

**A micro-study of Greek Female  
Immigrants to NZ in the 60s**  
*An Oral History Project*

**Interview Transcript**

Interviewee: *Anastasia (Tasoula)  
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Additional material:  
*Bio details/consent forms/photos/other supporting  
documentation/transcript of interview*

*Transcription by Lucy Anastasiadou - Hobbs*

A0 - So Tasula τι είναι το παντρεμένο όνομά σου;

Tας - Δεσποτάκη

A0 – Δεσποτάκη. Α, είναι το παντρεμένο. Το άλλο;

Tας - Σιχλάκη

A0 – Τσιχλάκη. And how do you spell that? Ts;

Tας - *D s i h l a k i s. Or you can take the 's' of as this is for boys.*

A0 – Στα ελληνικά είναι Τ; Τσιχλάκη;

Tας - *Ναι με Τ.*

A0 – Στα αγγλικά γιατί βάζεις D?

Tας - *We never know this is what we put at the beginning and it is wrong.*

A0 - Yes it is wrong, it should be T?

Tας - *Ds*

A0 - So, Tasula από που είσαι γεννημένη;

Tας - *Στην Κρήτη, στον νομό Κισιάμου, το χωριό μας το λένε Κακόπετρος. Εγεννήθηκα το 1941, έτσι νομίζω, με έχουν βάλει το '42 αλλά είμαι σίγουρη το '41 στις 28 Οκτωβρίου.*

A0 – Ωραία. Και οι γονείς σου τι ήτανε;

Tας - *Ο μπαμπάς μου ήτανε ο Νικόλαος Τσιχλάκης, γέννημα και ανάθεμα και κάτοικος Κακοπέτρου, η μαμά μου ήτανε Στέλλα Σαρτσετάκη. Από την Κάντανο, Σέληνο.*

A0 – Και ξέρεις πότε γεννήθηκαν;

Tας - *Ο μπαμπάς μου δεν ξέρουμε μήνα αλλά ξέρω γεννήθηκε το 1902, η μαμά μου γεννήθηκε το 1916.*

A0 – Ήτανε πιο μεγάλη;

Tας - *Πιο μικρή.*

A0 – '16 και ο πατέρας σου ήτανε

Tας - *το '02.*

Tας - *Η μαμά μου πέθανε το '92 τον Δεκέμβριο 17, δύο μέρες μετά από το σήμερα που κάνουμε αυτό και ο μπαμπάς μου γεννήθηκε ε, πέθανε το 1995. Οκτώβριο.*

A0 – Και τι δουλειά έκανε ο πατέρας σου;

Tας - *Ο μπαμπάς μου ήτανε γεωργός. Αλλά επειδή ήτανε τραυματισμένος από τον πόλεμο, είχε 4-5 bullets στην πλάτη του, δεν μπορούσε να δουλεύει πολύ. Και έτσι μας έδωσε εμάς, τα παιδιά και δουλεύαμε περισσότερο. Γιαυτό δεν πήγαμε ούτε σχολείο να τελειώσουμε, ούτε πουθενά γιατί μόλις που φτάναμε στην ηλικία 9-10 χρονών μας έπαιρνε μας έστελνε σε μεροκάματα, για να ζήσουμε τα υπόλοιπα παιδιά.*

Aθ – So, πριν τον πόλεμο

Tας - Ήταν γεωργός.

Aθ – Ναι και τι είχε πρόβατα;

Tας - Είχε απ'όλα και λίγα. Απ'όλα λίγα, ας πούμε 2-3 πρόβατα, 2-3 κατσίκια, 1-2 βόνια, είχε ελιές, αμπέλια, απ'όλα, απ'όλα.

Aθ – Και τα πουλάγατε ή μόνο ήταν να φάτε;

Tας - Τα πουλάγαμε τα περισσότερα, για να πάρουμε τα άλλα πράγματα που χρειαζόμαστε.

Aθ – Και που τα πουλάγατε, στην μαρκέτα;

Tας - Όχι, ήταν ένας που τον λέγανε, γύριζε στα χωριά και έπαιρνε τα πρόβατα, έπαιρνε τα σκίνωτα, τα σφάζαμε, ό,τι να 'τανε αυτός. Τον λέγανε Τζαμπάτζης.

Aθ - Τζαμπάτζης

Tας - Τζαμπάτζης, ναι.

Ευα - Οι τζαμπάτζηδες ήταν αυτοί που κάνανε αυτό το επάγγελμα, γύριζαν στα χωριά και πέρνανε ότι...

Tας - Και πέρνανε. Τα κάστανα, καρύδια, τα πάντα αλλά ερχότανε και τα παίρνανε.

Aθ – Και η μητέρα σου;

Tας - Και η μητέρα μου είχε 7 παιδιά.

Aθ - 7 παιδιά

Tας - 7 παιδιά

Aθ – Μπορείς να μου πεις τα ονόματα και πότε γεννηθήκανε;

Tας - Η πρώτη μου αδελφή εγεννήθηκε το 1937, δεν ξέρω μήνες όμως, τότε δεν είχαμε αυτά. Τη λένε Ευγενία.

Aθ – Ευγενία.

Tας - Η δεύτερη είναι η Ευαγγελία, εγεννήθηκε το 1939, είναι εδώ στο New Zealand.

Aθ – Α.

Tας - Η τρίτη είμαι εγώ, που γεννήθηκα το '41 ή το '42 δεν ξέρω θετικά, η άλλη μου αδελφή ήταν η Ελευθερία, η οποία ήρθε εδώ το '65, ένα τελέσαι εδώ ένα χρόνο και πέθανε εδώ.

Aθ – Ναι. Ναι.

Tας - Την ελέγανε Ελευθερία αυτή. Μετά ήταν ο αδελφός μας ο Γιώργος, το '48, μετά ήταν μία άλλη η Μαρίκα, γεννήθηκε το '50 και η τελευταία γεννήθηκε το '51. Την ελένε Ελένη Αγγελικό. Είναι στην Κρήτη αυτές.

Aθ – So, πριν το πόλεμο είχατε καλή ζωή και μετά έγινε ο πόλεμος εσύ ήσουνα μωρό.

Tας - Πάλι δεν είχαμε τόσο καλή ζωή αλλά τουλάχιστο είχαμε το σπίτι μας, είχαμε, περνούσαμε εντάξει. Αλλά μετά τον πόλεμο, που ήρθαν οι Γερμανοί, κάψανε όλα, μαζέψανε από το σπίτι, τα βάλανε στη μέση

του σπιτιού, ρούχα, οτιδήποτε έχει ένα σπίτι, βάλανε φωτιά, τα κάψανε. Και μείναμε χωρίς τίποτα. Ούτε ένα ρούχο να αλλάζουμε.

Αθ – Και πότε έγινε αυτό;

Τας - Το 1942. Και έτσι η μαμά μου είχε μωρά και δεν είχε ούτε παρριές να μας αλλάξει, δεν είχε τίποτα, είχε ένα φόρεμα και το έσκισε και το έκανε 2 παρριές και μας άλλαξε.

Αθ – Και οι Γερμανοί κάναν αυτό σε όλους ή μόνο σε εσάς;

Τας - Σε μερικά σπίτια, σε μερικά χωριά τα καταστρέψανε τελίως όπως το χωριό μας και άλλο ένα χωριό, 'Κόκκινο Χωριό' το λένε το καταστρέψανε τελείως. Αλλά σε άλλους όχι. Αλλά εσκοτώσαν όμως πάρα πολλούς συγγενείς δικού μας, ξαδέλφια, συγγενείς, θείους, όλους τους σκότωσαν οι Γερμανοί.

Αθ – Και ξέρεις γιατί έκαναν αυτό σε μερικά και όχι σε άλλα;

Τας - Δεν ξέρω.

Αθ – Ο πατέρας σου ήτανε αντάρτης;

Τας - Όχι, όχι, όχι, όχι. Τον πατέρα μου τον πιάσανε στο σπίτι μας απ' έξω. Και μετά με 4 ξαδέλφια του, τους πήρανε λίγο πιο κάτω, τους στήσανε σειρά να τους εκτελέσουνε. Έτσι θέλανε. Εκτελούνε τον θείο μου τον Γιάννη πρώτο, μετά πάνε στον γιο του τον Δημήτρη, μετά στον Επιμενίδη σε αυτόνε και μετά ήρθε η σειρά του μπαμπά μου. Τους έβλεπε ο μπαμπάς που τους είχανε κάνει από τα παντελόνια μέχρι τα γόνατα και τους εκτελούσανε ένα ένα. Όταν βάλανε, ήρθε η σειρά του μπαμπά μου, γύρισε πίσω γιατί τους είχανε τα παντελόνια κάτω και τα χέρια πίσω. Δεν μπορούσανε να κάνουνε τίποτα. Γύρισε πίσω και νόμισε, ακόμα μας το λέει, τότε το έλεγε όσο ζούσε, ότι είδε το στόμιο του όπλου και ήτανε σαν μια σπηλιά, τόσο μεγάλο του φάνηκε. Μας το έλεγε όσο ζούσε. Και εκείνη την ώρα ήτανε επάνω σε ένα πατάρι, δίνει μια τούμπα και πάει κάτω, τον επυροβολούσανε αυτοί, αλλά αυτός έκανε τούμπες, τούμπες και έπεσε κάτω στο ένα ποτάμι. Στο ποτάμι όπως έφτασε μπήκε απο κάτω από τα πλατάνια, μέσα στο νερό αλλά τόσο τραυματίας που ήτανε, έβγαζε αίμα, και έβλεπε το αίμα ήτανε πάνω στο νερό και λέει θα με δούνε με αυτό. Πήγανε οι Γερμανοί μέχρι εκεί, έχω όλη του την ιστορία σε ένα βιβλίο, εδώ το έχω, να σας το δώσω.

Αθ – Α, το έχεις γράψει.

Τας - Ναι όλη του την ιστορία την εγράφει εκεί πέρα. Πήγανε και, συγγνώμη, έχυσαν νερό οι Γερμανοί, ακριβώς απάνω του, αυτός δεν εκουνούσε, γιατί σου λέει μπορεί να με σκοτώσουνε και μετά που εφύγανε αυτοί, κούνησε λίγο, ήρθε προς τα έξω, περνούσε ένας αδελφός του και τον είδε και πήγε τον τράβηξε με μία ανησιά του. Τον τράβηξαν έξω από το ποτάμι αλλά τα πλατάνια είχανε, πως το λένε αυτή που έμπαινε στην μύτη σου, πως το λέγανε, μια σκόνη.

Ευα - Τη γύρη;

Τας - Κομούρη; Κορμούρη; Πως το λέγαμε;

Ευα - Δεν ξέρω.

Τας - Και αυτό έμπαινε μέσα στην μύτη του και άρχισε να φτερνίζεται. Και λέει α, τώρα θα με σκοτώσουνε. Και πήγε και έβαλε το κεφάλι του μέσα στο νερό, στο ποτάμι, για να μην ακουστεί. Και γλίτωσε ο μπαμπάς μου. Αλλά τον αδελφό του όμως τον εσκοτώσανε. Τον αδελφό του τον βρήκανε, τον σκοτώσανε.

Αθ – Και έτσι...

Τας - Μετά στον άντρα μου, από το ίδιο χωριό, του πατέρα του του αδελφού 4 αγόρια. Είναι και αυτά είναι στο βιβλίο που, θα σας το δώσω. Είναι, ήτανε 28, 24, 22 και 18 χρονώ 2 δίδυμα και τα εκτελέσανε μπροστά στην μαμά τους. Και μάλλον στο ένα του είχανε ανοίξει την κοιλιά και είχανε βγει τα εντόσθια του. Και πήρε μία βελόνα και του τα έραβε η μαμά, και μετά την έβλεπε ένας Γερμανός που το έραβε και

της λέει 'κράτα το να σε βγάλω φωτογραφία' και το κρατούσε στην αγκαλιά και το πυροβολήσανε και το σκοτώσανε. Στην αγκαλιά της. Ζούσε ακόμα αυτό όταν το έκανε.

Aθ – Πόσω χρονών ήτανε, μεγάλος;

Τας - 18. 18. Τα δύο δίδυμα 18.

Aθ – Και σκοτώσανε τους άντρες να μην πολεμούσαν;

Τας –Περισσότερο σκοτώνανε, ναι, τους άντρες.

Ευα - It was mostly random repricingless.

Aθ - Random, because normally the Germans were killed...

Τας - Και τις κοπέλες τις μεγάλες κοπέλες τις παίρνανε εξορία.

Aθ – Τις κοπέλες;

Τας - Ναι.

Aθ – Και τι τις κάνανε;

Τας - Τις, του συζύγου μία αδελφή την είχανε πάρει εξορία για ένα δυο χρόνια. Τις κοπέλες τις παίρνανε. Αλλά δεν τις πειράζανε όμως.

