us from our country and family.

Forgive me my people because I can't bring you here. I wish I can carry all of you and offer a comfort of a home. All though I cannot provide this, I hope my message reaches all to see the sadness that my people are going through. But together we will re-build Lebanon nicer than it was. Together we will build the nicest house on the tip of Beirut. Let's bring back the 13 million ex-pats to their country and family.

Help me return to my country. We need your support. Support doesn't have to me money; support could be to help the hurting voices of people go viral. Help us expose the corrupted politicians. Let them be ashamed and retire. We need them out of office and bring new light into my beloved Lebanon!