Aθ – Τις βάζανε στην φυλακή;

Τας- Δεν, δεν

Aθ – Γιατί θα νόμιζαν ότι θα έκαναν φαί στους άντρες

Τας - Ναι. Ναι. Ναι.

Aθ – Όταν σκοτώγανε έναν Γερμανό πηγαίνανε on reprisals και σκοτώγανε πολλοί Έλληνες.

Τας - Ναι. Ναι.

Aθ – So, ο πατέρας σου θα ήτανε άρρωστος για πολύ καιρό;

Τας - Ήτανε, υπέφερε πάντα.

Aθ – Α. Αφήσανε τα bullets μέσα;

Τας - Ε, τότε δεν υπήρχανε και οι γιατροί, ξέρουμε αν τα είχε;

Aθ - Ναι.

Τας - Τότε δεν υπήρχαν ούτε γιατροί, δεν υπήρχανε, του κάνανε μόνο με χόρτα και τέτοια πρακτικά και το κάνανε heal, αλλά πάντα υπόφερε.

Aθ – Και τον κρύψανε μέσα στο σπίτι; Τον πατέρα σου.

Τας - Όχι, όταν έμεινε πια στο ποτάμι και τον τράβηξε ο αδελφός του, μετά τον είδε μία θεία, και αυτή τον τράβηξε και τον πήρε αλλά του είχε κάνει σαν μια σπηλιά και τον έβαλε μέσα. Ναι.

Aθ – Οι Γερμανοί ερχότανε, did they come frequently? Στο village ερχότανε;

Τας - Όχι, ήρθανε για μερικές μέρες, σκοτώσανε, κάνανε δείχνανε, φύγανε.

Aθ – Φύγανε.

Aθ – So, όταν έγινε καλύτερα ο πατέρας σου δεν μπορεί να δουλέψει πολύ.

*Tas - Πάλι ο καημένος εδούλευε, αλλά όχι σκληρά να τα βγάζει πέρα. Δεν μπορούσε. Έχτισε μετά ένα σπίτι με πέτρες, όλο πέτρες, και μπήκαμε μέσα, ένα δωμάτιο ήτανε που όλοι κοιμόμασταν σε αυτό το δωμάτιο, είχε φτιάξει κρεβάτια με καλόμια ή με ζύλα ή τέτοια, τα στρώματα ήτανε κουρέλια από ρούχα και έτσι μεγαλώσαμε, έτσι φύγαμε.*

Aθ – Και δεν θα είχατε πολύ φαί

*Tas- Όχι, φαγητό δεν είχαμε. Ευτυχώς μας, 'Ούρα' το λέγανε τότε, η 'Ούρα' έφερνε.*

Ευα - Ήτανε η βοήθεια

*Tas - Από την Αμερική; Μας δίνανε λίγο τυράκι...*

Aθ – Red Crosses or

*Tas- Cream crackers κάτι τέτοια.*

Aθ – Α, και πως σας, how did they distribute them?

*Tas - Well they come to the village and they say how many people each family got and they say, this is for one family, this is for the other. And then my mother take it and she give us a winy winy bit with not to be poor; to be enough. And I remember I've done a lot naughty things, I've done a lot naughty when I was...*

Ath - ...little.

*Tas - Little, not little, I was 13, 14.*

Aθ - So, that was after the war they were bringing food to you?

*Tas - Yes.*

Aθ - So, not during the war?

*Tas - No, no, no. During the war, I remember my mother; oh, no, not remember her there but they say, she went to the mountains to find puha and food.*

Aθ - Χόρτα. Ναι, και η μάνα μου είπε το ίδιο.

*Tas - Χόρτα, πολλά χόρτα. I remember once but I cannot remember how old I was we was on a cave because we didn't have a house, just on a cave, and my mother come with a big pot with rice and σπανάκι. The best food in my life. And still remember it.*

Ευα - Aθ – Σπανακόρυζο.

*Tas - Still remember it.*

Aθ – Σπανακόρυζο είναι ωραίο.

Aθ - So, μέχρι, during the war, είσαστε μέσα στην σπηλιά, γιατί το σπίτι σας ήτανε, και μετά όταν φύγανε οι Γερμανοί, ο πατέρας σου έχτισε ένα μικρό σπιτάκι.

*Tas - Yeah.*

Aθ – Και, you worked on the land?

Tas - Yes.

Aθ - What sorts of jobs did you do?

Tas - Anything. Pick up oranges, pick up κάστανα, olives, *θερίζαμε τα σιτάρια τέτοια, πάντα.*

Aθ - And how long was your day? What time did you get up in the morning?

Tas - Oh yes, especially in the summer for the σιτάρια και τέτοια σηκωνόμαστε very early. Very very early. And then we stop about 12:00-1:00, have a lunch, and then back again until we can see. We didn't have times then, until we can see what we are doing.

Aθ - And then when it got dark did you go in bed?

Tas - We were going to bed, what else we can do, nothing.

Aθ - Yes.

Tas - Nothing.

Aθ - And so, you, there was still shortage of food.

Tas - Oh yes.

Aθ - And you survived with the Red Cross or bringing food parcels or?

Tas - Yeah. Or some other people had less families and give you this or we plant some potatoes or some vegetables? Yeah.

Aθ - So, did the community help each other? During that time?

Tas - Yes we do. And pinch each other. I remember I got one aunty that she say I was naughty, right next door to us. She used to like it too. All the time you make the bread in Greece that time yourself and we got big ovens and we put them there and she *εξύμωσε και έβαλε το ψωμί στο φούρνο* and I was there and smells oh nice, and I went and open it and I took one loaf and ran away. But it wasn't cook, was just still on top. And I took it and went, we had big trees, *συκιές*, and were gone under there and I call my sister once she was here and she die and I says to her 'Eleftheria, Eleftheria, *έλα έχω ψωμί*'. She come in 3 minutes we eat the whole loaf, it was hot and no cook. After we got so sore stomach but we full our tummy and that's we happy. And I finish that, and she look, she knew she is going to have 6 loafs in the oven and then one miss, she knew and she come to my father and say 'I lost one loaf of bread, the girls take it.' No, no, no. We never say yes. My father would kill us. We never say that. But we did.

Aθ - So, you didn't get into trouble because you didn't admit it.

Tas -No, no. Because they never knew it I've done it but they got idea. And then all the time when a dark time, like summer we have a lot of pears, pear trees. And we got one rich village people and they got a lot trees and they got beautiful pears. And every night, get dark, I went there and I cut exactly how many of us children, exactly one for each, under my dress, ran home and give it to them and if she seen me because she sit in the window and watch 'Oh, *τα Τσιχλάκια εφάγανε τα αχλάδια*'.

Ευα - Τα Τσιχλάκια είχανε κακή φήμη.

Tas - Yes. She is screaming. And if they come and tell me off I say well I take one for each of my brother and my sisters. But I always take one of each. For each.

Aθ - So, ήσouvα πάντα πεινασμένη;

Tas - Πάντα ήμουνα η πιο strong. Από του πατέρα μου τα παιδιά. I was.

Aθ - So you would take the lead in all these things?

*Tας - I will never forget one, I've been to the Bishop and I tell him that's the worst thing my girls in my life I've done. I can't get over it and I never will. That sister that I've got here and she died one Easter day my father says to us 'ok you have to go to the, to look after the sheeps, the cows and all that, alright.' He give us 3-4 olives and a very small piece of bread and cheese and he says to us 'take it and you will eat it for lunch time'. And I was hungry, I eat mine quickly. And then lunch time I was hungry so much but my sister, Eleftheria, she was thirsty and she cried because she wanted water and cry and cry and I went and find a big rock and got a little carve and I wee there, me, and then I called her and I says to her, here, here, here some water here. And she coming and saw the water and she crazy and I says to me 'well I am not going let you drink it until you give me your bread and cheese'. And she give it to me and I eat it quickly and then I let it drink the. She put her nose down there she says 'stings, I can't drink it'. 'Stings'. And I never tell her and she die I never tell her.*

Aθ - You do those things when you are children though.

*Tas- I never forgive myself for that. I can't, I can't. What I have done to my sister.*

Aθ - You were a child.

*Tας - And I eat her bread and she is...yeah.*

Ευα - Όλοι έχουμε τέτοιες μνήμες.

*Tas- Not like us, no. No.*

Ευα - Ήταν και άλλα χρόνια κι όλας.

*Tας - We went to work for some people and they pushing us, they, oh, you do it too slow, oh, we pick the olives by hand the time and every say packet we full, we full 3 and 1 they give it to us and we never see nothing.*

Ευα - Δεν τις ραντίζατε τις ελιές;

*Tας - Τότε no.*

Ευα - Τις αφήνατε και πέφτατε και μετά τις μαζεύατε.

*Tας - Yes, that time. Or δεν είχαμε δίχτυα, nothing.*

Aθ - They used to hit them with sticks.

*Tας - Not then, that time.*

Aθ - No.

*Tας - No. They fall and we pick them up. And we got our nails. Look.*

Aθ - So, you used to work for other

*Tας - Look. Theros, που θερίζαμε το έκοψε αυτό.*

Aθ - Ναι.

*Tας - 25 drachmas a day. And we never see it.*

Aθ - Why you didn't see it? Did they give it to your father?

*Tας - My father took it.*



Aθ - Right

*Τας - And never give it to us. And then another thing, we work and all the money we have to give it to my father to keep it for the oldest daughter and marry her and then the second and then the third. And nothing for the others.*

Aθ - So, what about school? Πήγες σχολείο;

*Τας - I went to school to Τετάρτη τάξη.*

Aθ - 4<sup>th</sup>.

*Τας - That's it and then after ... I was very good at school. And when I went to go to Πέμπτη, my father took me and pick some olives for some people. And one day was raining so heavy and I took off socking wet and I went to school and I say to the teacher 'κύριε, κύριε, can you put my baba in a jar because he doesn't let me go to school?' And after I went to Greece, 1972 first time, he still, the teacher, he still say 'you break my heart that time'.*

Ευα - Ήσασταν 9, 10 χρονών; Πόσω χρονών ήσασταν τότε;

*Τας - Τότε θα ήμουν, τι, 9;*

Aθ - 9.

*Τας - 6 αρχίζαμε σχολείο τότε. 6, 7, 8, 9.*

Aθ - 10. 9, 10.

Aθ - Και δεν μπορείς να πας σχολείο after that?

*Τας - No. Oh, μπορούσα αλλά he was always booking us for the next year for θέρος, ελιές, κάστανα.*

Aθ - So, did you go to school in the winter and then work during summer?

*Τας - No, after that, stopped completely.*

Aθ - Completely.

Ευα - Οι ελιές είναι τον χειμώνα

*Τας - Οι ελιές είναι το χειμώνα το θέρος το καλοκαίρι. Τα κάστανα είναι...*

Ευα - Τον χειμώνα είναι και αυτά.

*Τας - Πριν*

Ευα - Το φθινόπωρο

*Τας - Τι είναι Οκτώβριο, Νοέμβριο;*

Ευα - Νοέμβριο

*Τας - Yes all the year around.*

Aθ - Και το Σαββατοκύριακο ακόμα δουλειά;

*Τας - Το Σαββατοκύριακο δουλεύαμε. I never forget one, New Year's Day, I works in another village and actually he is my boss name Vasilis and that is his name day. Anyway that's, that day he doesn't take us to work, the only day and I went and ask the neighbour can I work for you today and you give me cash the money? And I went to works for somebody else and that man, he is a kind man, give me 50*

*drachmas. I never forget in my life. 50 drachmas, all day on New Year's Day. And then some people they pass from the villages and they are selling things, we call them πλανώδιοι, and these things they are selling, he's got one beautiful material, now I think is a curtain material with a big huge flowers on it – I wouldn't buy it now – but then was a beautiful for me. And I says to him 'how much' and he says '60 drachmas', 'oh, I don't have 60 I just got 50 can you give it to me, can you give it to me?' and he leave me have it. And he give it to me that material. I hide it from my father and when I came to the stage that I had to give it to the dressmaker to make it – we got one lady at the village to make me a dress – I have to tell. And I tell my father and I had the biggest smack which you never believe. And he say no, I am not going to let you have it, I will take it and give it to your oldest sister and you are not going to have it. And he never let me have that dress. He give that material to my oldest sister and she make it a dress.*

Aθ - So, the thing you did wrong is that you not giving him the money.

Τας - Yes.

Aθ - Keeping it from him.

Τας - Yes.

Τας - *And another day we digging, you know the αμπέλια, σκάβαμε τα αμπέλια, you understand that?*

Aθ - What αμπέλια;

Ευα - The vineyards

Τας - *But that time we have to with the shovel*

Ευα - Σκαφίδα

Τας - *Ναι. And I was there with my father and he was in front and I was at the back and he's got 5 drachmas in his pocket and he's lost it and I saw it and quickly quickly I cover it with the soil and I say I will come at night to pick it up. I forgot when I went there and I look everywhere and I couldn't find it, honestly I dig everything I never find it. Even now if I go to the village I say here somewhere I buried the 5 drachmas, where.*

Aθ - So, you were desperate to have some money in your hands?

Τας - *I never have any. I never have any. Because we, some other from Crete, they are a lot better than us. I become to the teenage which I need a shaver for my arms like and my legs and that and no. And when I was on Athens, to come here, all the girls we live together they have some things and I don't have any and I went to περίπτερο and I pinch one, one you throw it away, I pinch it. And I went back and I thought I am the queen.*

Ευα - Και ήτανε η πρώτη φορά που ξυρίσατε τα πόδια σας;

Τας - *Πρώτη φορά τις μασχάλες μου.*

Ευα - Και πόσω χρονών ήσασταν;

Τας - 22;

Aθ - Oh alright. Έχουμε απεδήξει πολύ.

Aθ – Αυτό τον καιρό το Σαββατοκύριακο, δουλεύατε.

Τας - Yes.

Aθ - Και δεν πηγαίνατε στην εκκλησία;

*Tας - Oh yes. Every Sunday morning we were going to the church.*

Aθ - That is the only time you had off?

*Tας - Only time and that's not because we are really religious people, we thought oh we are going somewhere.*

Aθ - Something different.

*Tας - Yeah.*

Aθ - And did you have some leisure time? Did you do any playing with children or anything like that?

*Tας - No.*

Aθ - Your sisters?

*Tας - No.*

Aθ - Nothing. So, you just worked all day

*Tας - And we were always do something, yeah.*

Aθ - And what about your parents? Did they do anything; any leisure activity or they were just work work?

*Tας - No, no. Only if somebody married they were going to the wedding, something like those things. They don't have.*

Aθ - So, how long did this go for? How old were you when this changed?

*Tας - Well actually just after I came here. Before all my life was not. The only thing sometimes we can go to the πανηγύρι but we have to be very careful we talk like teenagers the time we see boys we say 'oh, oh, he looks nice, e?', but we have to be very very very careful if the father finds out that's it and not let us go again nowhere. We never talk anything. My husband, we are very very closed and I never ever ever say good morning to him. In my life.*

Aθ - So, when you see a young man what would you do?

*Tας - Nothing.*

Aθ - You just turned away?

*Tας - Yeah.*

Ευα - Και στα πανηγύρια με ποιους χορεύατε; Με τα ξαδέλφια σας;

*Tας - Ξαδέλφια, συγγενείς. Όλο συγγενείς.*

Aθ - And what did your parents tell you about boys?

*Tας - No, they never let us talking to them. Nothing.*

Aθ - So what they would say to you?

*Tας - You are not allowed to.*

Aθ - And did they say why?

*Tας - If you say good morning or something he comes and says 'oh, your aunty came and say you talk with this one today', you have to find why you say good morning, why you say this, why you say that. Oh yes, very very strict.*

Aθ - And what they were worried about?

*Tας - I don't know what they got on their head that time.*

Aθ - That was more about protecting your honour? Your virtue.

*Tας - Maybe, that's it. That's it I think. My husband got a brother and he passed I said good morning or something to him but not the one I married, no. Because he was the first and spoiled after too many girls in the family and then if some girls talk to him they say 'oh, oh, you see he talk to me'. And then I never talk to him. I am scared.*

Aθ - He might think you are a loose or something?

*Tας - Yes.*

Aθ - A loose woman.

*Tας - Exactly. Exactly.*

Aθ - So, you didn't know very much about boys

*Tας - Nothing, absolutely nothing.*

Aθ - Nobody talked about what happened, how babies were made?

*Tας - No. No, no, no, no.*

Aθ - Did you wonder about what happened when people got married? Did you wonder?

*Tας - Well after we blow up, we girls talk together and some knows and some, and we know they have a sex to have a baby. But not from a parent. No. They never even tell us the time when you become 12 – 13 depends, you will start to have boobies, we always didn't want to show. When we had our first period we didn't know what it was.*

Ευα - Μας είπατε την ιστορία όταν είχατε την πρώτη σας περίοδο. Θα μας την ξαναπείτε;

*Tας - I had it at school. I was big girl when I was young and I got at school and then I went to clean myself with leaves of course and I see blood. And I say oh oh I cut myself somewhere. And then I got newspapers and put there. And I never tell my mother and nothing because I am scared she will say to me where you bleeding, you hurt yourself. And I change papers, papers, newspapers, I find everything and I put it or I pinch my aunty, my cousin or something, paper towel where I put it there and slowly I find it out from other girls that's normal.*

Aθ - You had two sisters and you didn't know? And they didn't tell you?

*Tας - No.*

Aθ - And you never told your parents?

*Tας - No. No, no. I never tell my sister after me as well. No way.*

Ευα - Όλοι το μάθανε με το σκληρό τρόπο.

*Tας - Yes. Everybody find it on the wrong.*

Aθ - That's hard. Ναι, ναι.

Ευα - That's a shame, feeling a shame

Aθ - Yes.

Τας - *To be honest when I married my husband I never knew what is going on. I never. I got the biggest shock in my life.*

Aθ - So you knew that people had sex but you didn't know what it meant.

Τας - No.

Aθ - And have you ever seen a man naked before?

Τας - No, no, no. I thought it's not normal.

Ευα - Μεγαλώσατε στο χωριό δεν βλέπατε τα ζώα τι κάνανε;

Τας - *Well, yes, we thought but we see them but we didn't know you have to do it and satisfy each other. We thought boo boo go. That's we thought.*

Aθ - You didn't think it is going to be pleasurable?

Τας - No. No.

Aθ - Something you did to have babies.

Τας - *And after we got married we talk with another one, Litsa, her name in Irakleio, she is a teacher, we talk with her, and many times we say well we've been to have a sex with our husbands more than a year, instead we knew we have to satisfy him and satisfy us. We don't know. We say do it and boo boo, gone.*

Aθ - So, you didn't have any sexual feeling, we will talk about that later. We'll come to that. So that is very interesting. So, when you were a teenager you talked a little bit about sex but you really didn't know what this means.

Τας - No.

Aθ - And your parents didn't tell you anything?

Τας - Oh no. No. No, no.

Aθ - Except that mustn't go near boys. So, when did you hear the possibility of leaving Crete? When did you start thinking about it?

Τας - *We are picking olives to that man I say we pick olives from him and he's make us do it every single day and rain, rain, rain that day very heavy and we've got set, κάνουν κουκούλα τα σακιά; Και τα βάζαμε on top of us and still picking olives and one man look after the sheeps, what he is called τζοπάνος, he come, he come down, and he's man, young man as well, and he says to us, he saw us, me and my sister; and he is so upset seeing us picking olives in a heavy rain and he says to us 'why you don't leave, now they take some girls to other countries?' and we say 'what?' and he say 'well I find one paper and I read it when I look after the sheeps and here you are.' And he give it to us and say they are taking girls to go to overseas.*

Aθ - How old were you?

Τας - *I was that times, 21 and a half going 22 because I left 22. And straight away we read it with my sister and we say yes but how can we go στα Χανιά and do the papers? Our father will kill us. And where we find the money, 2 drachmas for the bus? And anyway, we asking our boss if we have some 5 drachmas to go to Chania. 2 to go and 2 to come back. And he give it to us. And then we went and do*

*all our papers and everything. Never tell my father, nothing. And first time in our life we went to Chania, and we don't know where to find the immigration or where to do the papers we ask. And people tell us. And then we leave the application forms there and we come back. A week later the papers come. My father take it and he say what you have done? When you done it? And we tell him and he is so angry but he is booking us to pick up olives for the next year. And he says to me 'oh, oh, I let Evangelia to go but I am not let you go'. That time Evangelia was not feeling too good, all the time she's got sore stomach, she got, I think she was after period pains and she is not good all the time. And he say I will leave her go but you are not going to go, you are going to pick up the olives. And I was so upset. I try that time to kill myself three times.*

Aθ - Did you?

Τας - Yes.

Aθ - What did you do?

Τας - *In the village they got great veins and they spray it and then straight away, it was green and I went to cut a big punch and I went home and I eat it.*

Aθ - With the poison on it?

Τας - *The poison on it wouldn't die. I never did. And then I thought, oh, oh, I will do something else, we got some round tins, they are called πυθιά, που πίνουν το γάλα, πυθιά*

Ευα - πυθιά

Τας - *and I absorb one and I drink it and that one make me very sick but I never die.*

Aθ - What was it?

Τας - Yeast

Aθ - Ah, yeast.

Τας - *But the dry yeast. I drink the whole think and I was so swelling like balloon but I never die. And the third time, that time I nearly die. I make it good that time but still alive. I went to get a drink, like the one that spray the weed, that time I nearly die. Rush me to the hospital and stay for a while, they cleaning and everything. And then I say to my father 'ok now you have to think I am going to die anyhow if you don't let me go. You want to bury me or you want to let me go.' And he says 'oh well, after you finish the season of picking olives you can go.' I say that may be that time there may be close; I want to do it now. And he say ok but after he's change his mind he says no. And anyhow I asked my grand mum to give me some money to go and do another application form. And that time my first Easter was married, engaged*

Aθ - So your older sister was engaged and they've managed to find the 'πρόικα' for her.

Τας - *Yes. We have to work for her.*

Aθ - What did she have for her πρόικα?

Τας - *Five tans oil.*

Aθ - Five tans of oil. And that what we were all working for.

Τας - *Yes. Yes.*

Aθ - And was it an arranged marriage?

Τας - *Yes, yes, yes. And when I went to fill up the forms I say to that people I want you to send these forms to my future brother-in-law's house.*

Ευα - Στο ίδιο χωριό;

Τας - *Όχι, σε άλλο χωριό. And they sent it to him the week later.*

Αθ - How did you arrange it with him?

Τας - *I tell him. I say my brother-in-law and us still loving the best, he is old now but every time I say you are my brother, and I went and say to him 'look I have done this and you are going to receive the papers and when you receive them tell me how we are going to tell our father.' And he receive them a week later and he take them and go to my father. And he says 'look, I've got these papers for Tasula, they call me Tasula there, if you don't let her go, she's a strong, she will do something and you going bury her and you are going to lose her for ever'. 'I don't care', he start screaming. 'No, no'. 'We need, you are going to get married my daughter soon, we need a lot things, we need this, we need the time to buy the bedroom suite and you buy ντιβανομπάουλο. ' Το ντιβανομπάουλο ήτανε που με έκανε να κρατώ μωά. And I say 'well I am going to pick up κάστανα and to the day I am leaving and you take that money and you buy the ντιβανομπάουλο. ' You know what is that?*

Αθ - It's μπαούλο it's by the bed.

Τας - *Yes and then you make a bed on top.*

Αθ - Yes.

Τας - *Yes, that damn thing. I never that and she's still got it. My sister, she's still got it. I say 'well here you are, you are going to buy that and you are going let me go'. And he signed. And after that I went to Athens*

Αθ - Has your sister already gone?

Τας - *Yes. Yes, she's already there.*

Αθ - Your sister has left.

Τας - *She left and she sent us a couple of letters before I leave she says she is in New Zealand but where in New Zealand I don't know. That time nobody knows about New Zealand.*

Αθ - Ah, did you not know?

Τας - *Nobody knows.*

Ευα - Οι παλιοί από το χωριό με τους Νεοζηλανδούς στρατιώτες δεν είχανε ξανακούσει για την Νέα Ζηλανδία που ήτανε

Τας - *To ξέρανε που είναι η New Zealand σαν να πεις θα πάμε στην Πάτρα.*

Αθ - Και η αδελφή σου που νόμιζε ότι πήγαινε;

Τας - *Δεν ήξερε καθόλου.*

Αθ - Δεν ήξερε;

Τας - *Τίποτα.*

Ευα - Όταν έφυγε δηλαδή από την Ελλάδα που σας είπε ότι πήγαινε;

Τας - *Έφυγε από την Ελλάδα και πήγαινε στο εξωτερικό. Θα μας επικοινωνήσουνε που. Και μετά γράφτηκε λέει είμαι στην Νέα Ζηλανδία. Και που είναι η Νέα Ζηλανδία;*

Αθ - Και τι έγραφε για την Νέα Ζηλανδία;

*Τας - Οτι είναι ωραίο κράτος, ότι είναι ωραία. Παρόλο που δουλεύαμε πήγαμε στο Kingsseat στο τρελλάδικο. Έξω δεν ήταν ούτε σπίτια ούτε τίποτα. Ακόμα είναι έτσι.*

Aθ - So, πήγες στην Αθήνα

*Τας - Όχι αυτοί πήγανε στην Μυτιλήνη, εγώ πήγα στην Αθήνα*

Aθ - Ναι

*Τας - Για ένα μήνα να μας μάθουνε αγγλικά λέει τι να μας μάθουνε. Ούτε το good morning δεν ξέραμε. Μας δείχνανε πως να καθαρίζουμε, πως να σφουγγαρίζουμε γιατί εμείς μήπως είχαμε τα 'μοψς' και αυτά για να σφουγγαρίζουμε στο χωριό; Αφού ήτανε mud the floors.*

Aθ - Και αυτό είναι το βιβλίο που σας δώσανε;

*Τας - Yeah. Yeah.*

Aθ - English my new language.

Ευα - Αυτό είναι Σπανουδάκη Ανατόλια, αυτό ήτανε στην Θεσσαλονίκη ε;

*Τας - Αυτό είναι άλλο η Σπανουδάκη πήγε εκεί πέρα.*

Ευα - Α, και το βιβλίο της το πήρατε εσείς ή;

*Τας - Το βιβλίο αυτό το έγραφε αυτή όταν το είχα εγώ το είχε και αυτή.*

Ευα - Και αυτή, η Σπανουδάκη πήγε στην Θεσσαλονίκη και έκανε το τραϊνινγκ

*Τας - Άλλες στην Θεσσαλονίκη, άλλες στην, κάθε μια πήγε και αλλού.*

Aθ - So they train in different places?

Ευα - Μυτιλήνη, Αθήνα και Θεσσαλονίκη.

*Τας - Έτσι το γράφω εγώ το Τσιχλάκη,*

Ευα - Εδώ έχει κι άλλα ονόματα. Δηλαδή το περνούσε η μια στην άλλη το βιβλίο ε.

*Τας - Όχι όχι γράφανε οι κοπέλες. Όχι όχι. Η μπορεί να το δανείσαμε εδώ σε καμιά, όχι.*

Ευα - Αυτό ήταν το δικό σας το βιβλίο;

*Τας - Αυτό είναι το δικό μου. Να το γράφει Τασούλα Τσιχλάκη.*

Aθ - Published by the Inter Governmental Committee for European Immigration. So it's got a map of North America, Canada, United States on one cover and on the other cover it's got Australia. No New Zealand.

*Τας - Nothing for New Zealand. No. No*

Aθ - No New Zealand at all. Not at all. OK. Copyright in Geneva.

*Τας - Και εδώ το γράφω.*

Aθ - So, με αυτό σας μάθανε good morning.

*Τας - Με αυτό. Αλλά δεν μαθαίναμε τίποτα αλλά αυτό ήτανε το βιβλίο.*



Aθ – Κάνατε παρέα με τις άλλες κοπέλες;

Τας - *Oh yes. yes.*

Aθ – Ήτανε από το χωριό σου μερικοί;

Τας - *Ήτανε και από το χωριό και από τα διπλανά χωριά που ζέραμε η μία την άλλη. Ήτανε μία άλλη Αγραφάκη δεν ξέρω αν σας την έχω πει, κι αυτή είναι στο, Χασιώτισσα. Ήτανε εδώ και έφυγε.*

Aθ – Για πρώτη φορά που ήσουνα

Τας - *Αυτή ήτανε Πολυξένη Αγραφάκη. Θα την έχετε. Έφερε και αυτή εδώ παιδί και παντρεύτηκε και μετά έφυγε πίσω στην Ελλάδα, ήμουνα εγώ η κουμπάρα που τους στεφάνωσε και τους βάπτισα την κόρη. Την πρώτη.*

Aθ – So, θα ήτανε η πρώτη φορά που θα ήσουνα χωρίς άντρα να σου πει τι να κάνεις.

Τας - *Πρώτη φορά. Γι' αυτό οι γονείς μας αμέσως προσπαθούσανε να βρούνε αγόρια να μας στείλουνε να μη βρούμε κανένα ξένο ή να μη βρούμε κανένα...*

Aθ – Και για εσένα πως ήτανε που ήσουνα με την ελευθερία σου;

Τας - *Δεν είχα και πολύ time, ήμουνα πολύ χαρούμενη γιατί ήμουνα με τις κοπέλες τις άλλες. Ήμουνα με την Πολυχρονάκη την Κική, με την Άννα την Τσιβουράκη, από Ουέλλινγκτον είναι αυτές. Με την Ελευθερία Ψαρογαράκη, Δέσποινα Πρασιανάκη, σας την έχουνε πει κι αυτή, αυτή πέθανε εδώ. Αυτή ήτανε η καλύτερη μου φίλη ήτανε και παράνυμφη σε μένανε.*

Aθ – Και γυρίζατε γύρω στην Αθήνα καθόλου;

Τας - *Όπα πα πα.*

Aθ – Πρώτη φορά στην μεγάλη πόλη και δεν πηγαίνατε

Τας - *Που να πάμε, θα χαθούμε.*

Aθ – Αλήθεια;

Τας - *Θα χαθούμε.*

Aθ – Και μόνο καθόσαστε μέσα;

Τας - *Το μόνο που ζέραμε που θα πάρουμε από κει που μέναμε το λεωφορείο να πάμε στην σχολή, εμείς είμαστε στη Μετσώβου, και να γυρίσουμε σπίτι.*

Aθ – Α, και αυτό κάνατε κάθε μέρα

Τας - *Κάθε μέρα.*

Ευα - Και που μένατε;

Τας - *Έμενα σε μια θεία μου, στις μαμάς μου του αδελφού.*

Aθ – Α, έμενες με θεία;

Τας - *Ναι. Αλλά και αυτή η θεία που έμενα εκεί πέρα για ένα μήνα μου έπαιρνε 25 δραχμές την βδομάδα. Σκέψου τι μου έπαιρνε.*

Aθ – Και πως τα πλήρωσες αυτά;

*Τας - Δεν είχα να την πληρώσω, ζήτησα από τη γιαγιά και δεν είχε να μου δώσει και όταν ήρθα εδώ τους λέω 'κρατήστε με σας ορκίζομαι μόλις μαζέψω λεφτά θα σας τα στείλω'. Τα έστειλα κι όλας. Και περισσότερα απ'ότι.*

Αθ – Και όλες οι κοπέλες πληρώνανε να μείνουνε στην Αθήνα;

*Τας - Όλες οι κοπέλες ή συγγενείς*

Αθ – They didn't pay accommodation through the government.

*Τας - Όλες. No, no, no. Όλες έπρεπε να βρούμε που να μένουμε.*

Αθ – Ναι. Και πόσες μέρες ήσουν στο σχολείο; 5, 6; Την βδομάδα;

*Τας - 5 μέρες.*

Αθ – 5 μέρες. Και το Σαββατοκύριακο που ήσουν; Σπίτι;

*Τας - Στο σπίτι.*

Αθ – Και τι έκανες εκεί;

*Τας - Το Σαββατοκύριακο βοηθούσα την θεία στις δουλειές.*

Αθ – Α, και δεν είδες τίποτα από την Αθήνα;

*Τας - Τίποτα.*

Αθ – Την Ακρόπολις;

*Τας - Τίποτα. Τώρα, τότε τίποτα.*

Ευα - Να ξαναπάμε πίσω στα Χανιά όταν πήγατε να κάνετε την αίτηση είχατε ξαναπάει πριν στα Χανιά;

*Τας - Θάλασσα δεν είχα δει στην ζωή μου πριν.*

Ευα - Από ένα νησί.

*Τας - Και είναι γύρω γύρω θάλασσα. Μόνο μακριά από τα βουνά που βλέπαμε τα πρόβατα βλέπαμε ένα μπλε πράγμα.*

Αθ – Α, δεν είχες πάει μέσα να κολυμπήσεις;

*Τας - Όπα πα πα.*

Ευα - Στα Χανιά ήτανε η πρώτη φορά που πήγατε

*Τας - Πρώτη φορά, πρώτη φορά*

Ευα - Τολμήσατε έτσι δηλαδή να πάτε πίσω από την πλάτη του μπαμπά σας στα Χανιά για πρώτη φορά

*Τας - Ναι Και χωρίς να ξέρουμε που και στα νέα καταστήματα, στα δικαστήρια που είναι στη μέση στα Χανιά να το βρούμε. Είναι από το Θεό μας βοήθησε ο Θεός. Χωρίς να ξέρουμε, να δεις μια πολιτεία που να πας, εδώ το city δεν είναι τίποτα. Εκεί πέρα και πήγαμε. Και δεν χαθήκαμε. Μας εβοήθησε ο Θεός. Αυτό είναι Θεού δύναμη το λέμε πολλές φορές με την αδελφή μου εδώ πέρα. Πως να πάμε εμείς να καταφέρουμε να βρούμε στα δικαστήρια που ήτανε η Σχολή αυτή. Το γραφείο αυτό.*

Ευα - Η υπηρεσία

Tas - Ναι.

Aθ - Και γιατί ήθελες να φύγεις τόσο πολύ;

Tas - *Γιατί είχα απελπιστεί από τα ζένα που δούλευα. Από τα ζένα χέρια. Μας μεταχειριζότανε άσχημα. Μας, δουλεύαμε από νύχτα σε νύχτα, είχα απελπιστεί.*

Aθ - Και τι ήθελες από τη ζωή; Σε αυτή την ηλικία. Τι νόμιζες ήθελες;

Tas - *Ήθελα να ζήσω, να ξεκουραστώ λίγο. Ήθελα να ζήσω σαν άλλες πολλές κοπέλες που άκουγα, α, πήγα στο τάδε πανηγύρι, περάσαμε ωραία, το έβλεπα. Νομίζεις, ο πατέρας μας ήτανε πολύ strict σε εμάς. Πάρα πολύ. Πάρα πολύ αυστηρός.*

Aθ - Και with that your experience with men they always tell you what to do.

Tas - *Always οι γονείς. Γιατό ποιο other men δεν είχαμε other men.*

Aθ - What about, I am thinking of your brothers?

Tas - *Oh, my brothers were down από μένα δύο παιδιά. Ήτανε μικρός.*

Aθ - Ναι

Tas - *My brother was 12 when I left.*

Aθ - And was your mother strict as your father?

Tas - *My mother is a little bit easier, a little bit easier but what she can do. There you can listen to the man. The man is the boss.*

Aθ - And so you wanted a better life? What did you think you would find?

Tas - *I want a better life. I want a better life to live.*

Aθ - And what were you thinking about marriage? Because you were 21 which was getting older those days.

Tas - *Yes. Yes.*

Aθ - For a young woman. What did you think?

Tas - *I think I will find somebody to look after me to, something.*

Aθ - And did you want to, ήθελες να βρεις αγάπη; Ή, or were you happy for your parents to find you somebody?

Tas - *Oh, that time I never know. I never knew the difference.*

Aθ - You just wanted to get married.

Tas - *Yeah. Yeah.*

Aθ - So, όταν τελείωσες την Αθήνα γύρισες πίσω; Στο σπίτι;

Tas - *A, the Easter Day and we stayed 2 days to say goodbye and we left we go back to Athens and 2 days later we leave.*

Aθ - And you came by plane?

*Τας - Yes.*

Aθ - And πόσες κοπέλες ήτανε στο αεροπλάνο; Θυμάσαι;

*Τας - Δεν θυμάμαι. The same group.*

Aθ - The same group.

*Τας - The same group we were 26.*

Aθ - 26.

*Τας - The same group.*

Ευα - To 1964.

*Τας - To 1963.*

Ευα - 1963.

*Τας - And we stay in Sydney I think first.*

Aθ - Did you go all the way from Greece to Sydney?

*Τας - Well no, if I knew properly, Abu Dabi, Dubai, that way.*

Aθ - Dubai. In the Middle East.

*Τας - Yes. And the first shower we've got it at Abu Dabi.*

Ευα - Μείνατε στο ξενοδοχείο;

*Τας - Well, τότε ήτανε μικρά τα αεροπλάνα και μέναμε, κάναμε 7 days to come here.*

Aθ - 7 days.

*Τας - That time because the aeroplanes was small and they go and stay in each country we go.*

Aθ - And did you stay overnight?

*Τας - Yes. We stay overnight there and we have a shower, was too hot. And I never forget, oh, I don't know what we use, could be conditioner first or shampoo after I don't know and it [?51:23] come like a cream and we put water to take it off again and again and again, wouldn't come off. We don't know what we use. And all κοπέλες the same thing. We use wrong shampoo or wrong conditioner. I don't know. Which one we used first. And we went after to the other country and we have a shower there and we never use any soap, we were scared.*

Aθ - Why were you scared?

Ευα - The first time around.

*Τας - Yes. Because we thought it may be the same thing.*

Aθ - Oh, right.

*Τας - When we brush our hair it come like a dreadraft after we dry. We don't know what we use. We don't know. We don't know. And then we come to Sydney and we leave a couple of girls there and then we leave some in Melbourne and then we come here 12 of us.*

Aθ - Only 12 came to Wellington?

*Tας - To Wellington.*

Eυα - So it was like a bus dropping people off?

*Tας - And then from Wellington I thought with Exenoula Gnafaki I was so close with her. All time at their school and everywhere. And I stay with her and then they say you go to Timaru and you Tasula you go to Auckland. We cry and scream. And we don't know where Auckland is.*

Aθ - And they wouldn't listen to you, they wouldn't ask you if you wanted...? So, they separated you?

*Tας - They separate us. And then we never know how to touch with each other. We don't know what to do. Taking more than a couple of years to finding out.*

Aθ - Was the plane trip exciting for you? Or scary?

*Tας - Scary, scary! Very scary!*

Aθ - That was because you were flying?

*Tας - Was the first time getting to those things. First time. And then the train is the more, Alexia nearly she killed. Alexia she was on the back*

Aθ - Έτσι μας είπε.

*Tας - Oh yes it is true. The train is scary then because they put us straight from Wellington to come here. Probably they tell us how may hours but we don't know.*

Aθ - So you went straight from the plane into, I mean to the train?

*Tας - Yes. Yes.*

Aθ - No rest?

*Tας - No. And the train goes, goes, goes, goes, we thought Oh my God where we are going, it is not going to turn, stop anywhere. Like every stop the train do, we thought we will get out or we lost or what?*

Aθ - And did you know, where did you know that you are going to New Zealand?

*Tας - After we come here.*

Aθ - After you arrived in New Zealand you knew that's where you are going.

*Tας - Yes.*

Aθ - So, you didn't know where your destination was?

*Tας - No. And then I come here in Auckland, there was one Greek lady there, Mrs Papakonstantinou, and she said to me 'are you going to go now? I take you where your sister is.' Nobody knew where this is.*

Aθ - So, did you know your sister was in Auckland?

*Tας - Yes. And then we bused to Auckland Hospital, we lest some girls there, and then we carry on to, we carry on to Kingseat. And I went there and I thought, στον Θεό ήμουνα τότε, and I saw my sister and then*

Aθ - She was at Kingseat?

*Tas - Yes. Yeah.*

Aθ - Your sister. And what is her name?

*Tas - Evangelia.*

Aθ - Evangelia was at Kingseat.

*Tas - And some other girls there, 4-5 there.*

Aθ - Was that coincidence or did they know your sister was there?

*Tas - No. They know.*

Aθ - That's why they put you there.

*Tas - That's why they got me in New Zealand. Otherway they will leave in Australia or somewhere.*

Aθ - Others sisters I think were separated they didn't go to the same places.

*Tas - I know.*

Aθ - Interesting.

*Tas - No, they got me with her as well.*

Aθ - So how long has she been here when you arrived?

*Tas - Nearly a year.*

Aθ - So, you haven't seen her for a year?

*Tas - Yes. And she tried after that but the worst is we start working the next day and they tell us what to do and we are scared. We don't know what to do. We don't know and we lock ourselves in the room and they come knock knock the door and we don't open. We were scared.*

Aθ - What were you scared of?

*Tas - We don't know. We don't know. When they talk we don't know what they say.*

Aθ - So you couldn't understand?

*Tas - Yes, Alexia not tell you?*

*Tas - We lock ourselves in a rooms. Alexia was there.*

Aθ - So, the first morning when they woke you up, you locked yourselves in the room.

*Tas - Oh my God I don't want to come out, I don't want to because in Greece they scared us, say if you are going to go to another country, they eat each other, they don't eat the bread they eat the people.*

Aθ - They eat each other

*Tas - We thought they are going to eat us. And my sister say, no, I've been for a year and they not eat me yet. You know.*

Ευα - Λέγανε για τους Μαόρι ότι τρώγανε τους ανθρώπους;

*Tas - Yeah, yeah, yeah.*

Aθ - So, όταν σας μιλήσανε you didn't understand what they were saying? So, you locked yourselves in the room all the 12 of you?

Tας - No, some of us. Because we got rooms next to each other. We got very small rooms and most of them had some big group or something coming, oh my God, we run quickly. Disappear. Quickly.

Aθ - So, very shy and scared.

Tας - Yeah. Scared. Most scared not shy.

Aθ - And when did that start to change? When did it change?

Tας - Slowly. Yes slowly start to change. We have one table we all sit together. And that Frank, Alexia's, the first one is start to having fun with the Greek girls and find Alexia. And we thought, oh my God, he is the king of us now and we all rely on him. If he's want to go out with Alexia, we all would go with them.

Ευα - So just for the story that Frank was at the time the man that was courting Alexia, one of the girls who you came with and eventually married Alexia and Alexia is one of the women we have had interview before.

Tας - And Alexia is the first one she married.

Aθ - Yes, what did you think about all that? What did you think about Frank and...

Tας - My God when she married you should see us in the corner we all cry and cry because we thought he is going to kill her. We thought, all of us.

Aθ - Really? What were you frightened of Frank?

Tας - We not frightened of him, we thought why he is taking her away from us? She never tell you?

Aθ - No.

Ευα - She told us that she was the first one to, you know, marry

Tας - She never told you we all cry for her? He knows.

Aθ - When he started to take her out, you were all worried that you had to go

Tας - We all go with them. He's taking not one he's take 6 of us after that, because 6 we left in Kingseat he has to take all of us.

Aθ - Was that to keep an eye on her? Or what were you worried, was because women didn't go out with men on their own in the village?

Tας - Yeah, exactly. Exactly.

Aθ - So you were protecting her

Tας - And she want us to go with her.

Aθ - She wanted you to go?

Tας - Yeah.

Tας - She wanted us to go

Aθ - So, you were always on the dates together.

*Taç - Yeah.*

Eυα - The reason I thought to remember with Frank and a lot of Greek girls sitting around him

*Taç - All of us. All of us. He takes that and we call him brother that time.*

Aθ - So, you started to warm towards Frank?

*Taç - Yes. Yeah.*

Eυα - He was making an effort for you?

*Taç - He is the first one. Yeah.*

Aθ - But still when they got married you were still worried about, for her?

*Taç - Oh yes.*

Aθ - And what did you think about a non-Greek? You know her marrying a non-Greek?

*Taç - We scared that's why, they give us, some people got claustrophobia we got that phobia with him. We thought oh my God he is taking her away from us. We've been to the wedding, we've been everywhere but, yes.*

Aθ - That is interesting, isn't it?

Aθ - So, what work did you do at Kingseat?

*Taç - Well I help in kitchen, the others they do clean up, all the nurses home, because we working in nurses home, was 300 nurses at the time there. And they make the beds, clean them, clean the bathrooms and everything. But they put me in the kitchen straight away and help their cook. My God vegetables I have cleaned. But still I have a better job than the others.*

This is an interview with Tasula Despotaki, file number 3.

Aθ - So, Tasula you were working in Kingseat and how long was your day? When did you get up in the morning?

*Taç - I think we start 7:30; we never have a time I think I don't know. Because we work there, we eat there, we sleep there, and they pay us but they keep some money for...*

Aθ - for board?

*Tas- For Board.*

Aθ - Do you remember what you were paying?

*Taç - 13 pounds a week which is nothing*

Aθ - Was this your first money?

*Taç - Yes.*

Aθ - And what did you do with them?

*Taç - Oh my God, we never spend any because we thought oh, oh, more money more in a bank, we so excited we see our bankbook goes up.*



Aθ - So, you banked everything?

*Tας - Everything. Everything goes straight. We bank it or we send some to the father every single week for paying we send some for them.*

Aθ - Ah, did you?

*Tας - Oh yes. Oh yes.*

Aθ - And what did he do with that money?

*Tας - For the rest of the family. Yeah.*

Aθ - Right.

*Tας - Just use it for the rest of the family.*

Aθ - So he used that to supplement their living

*Tας - Yeah.*

Aθ - Gosh that might be an interesting thing, what did you do, telegraph the money? How did they send money in those days?

*Tας - We can put it in an envelope*

Aθ - Ah, you put it in an envelope.

Ευα - Σοβαρά με το ταχυδρομείο τα στέλνατε και έφτανε ε;

*Tας - Yeah.*

Aθ - WOW!

*Tας - The time you can put 10 pounds, 15 pounds got the paper pounds put in the envelope and go*

Aθ - Was it not illegal?

*Tας - No, that time we can. But after that we have a limited it, we are not supposed to send more than 25 pounds each time.*

Aθ - Each time

*Tας - Each time and after we come back to a dollar.*

Aθ - So, when you came to New Zealand what did you bring with you?

*Tας - When I come to New Zealand I brought what I wearing and plus I think, my mother give me one towel, one nightie which hand made, she made it. And that's it.*

Ευα - Δεν είχατε μια άλλη αλλαξιά ρούχα;

*Tας - Do you believe the day I went to leave Crete to come here I went to my auntie's, my best auntie's, my father's sister, and I've got my period and I thought, oh, oh, I am leaving what can I do. And I pinched two σόβρακα' from my cousins, the boys unties and I took them, yay. And I told my aunty after.*

Aθ - And that was all you had?

*Tας - That was all I had. And one bra.*

Aθ - And one bra.

Τας - *I had to take it out, wash it, put it back again.*

Aθ - And so, when you came to New Zealand, you started earning any money did you buy anything for yourself?

Τας - *I buy the materials and then one girl help each other, we are sewing them. And make some dress or some petticoats because we were wearing petticoats that time, unties. And until we get some money and we buy them after.*

Aθ - And what, did you do anything together on weekends? For fun? This must be the first time you had any leisure?

Τας - *No. On weekend we just want to have, listen to radio, the radio was very nice for us because we didn't have radios home.*

Aθ - Ah, what did you listen to?

Τας - *Tapes. We put tapes on and we so happy with that.*

Ευα - Ακούγατε ελληνική μουσική;

Τας - *With a tape, nothing else. Oh yeah, yeah.*

Ευα - Τι ελληνική μουσική ακούγατε;

Τας - *Είχαμε κασέτες*

Ευα - Ποιους τραγουδιστές;

Τας - *Ο, είχαμε τους Κρητικούς. Τον Ξυλούρη, αυτούς. Τον Καζαντζίδη. Αυτούς είχαμε. Μαρινέλα τραγουδούσαμε μαζί. Αυτά. Ήμασταν happy then.*

Aθ - Were you home sick?

Τας - *Not really.*

Aθ - So, I guess you had all the girls with you so you had your little community there.

Τας - *Yeah, yeah, yeah.*

Aθ - So you didn't miss the hard work.

Τας - *No, we happy there.*

Aθ - So how was the working comparison you were doing at Kingseat from what you did in Greece?

Τας - *A lot better. Much better. Much easier. From the work outside. Much better. And we happy because we got a little room and we thought like a doll's house we try to make it best, changing the sheets, oh so beautiful*

Ευα - You were buying things for yourself to make the place nice.

Τας - *Yeah, all the time. All the time.*

Aθ - How long you were at Kingseat?

Τας - *I was '63 in April and I left October '64.*

Aθ - So that was 1 year and a half. And what did you think about New Zealanders? Did you mix much with the people in Kingseat? The other staff?

Tας - *No.No. Oh, I've got some friends Maori girls but they, and some others but they make us in trouble.*

Aθ - Ah, did they?

Tας - *They teach us the bad words for them to laugh and that and we thought, like one day I got a sore tooth but that I blamed the dentist now I know and I wish I got tell him that. That time I got sore tooth, very sore, I cry all night. And the girl come and she show me what to do by [?:53] knock the door, open the door, go inside and say to the reception 'I want a fuck'.*

Aθ - Did she?

Tας - *I went and exactly what she say to me, and I say the lady there she say to me something I don't know and I say to her 'I want a fuck'. And probably she say to me to go, I don't know. Probably she say to me to go but I was finding a seat there and I sit there. The people come and they go straight inside to the room and they gone and another lot come and I was there for ages, never call me. And then a man come and she says to me what I want. And I says to him 'I want a fuck'.*

Aθ - You said this to the dentist?

Tας - *To the dentist.*

Aθ - That you want a fuck?

Tας - *And probably he says to me to go and I couldn't understand. But I am sure he say to me go, go, go. I couldn't understand. And then he comes three times and he says to me I did keep saying the same thing and he's writing me a letter, he's writing me a letter and he give it to me and he open the door and he says to me, show me to go and I go. I thought he is give me the letter to go to another dentist. I went to the Kingsseat and saw to my boss and I says to her, I give to her the letter she read it and she tried to tell me what I said and I don't know. And then she trying to find somebody and she find Petousis.*

Aθ - Nikos?

Tας - *Nikos*

Aθ - Που ήτανε ο Νίκος;

Tας - *I don't know she find him then*

Aθ - He was at the community?

Tας - *No, he is in Auckland somewhere then.*

Aθ - Yes, in the Auckland Community

Tας - *Somewhere*

Ευα - Ο κύριος Πετούσης είναι τώρα ο Επίτιμος Πρόξενος της Ελλάδας στο Ώκλαντ;

Tας - *Ναι. Αλλά βρήκε τον κύριο Νίκο Πετούση και ήρθε. Και μου λέει 'βρε κοπέλα μου τι πήγες και έλεγες στους ανθρώπους'. Λέω 'τι είπα, πονάει το δόντι μου'. 'Όχι μου λέει είσαι τυχερή δεν σε πήρανε στο κρεβάτι, τι είπες στους ανθρώπους;'. Εγώ λέω ότι μου είπαν να πω είπα. Ε, δεν ξέρω τι είπα. Το διάβασε εκεί και έγραφε καθαρά ο άνθρωπος ότι αυτή ήρθε εδώ και μας εξητάει τέτοιο. Τρελλάθηκε ο Νίκος Πετούσης και μου γράφει ένα άλλο γράμμα και με στέλνει στο ίδιο dentist εγώ δεν ήθελα να πάω, πήγα όμως και αυτός έπρεπε να καταλάβει δεν ξέρω και τι οδόντες ωστόσο stupid ήτανε;*

Ευα - Ίσως να νόμιζε ότι ήσουνα αυτό, δεν είχες λεφτά, ήσουνα ξένη και ήθελες να κερδίσεις χρήματα.

Αθ - Και τέτοιες κουβέντες γυναίκες δεν λέγανε

Τας - *Nai, vai.*

Αθ - Και τι, did you say anything to the Maori girl who taught you that word?

Τας - *Oh Mr Petousis after that went with the Immigration Department, Mr McClean and they suck the girl straight away. Oh they suck her.*

Ευα - They did?

Τας - *They did straight away. Mr McClean, Mr Smith and Mr Petousi come together and they ask me and I say*

Ευα - Who is McClean?

Τας - *They was Immigration, those people who brought us to New Zealand. Mr McClean and Mr Smith, those two.*

Αθ - You must have been shocked that you had said that.

Τας - *Yes I did. I got a shock. Because I thought I ask her I have a sore tooth. Not to asking for the other thing.*

Ευα - It was a joke but went very bad

Αθ - It did go very bad.

Τας - *It is. And I never forget her name is Rita Cope. I never remember a name.*

Αθ - You always remember her name.

Τας - *Yeah, yeah.*

Αθ - Rita

Τας - *Cope. C O P E.*

Αθ - Cope.

Τας - *I never forget that stays with me, why she done this to me?*

Αθ - She probably didn't realise

Τας - *No, she wanted just to laugh when I say that*

Αθ - Yes. Yes. And did you mix with any other New Zealand women?

Τας - *After that we mix with other staff and that slowly slowly even now we've got very good New Zealand friends. Yeah, yeah.*

Αθ - And did you face any kind of discrimination? When you first came?

Τας - *No, they all love us, all love us. They love the Greeks. Yeah. As soon we are telling them we are Greeks they are good. Special one after I marry my husband, when it comes the fawkes day, 5th of November and we marry 20th of November.*

Aθ - Ah, so, tell me about that. You were in Kingseat until October 1964 and did your parents arrange a marriage for you?

Τας - Yes. Yes.

Aθ - So, tell me about that.

Τας - He come to New Zealand on 5th of November

Aθ - So, they have written to you and said

Τας - Oh no, no. When I left, my father and his father meet in a καφενείο and they say my daughter going to New Zealand – I wasn't left then – and he say 'how old is your daughter?' And then say and say and 'I've got a son what about if we make them to marry each other?'. And my father say no, no, no, no. Because it's her the second to marry now. That's first one and third one and the third.

Aθ - Ah, so η σειρά σου δεν είναι.

Τας - No, no, no. And say no, no, no, no. But my father-in-law he asking and asking again and again and again and I was leave to go to Athens and was nothing happen. And when I went to Athens he ring me, my husband, and he says to me 'are you going to go to New Zealand and where you are going to go?' because there are four options we've got and I said 'they are going to put me in New Zealand but I am not sure.' Because we don't know. And he says 'where is the New Zealand?' And I say I don't know somewhere in America'. We don't know at all. And he says 'what you think if I come?' I say 'well I can't say anything because my father'. And they start on and on and I left.

Aθ - Did you thank him? Did you like the idea of him being

Τας - Oh yes, first boy I talk to. First boy I talk to.

Ευα - Και εξέφρασε και ενδιαφέρον.

Τας - Yeah, yeah. And then I come here and we write a letter and he's want me to bring him in New Zealand quickly but it is a hard. Because I have to pay my fare return, his fare return and accommodation they got and only 13 pounds they pay us.

Aθ - So, did they take the fares out of your pay?

Τας - Yes, out of pay.

Aθ - So, the money you got was in your hand was your money?

Τας - Yeah.

Aθ - They had deducted your fare.

Τας - Out. Yes, everything out there.

Aθ - How much was it, do you know? What did they charge you for your fare?

Τας - I can't remember. I can't remember at all how much. It wouldn't be a lot. Anyway soon I try and then work Saturday and Sunday in the laundry to make more money to bring him alia [?13:45].

Ευα - alia [?13:40] Τώρα, έπρεπε να πληρώσετε τα εισιτήριά σας αν θέλατε να παντρευτείτε κάποιον πριν τα 2 χρόνια που ήτανε στην [?13:47]

Τας - 5 χρόνια.

Ευα - 5 χρόνια

Aθ - 5 χρόνια

Ευα - Α, 5 χρόνια.

*Τας - 5 χρόνια. Because they bring us all girls, because that time they got shortage of girls here but they got a lot boys. And then if we marry somebody from my country we have to be 5 years. Yeah. Oh yeah.*

Ευα - Αν δεν ήτανε όμως άντρας [?:14:09] ήτανε 2 χρόνια το μίνιμουμ. Σαν penalty.

Aθ - It's a penalty if you got married.

*Τας - Yes. And that is why I couldn't make it and then they don't let them come until they got the money on their hands for who bring in. For come and go. Because if he doesn't like New Zealand the Government will pay for him return back to Greece. We have to have the money. And soon if I got enough they say yes now he can come.*

Ευα - Και πόσο χρόνο σας πήρε να μαζέψετε αυτά τα λεφτά;

*Τας - One a half year.*

Aθ - So from the time you arrived you were gathering money to bring him?

*Τας - Yes.*

Aθ - And...

*Τας - All my money.*

Aθ - And when did your father say yes?

*Τας - He never say yes.*

Aθ - A, he never approved?

*Τας - No. He's never approved and I thought oh, oh. I am far away. He can't even smack me.*

Aθ - So, you didn't care that he didn't give you his approval.

*Τας - No, no, no.*

Aθ - So, your husband arrived.

*Τας - He arrived 5<sup>th</sup> of November and Mrs Kokka from Manurewa she's, her husband was in a war in Greece, he's likes Greeks. He comes and pick me up from Kingseat at 5:00 at night, I couldn't forget it, Guy Fawkes Night, we went to Whanuapai airport and we pick my husband up when I saw him come because the airplane then you can see them come down, I thought, oh, it is not him, cannot believe, it's not him, but I thought oh maybe, and was him and he come and straightaway we take him to Mrs Kokka's house in Manurewa and I go back to Kingseat. The same night. In the morning they ring, ask him what he wants for breakfast, he didn't understand one word in English, she making him sausages and bake beans on toast and give it to him. He eat it. And then he's ring me 'I am going to die, I am going to die, I can't be here, I am going to die, why you bring me to New Zealand, I am going to die.'*

Aθ - On one night?

*Τας - He couldn't understand a thing and he was scared.*

Aθ - Ah, did he think he would be able to understand? He didn't even think of the fact they might not speak Greek?

*Tας - Oh my God*

Ευα - He must had bigger cultural shock. At least εσείς πήγατε ένα μήνα σας προετοιμάσανε κάπως, λίγο τη γλώσσα.

*Tας - Αυτός nothing.*

Aθ - Ναι, ναι.

Ευα - Αυτός τίποτα, ήρθε κατευθείαν από το χωριό στην Νέα Ζηλανδία.

*Tας - Yeah.*

Aθ - And he didn't like the sausages and the baked beans?

*Tας - And then they ask him they thought he say he likes them. Every day for twenty days sausages and baked beans he is eating. That's alright. And then Saturday and Sunday my boss went and pick him up but he is not allowed to take him into our rooms in Kingseat. Saturday and Sunday, she bring him on Saturday and take him back and bring him on Sunday and take him back and I put him on a back window inside on my room because if the matron that saw me I will be in big trouble.*

Aθ - So you snack him into your room?

*Tας - Yes. And we talk, we, like how we talk together now. Nothing more than.*

Aθ - So, what sorts of things did you talk about?

*Tας - About marriage, about our life, about work and that's all we talk. And then when the day come to get married, I was in Kingseat, they come, somebody come and pick me from Kingseat one old man, I don't know who was, I don't know what and take me to Mt Eden.*

Aθ - Mt Eden

*Tας - Yes. There. And was one old lady and him. That's it.*

Aθ - So was, was the Russian Orthodox Church in Mt Eden?

*Tας - No, no, no. Just in a house. They take me to the house. And they, that day we got one wedding dress and we all share and the wedding dress was there and the vowels there and everything and the lady told me to get dressed. That old lady.*

Aθ - And you didn't know who they were?

*Tας - No. No.*

Aθ - So, it was all organised for you.

*Tας - All organised for me.*

Aθ - Who have organised it?

*Tας - I think Mr McClean and Mr Smith because we are first girls married. I think the Immigration Department people organised it. Anyway, they, she, I saw the dress there and put it on myself and got my hair myself, put lipstick myself, nobody else there and then my, I've got bridesmaids girls but they dressed in Kingseat.*

Aθ - Ah, right.

*Tας - And they coming with somebody in church.*

Aθ - A, so this is a news item prepared in what paper was this?

*Tας - Herald.*

Aθ - In the Herald and the title is 'wedding in triplicet'. So there were three of you who got married that day?

*Tας - Yes.*

Aθ - Which one are you?

*Tας - The middle.*

Aθ - The one in the middle.

*Tας - This one here is still in here and the other one in Australia. And why we marry together, because we don't have money to bring the priest. And then Kostas just [ʔ0ˈ40] the priest.*

Ευα - Και από που τον φέρατε τον παππά;

*Tας - He was from Australia but he was in Wellington and we brought him from Wellington here. We're lucky. And then this one marry first and my husband is the best man. He went they married first and then he go back to his...*

Ath - So, this is Penny?

*Tας - Penny. She marry first and my husband is the best man and then the other one marry first and her husband was the best man to this one and then I married third and then another woman – one she take me to the church – that's my best woman.*

Ευα - Και τις ξέρατε πριν παντρευτείτε αυτές τις γυναίκες;

*Tας - Yes.*

Aθ - So you knew Penny and Maritsa. There were from Mytilini?

*Tας - We come together, the same group.*

Aθ - A, but they were from Mytilini?

*Tας - Yes. We come together with them.*

Ευα - Και παντρευτήκανε Έλληνες και αυτοί;

*Tας - Η Παναγιώτα μόνο, η Πέννυ παντρεύτηκε Έλληνα, η άλλη παντρεύτηκε ξένο.*

Aθ - So Mr Cocco of Manurewa acted as the father of the bride at the wedding of Tasula and Maritsa.

*Tας - And that Mr Cocca come to get me from where I was to take me to the church. We went to the church but that time we've got Mr Fillipopoulos, a Greek Councillor*

Aθ - Which church was this?

*Tας - Dominion Road. The Greek Orthodox Church.*

Aθ - The Greek Orthodox Church.

*Tας - But he was very stubborn man. Mr Fillipopoulos and he comes and never go and open a church.*

Ευα - Γιατί;



*Τας - We don't know. And we don't have a church to married. And was right next door was another church there but I don't know it's got only pictures like Spiderweeds those like I don't know what church it is. And that one let us go to that church. We never marry in an orthodox church because he's never open the church for us.*

Ευα - Αλλά ο παππός ο Έλληνας σας πάντρεψε σε αυτή την εκκλησία;

*Τας - Παντρευτήκαμε με Έλληνα παππά. Yeah.*

Aθ - Why he wouldn't open the church?

*Τας - We don't know. Now we still never find.*

Aθ - And where did the Greek priest come from?

*Τας - Wellington.*

Aθ - Wellington.

Ευα - Από την Αυστραλία αλλά ήτανε από το Ουέλλινγκτον.

Aθ - A, he came up and marry the three of you.

*Τας - Yes. And was not marry on a church we marry next door. Anyway then my husband go back he went to sleep. And I went to the church, Mr Cocca take me to the church and no groom there. Nothing.*

Aθ - A, so he fallen asleep at home.

*Τας - He never know he said to get dressed and go to get married.*

Aθ - Did they forget to tell him?

*Τας - And then the man who was the best man for us he went and said to him 'what are you doing? The bride waits for you at the church instead of you waiting for her.' And Mr Cocca take me round and round and round until Theo went to the church and we marry.*

Aθ - And your husband's name was Theo Despotakis?

*Τας - Theo Despotakis. Theodore.*

Aθ - Yeah.

*Τας - Anyway after that, after that what's happening we are going to the reception in Mt Eden somewhere there or Empsom or somewhere, none of us know where, I remember was upstairs, gone upstairs and the reception was upstairs. Was a lot people there but all Immigration Department people, I don't know who, we don't know these people.*

Aθ - Were your friends there? From Kingseat?

*Τας - Not many, no.*

Ευα - Η Αλεξία δεν ήτανε στον γάμο σας;

*Τας - Yes, yes, Alexia's come. Few come but not all because they don't where we are. Anyway we went over there and we got a big table for us to sit, they got the flowers, they got everything, we never know where we are, and after they start to talking about us, Mr McClean, Mr Cocca, saying probably the stories for Greece, we don't know what they are talking about.*

Aθ - In English?

*Tας - In English. After they started to singing for theirs jolly good fell on and my God we start crying, we thought my God they now gotta kill us. We never know what was going on.*

Aθ - Σωστά

*Tας - We don't know.*

Ευα - It's all happened for them.

*Tας - It's big shock for us. Big shock. And then we eat, they got beautiful food and everything we eat and then we see everybody gone gone gone. And only us three and husbands, Mr Cocca, Mrs Cocca stay. That's it. And we have to do all the dishes.*

Aθ - You are kidding.

*Tας - No.*

Aθ - You had to wash your own dishes?

*Tας - All the dishes all clean up the hall; vacuuming the floor with a wedding dress on.*

Aθ - You are joking.

*Tας - Yes, everything. Nobody was there and we had to leave the hall nice and clean.*

Ευα - What a surreal experience? Someone organising your wedding and

Aθ - then made you do all the cleaning.

*Tας - Working everything. You should see the husbands with aprons and*

Aθ - and the husbands too?

*Tας - Oh yes. They help and we clean up everything and then Mrs Cocca and Mr Cocca they rent a flat for us in Manurewa. Because they live in Manurewa. And they take us. Maritsa and Panayiota they got a flat in Ponsonby. Oh, somewhere there. And they go both there together. They were good because they got company. For me they take me and my husband gone to Manurewa and they open one door, they give us the key, they go. And they leave us there. We go inside no table no chair no nothing. Only one bed, but no linen, nothing.*

Aθ - No linen?

*Tας - No. We don't have anything. We don't have anything. Because when you have the flat you have to have your own things. We never have nothing.*

Ευα - So, they organised things

Aθ - but didn't bother to tell you

*Tας - Nothing.*

Ευα - They couldn't understand very well.

*Tας - Exactly, exactly.*

Aθ - So, it must have been really strange because you only understood a little bit of...

*Taç - Be very strange. And we went over there and we sit on the table and we talk and then my husband goes to bed first, I had a shower; he's have a shower gone to bed, no way for me to see him. And then he go to bed and call me to go, go, no. I am too embarashed, too shy.*

Eva - Were you in the bathroom?

*Taç - I was in the bathroom. But he come grab me 'oh, my God, something wrong?' We never have anything do any sex until one week after.*

Aθ - Ah, so you just went to bed and slept?

*Taç - Yeah.*

Eva - Did he try and you didn't want to?

*Taç - Oh yeah, yeah.*

Aθ - Ah, he tried that night?

*Taç - Oh all the time.*

Aθ - Oh, what did he, did he try to sweet talk you?

*Taç - Oh my God.*

Aθ - And what did you say? No, no, no.

*Taç - No, no, no! Screaming and crying.*

Aθ - Did you know what he wanted?

*Taç - I know what he is wanted but I was scared what was going to happen.*

Aθ - Why were you scared?

*Taç - Because that time Alexia is the one to scare us, she say 'oh, you are going to bleed, it is going to hurt.'*

Aθ - Oh, she was kind enough to tell you what the first time was like?

*Taç - Yeah, yeah. And Alexia is the one...*

Aθ - So, she told you all about the first night?

*Taç - Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. That's why we...*

Aθ - And did she say it got better or?

*Taç - Oh yes. But she tell us. Yeah. We were scared. But anyway.*

Aθ - Did you enjoy your husband?

*Taç - And we never love each other when we first married because how do you love somebody to see it one or two hours? But I think after, I like that, every day we love more and more even now. Because you don't have another boyfriend or nothing on your life before and you stick with one and you don't know what is the difference and that's it. The God for you.*

Aθ - Right but was he good to you?

*Taç - Yeah.*

Aθ - So did you try and explain to him why you were screaming?

Tας - *He knew, he know.*

Aθ - He knew.

Tας - *He understand. Yeah.*

Aθ - Was he, had he ever slept with anyone before? You think?

Tας - *Oh, I don't know.*

Aθ - Have you ever asked him?

Tας - *I did. I think they got prostitutes there. I think the boys goes to them*

Aθ - And so after a week, what did you have to do that week, did you have to go back to work? At Kingseat?

Tας - *The next the morning.*

Aθ - The next morning?

Tας - *No, no. They found me a blind institute.*

Aθ - A, did you go to the blind institute?

Tας - *Still in the kitchen, but next morning straight away we going to work. Because we don't have any money. The next day when we get up we hungry. We got nothing to eat. Absolutely nothing. And the lady who gives us the fletches leave us I think a kilo of potatoes and a packet of rice and the binge [?9:59] and she gone. And we don't have anything to eat and we gone for walk and we see some doughnuts in one shop, is a diary. And we went and say to them, this one...and he thought we say that..to them and they wouldn't let us having it.*

Aθ - Oh, they thought you giving them the fingers?

Tας - *Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.*

Aθ - And they wouldn't give you the doughnuts?

Tας - *No. No. And we left and we went to another one and we saw them but the other one we thought oh we never know what the fingers are. And we knock the window and we show him what we want and he say too, he understand, he give it to us. That one. And we went home and we ate one but then we hungry again. We got no pot no plates no nothing. And we look everywhere and underneath of the flat we find one lid of the teapot of the pot. And we take it and I start to wash it just put it under the hot tap, we clean it we put it on the top of the stove and we put some water and we peel one potato with a key thing and we cut into pieces and put some rice and that we eat for two days. And then Mrs Cocca bring us a very very small table one like a desk. You can open an entra [?11:25].*

Aθ - Oh yes.

Tας - *One table, two knives, two forks, two spoons, two plates, everything two two two. And we start with that.*

Aθ - So she brought them for you the next day?

Tας - *Yes. And everything all our furniture second hand we bought. Everything. A bed, table, chairs, everything, everything.*

Aθ - So, you didn't work for that week?

Tας - *No we work.*

Aθ - So you went to work and did you tell them that you needed things?

Tας - *How can I tell them?*

Aθ - So they might just realise that you might need knives and forks.

Tας - *Mrs Cocca – she brings everything.*

Aθ - Yeah. But not on the first couple of days? It took a little while.

Tας - *No.*

Aθ - So you were working at the blind institute, what were you doing there?

Tας - *In the kitchen. We make the meals for the blind children, they still my colleagues, they are still there now. And another one in Parnell. Efrosini work in Parnell I think. Yeah.*

Aθ - And was your husband working? Did he get a job?

Tας - *He is working in Mali, Male where they make the...*

Aθ - Oh, Male the plumping

Tας - *No, no. They are making the floor. They make the door square plastic, like towels now but..*

Aθ - Vinal squares.

Tας - *Vinal towels.*

Aθ - So you got a job there. How did he find the job, did somebody find it for him?

Tας - *Mr Cocca.*

Aθ - Mr Cocca.

Ευα - They really do care of you.

Tας - *Mr Cocca?*

Ευα - Yes.

Tας - *He is cared of us until he die.*

Ευα - Because he was a soldier during the War in Crete.

Tας - *Yeah.*

Aθ - He's been in Crete?

Tας - *Yes. He helped us all our lives. Everything. Everything we need we go to him.*

Aθ - So, this was early in your married life, so the first time you had sex was it like Alexia said?

Tας - *Yeah.*

Aθ - Why did you give in at the end? Did you decide either you had to or did you want to?

*Taç - What?*

Aθ - Have sex with your husband.

*Taç - I don't know just come.*

Aθ - And was that ok?

*Taç - Yes, that's alright. Wasn't that bad I imagined.*

Aθ - Did you tell Alexia?

*Taç - Oh we talk a lot with her. She is lovely.*

Aθ - Yeah.

*Taç - Yeah.*

Aθ - And afterwards was fine, did you enjoy sex?

*Taç - Yeah.*

Aθ - And was that something important for your husband that you enjoy sex or was just something that happened?

*Taç - Well he never knew. He used to wait for the woman to be satisfied. He never know himself.*

Aθ - So how did you work that one out?

Aθ - So you knew because Alexia told you that you did enjoy it you thought I have to enjoy this so something is working.

*Taç - No, just by the time you make it come. Many times now I thought my God how stupid we are.*

Aθ - And how often did you have sex? Do you remember?

*Taç - Oh, I can't remember. Morning, lunch, dinner all the time.*

Aθ - Several times a week

*Taç - Oh yeah.*

Aθ - And did you know you wanted to have a baby or did you enjoy it?

*Taç - No. No. We don't even think to have a baby or not to have a baby we don't know how. We never had these pills or anything we never take those but it doesn't come.*

Aθ - So you didn't know anything about contraception? Or anything like that? Did you wonder why it took you three years to have a baby?

*Taç - I don't know. Because I think if the woman doesn't want it or doesn't become happy or something, I don't know.*

Aθ - So you thought because you didn't want a baby you wouldn't have it?

*Taç - No, I don't know. I don't know. But many times we talk and they say if there are not become together they doesn't get pregnant or I don't know if it's [?15:21]*

Aθ - If you didn't enjoy sex

Tας - *Yeah.*

Aθ - You didn't have a baby?

Tας - *Yeah. You don't get pregnant.*

Aθ - Oh right. It took you three years to enjoy sex?

Tας - *No*

Aθ - No

Tας - *No, but they don't become the same time I think.*

Aθ - Oh you mean you both have orgasm at the same time?

Tας - *Yeah. You are not get pregnant I think.*

Ευα - All sorts of stories hard to explain but you didn't go to the doctor to find out

Tας - *No, because we don't mind to have, we want to have a house first.*

Aθ - Right.

Tας - *And we did. In 3 years time we bought a section.*

Aθ - Aha, so you were leaving renting the flat

Tας - *Yes.*

Aθ - And saving up to buy a piece of land?

Tας - *Yeah and we bought a piece of land and building the house and got us 9,000 dollars that time.*

Aθ - To build the house?

Tας - *The whole thing. The whole thing with the section.*

Ευα - Που ήτανε αυτό;

Tας - *Otara. Because we ask the Barfoot Thompson – we are living in Manurewa – we want to buy a house but we don't know what is a good or bad area. And he took us to Otara. And soon we found out where we are we sell that one and go.*

Aθ - So when was that? That must have been 1967?

Tας - *No we had a house in 1967. 1967 my daughter was born we had it 1966.*

Aθ - So within two years you bought your own house.

Tας - *Yeah. Because 1967 my sister come 1966 she come we had a house and she died 1967.*

Aθ - So you bought the house and how long you were living in Otara?

Tας - *Not very long. We live a couple years. I think 1968 we left.*

Aθ - And then you decided that you didn't like the area?

*Tas - No. And where we went worst one – Mangere. And we found out there then that we don't like the area too and we left and went to Mt Roskill and then we start...*

Aθ - So, what year you were in Mt Roskill?

*Tas - '72. No '79 sorry.*

Aθ - '79. So everytime you moved you bought your house? You didn't borrow money?

*Tas - No.*

Ευα - Θα πρέπει να δουλέψατε πολύ σκληρά όμως γιατί μέσα σε δυο χρόνια

*Tas - We work every day plus Saturday and Sunday. We work every day to one job and then we come back home have a shower, eat something and go to Mission Bay and work in Nino's restaurant and do dishes and 2:00 in the morning I think we come back home. Three jobs. Three jobs.*

Aθ - My parents owned their house after two years.

*Tas - Three jobs we work.*

Ευα - But you were working very hard.

*Tas - And Saturday and Sunday we pick up tomatoes.*

Aθ - Because they were used to the hard work – right?

Ευα - Και που μαζεύατε ντομάτες;

*Tas - Mangere and Kumio [?:18:21]*

Aθ - And you didn't spend very much

*Tas - No.*

Aθ - Saved everything.

*Tas - Yeah.*

Aθ - So when did your sister come? So your other sister did she stay at Kingseat or what happened to her? Did she get married?

*Tas - She marry – Mr Coccas helped her to, the same he is helping us – and she marry she marry to a Greek, my father sent him, he comes a year before, a month before we married. He comes.*

Aθ - And when did she get married? Soon after?

*Tas - Straight away.*

Aθ - Ah, straight away.

*Tas - They give us only 30 days. If you are not marry in 30 days they send them back.*

Aθ - Ah ok, and where did she go to live?

*Tas - She live in Manurewa.*

Aθ - In Manurewa. And then your other sister when she come out?



*Τας - Because she want to come and she come by Immigration as well. We cannot afford to pay her tickets to come and she live here not even a year. And then she works in a hospital.*

Aθ - Which hospital?

*Τας - Auckland Hospital. And she is just helping for the meals for the patients for that. And one Friday she went to have – a big cooler there – to get some apples. Because they give the meal and the apple to each patient there. When she was out of there she was full of spots. Everywhere. Black. Like moles. And she comes out they sent her home straight away. And she come home and say I feel sick I feel sick, we take her to the doctor and the doctor tell us to go to the hospital straight away. We took her to the hospital Friday night, Saturday, Sunday and Monday she is there. They try to explain to us she got leukaemia but the bad leukaemia. But we couldn't understand what it is. And we ask Mr Fillipopoulos to come to tell us. And he come and he explain to us what leukaemia is and we was very upset but we never thought she would die so quickly. And he went and talk to her. Now he tried to be a priest to go to the heaven but he's got to go to the devil. That Fillipopoulos. He try to talk to her and she talk perfect, she was engaged.*

Aθ - She was engaged?

*Τας - Yeah. And he was supposed to come the following month to marry her. Anyway. He talk to my sister Mr Fillipopoulos and say to her 'not because you are sick but we do to everybody', he was the Greek Councillor like Petousis today, 'if you are going to die where you want your money to go?' 'We are not telling you because you are sick but we ask everybody the same thing' and she did, we heard her 'I want my money to go to Philoptohos. We heard say that. Alright he is writing it down. And then he's left. The next day, was Saturday he is coming in the afternoon, Sunday, we went to her and she say 'oh, I want ψαρόσουπα'. Ok. I go home and make some and bring it to you some. I did. She doesn't want to eat, only one spoon I put in the month, that's it. Monday she starting the morning 'I want to have a communion, I want to have communion'. And cry cry what can we do. We ring in Australia, we don't have a priest. And a priest come from Australia. Straightaway. My husband went, pick him up from airport, take him to the Auckland Hospital in the afternoon. She had communion, she talked to the priest and she was happy. And tell him I am engaged, my fiancé come next month and everything and then my husband take the priest to the airport to go back to Australia. And come back to the hospital about 5 o'clock my sister was so hot the nurses come and everybody and change a room for her put her blood straightaway and they took the blood of her and they tell us she is very very bad. My God. And then we put all the time cold water on her and she say oh thank you you are the doctor, you are the doctor. 7 o'clock on spot she start you never you never give me a communion you never bring me a priest. And my husband say to her yes the priest just left. No, you are mean, you don't wan. Anyway. Then, 7:30 she turned her eyes and gone. And Fillipopoulos straightaway went and lock her money. We can't take her money to bury her. And we don't have any money. And we went and Mr Fillipopoulos come to the hospital and she still on the bed because we don't have money even to buy a coffin or nothing. And we says to him we are going to get some money out from her bank and use it. You can't. Why? Because I froze her money. She told me she want her money to go to Philoptohos. And Theos pick up one chair and try to hurt Mr Fillipopoulos in there, in the hospital. And he report us straightaway to big boss in Wellington and he ring and say to my husband 'if you are not coming in 24 hours to Wellington we send you back to Greece.' And we have to take the train the same night from here to go to Wellington and we don't have a coffin to put her, she's still in bed in the hospital. We went there soon we went there inside the other Council βρε γαιδούρι what you did'. And Theo say 'cool down first and I will tell you what and then yo call me γαιδούρι'.*

Ευα - Ο πρόξενος του το είπε αυτό;

*Τας - Yeah. Yeah, yeah. Στο Ουέλλινγκτον. And then we explain to him what Fillipopoulos done but we couldn't do anything. We come back straightaway.*

Aθ - So he wasn't sympathetic?

*Τας - After that he say ok. I'm not send you back to Greece. But what you done just cost us money to come by train to Wellington and back straightaway and you should ring me and I will explain to you I don't but the time he wasn't believe from the telephone and we have to. Anyway. Then we bought a coffin for my sister but the time we ring in Greece they say yes we want her to come, send her to Greece*

*and we bury her here. Was 72 pounds, dollars we pay for the coffin to make all the inside the silver iron, tin*

Eva - Tin. Because the body is composing has to be solidly properly locked.

*Tas- Yeah. And we pay 75 dollars to do that and still she is not on the coffin. She died 25<sup>th</sup> of February and we bury her on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March. That long.*

Aθ - In Greece?

*Tas - Here.*

Aθ - Oh, so

*Tas - After that*

Aθ - So you were going to send her to Greece?

*Tas - After that we couldn't send her to Greece because somebody has to go with the body and it cost a lot of money. We don't have the money and Fillipopoulos doesn't let us have her money and we borrow from all the Greeks some money, some give us 5 pounds, some other 5, you know. We done it and we say no we are going to bury her her we can't. And my mother and my father agree and we bury her here but we can't take it from undertakers. No, until we pay. You see they want the money first and we don't have the money. And we say we can't bury her that's why she was till the 5<sup>th</sup> of March we can't take the body. And another thing for her, when we put her to the coffin they did ask us for some clothes to dressing her, we don't know. We never give any clothes and they put her on the coffin with nothing on. Just the coffin got several things on top and nothing, nobody nothing. Because we don't know. And we bury her with nothing on. And Fillipopoulos come she's stay with my sister that time, with the other sister, he come to my sister and she's took because she's engaged to married, she's got blankets, she got sheets, she's got everything because we told her you don't want to be like us and he come and get everything and we don't know what she's done with it.*

Aθ - Ah, he took all her stuff?

*Tas - Everything. Everything and we thought she's gone send it to my parents because she's got other daughters, nothing.*

Eva - My God

*Tas - And we don't know.*

Aθ - He had so much power. Who was he? He was the Consul for Auckland. But she's done to Despoina the same thing. He's done Despoina things everything.

Eva - Despoina who?

*Tas - Prasianaki. One she die in Kingseat? I got that name down for you.*

Aθ - He came and took her things.

*Tas - Yeah. And nothing. And then when he comes, when he release the money because we got a lot other from the Council in Wellington and after and everything my father has no money and he's got another 4 children.*

Aθ - So, you actually contested that?

*Tas - We want the money to send it to them.*

Aθ - Yeah.

*Τας - He doesn't and what he's did, how many of us, let's, 6 children and my mother 7 and my father 8, 8 divide to 8, 25 dollars each and he give us the cheque.*

Ευα - It wasn't really much

*Τας - And we still me and my sister we put it here to one envelope and send it to my father. But to hurt us he's do that.*

Αθ - So he wanted to be in control of ...

*Τας - Yeah.*

Ευα - Μας είπατε κυρία Τασούλα ότι ήρθε παππάς από την Αυστραλία για να κοινωνήσει την αδελφή σας. Ποιος τον πλήρωσε η εκκλησία

*Τας - Όχι, όχι εμείς. Και τα εισητήριά του και όλα εμείς. Εμείς γιατί δεν είχαμε τίποτα λεφτά. Δεν είχαμε τίποτα. Εμείς και τα εισητήριά του και όλα.*

Αθ - Και μετά είχες μωρό

*Τας - Είχα ένα και ήμουνα έγκυος όταν πέθανε η αδελφή μου τη δεύτερη. Ήμουνα μόλις και όταν πήγα στο νοσοκομείο της το είπα. Γιατί δεν το είχα πει ακόμα ότι ήμουνα έγκυος στο δεύτερο. Και της λέω Ελευθερία να σου πω και κάτι είμαι έγκυος. Ω, χάρηκα χάρηκα.*

Αθ - Και το πρώτο μωρό που είχες ήταν κορίτσι ή αγόρι;

*Τας - Κορίτσι.*

Αθ - Και you gave birth in the hospital?

*Τας - Oh, yes.*

Αθ - And what was that like?

*Τας - Oh, was that time hard because we don't have the epidural we don't have anything we have to take all the pains but its ok because when you want a child I thought beautiful, it was.*

Αθ - Did you work all the time you were pregnant?

*Τας - Yes. Yes.*

Αθ - Right up

*Τας - Yes. Yes and straight after the hospital back to work. Straight after. Having the baby with me even the part time jobs we do we take the children with us.*

Αθ - So you were allowed to have the baby at work?

*Τας - Yeah. Mission Bay we work for an Italian man and under the sink we got a newspaper*

Αθ - You didn't work for the blind foundation?

*Τας - No.*

Αθ - Were you when you had your baby?

*Τας - When I have my first daughter we bought the first shop*

Αθ - Ah, you bought a shop?

*Taç - Take aways. And we got the take aways from 8 – 5 open, 5 o'clock we go home we bath the child, we feed it and then we take it and go to work in Mission Bay in take aways there. Nino's restaurant. And then come back 2 o'clock in the morning have a sleep and go back again.*

Aθ - So what was the name of your place again?

*Taç - Nino's restaurant*

Aθ - Nino's restaurant

*Taç - Mission Bay*

Aθ - Mission Bay. How long did you have that?

*Taç - We work a few years there.*

Aθ - So you were able to have your baby at work?

*Taç - Oh yeah. Yes. Under the sink we put a newspaper and a blanket and we put it sleep there. Yeah, yeah he is a very good man.*

Aθ - And did your husband work there as well?

*Taç - Yes.*

Aθ - So you both work there?

*Taç - Yeah. Yeah.*

Aθ - And did you miss not having your mum to help you when you were pregnant and having your baby or did you just manage?

*Taç - We got a hard time because we don't know but no. Because we don't know who is helping her. No. It is a bit hard.*

Aθ - So you did it all yourself

*Taç - It is a bit hard.*

Ευα - If you don't know any different way

Aθ - No.

Aθ - Did Alexia had children by then?

*Taç - Yes.*

Aθ - And was she a good source of advice?

*Taç - Oh, we not see very much of each other because we don't have a car, it's hard. We ring each other but then again we didn't have a telephone.*

Aθ - So were you going from Mt Roskill to Mission Bay every day?

*Taç - The boss is taking us. Every day.*

Aθ - Which boss?

*Taç - Nino.*

Aθ - Was it not your restaurant?

Tας - *No. We had one in Otara, take aways.*

Aθ - Yes.

Tας - *And close that take aways and got to Nino's.*

Aθ - So you were working at Nino's. And were you living in Manurewa then?

Tας - *No. Otara. When my daughter born we live in Otara.*

Aθ - So at home who did all the duties at home?

Tας - *What?*

Aθ - So your husband helped?

Tας - *Oh yes. We never ever sit down and made and let me do everywhere everything. One do the washing the dishes one cooking one change the baby one do the washing we always together.*

Aθ - How did that happen because in Greece that wouldn't have been like that?

Tας - *Well, when he comes here he doesn't even know how to boil an egg. But then after he learn.*

Aθ - How did he learn? Did you tell him that he has to help or did he just think well I have to help her she has a lot to do?

Tας - *I learn myself because I work in a farm I hardly know anything.*

Aθ - I know but for men they were not used to having to do staff.

Tας - *We'll do it the same.*

Aθ - But how did it come about? My father never did anything in Australia for years and never did anything.

Tας - *No. He's no problem.*

Aθ - Did you talk to him and say you've got to help?

Tας - *We talk to each other because we know exactyl the same. What we see our parents doing we start doing. The same he knows I know.*

Ευα - Πείτε μας για την πεθερά σας που ήρθε και είδε τον γιο της να πλύνει τα πιάτα, πως της φάνηκε;

Tας - *Οχ η πεθερά μου ήρθε το 1970 and we went and pick her up and I've got my sister-in-law here – Loula – and we pick her up from the airport, come home and we cook dinner, we sat at the table, he help, and after we talk we pick up all the dishes and take them to the sink and Theo gets up and start doing the dishes. And she is watching, never saying anything in front of me, nothing. So, he do the dishes and dry them and everything, put them away, and then when I went inside she say to her daughter 'My God my son puts his wife knickers on' and she say 'why?' Because you see him do all the dishes and she say to him 'mum don't say nothing he is in New Zealand it is not Greece, keep your mouth close'. And she never say nothing else but my sister-in-law tell me and I was laughing and say to her 'here we work together the same hours, we have to do everything together.' 'Oh, yeah, ok'. She's alright but after that she like it. She went to Greece and said you should see how they do it together and how this and this but oh my God the first time. Yeah.*

Aθ - And what was it like trying to find Greek food for a [?36:15] house. What sort of food did you cook?

*Τας - We tried the best make Greek food, make dolmades, make everything but we eat the cat food.*

Aθ - Tell me about that.

*Τας - We invite Mrs Papakonstantinou for dinner here more than a year and we thought ok we are going to make 'μακαρονάδα'. And we bought some mince but that time at the supermarket they got the mince on a cellophane, you can see it, and we bought two packets and we had it on the top of our bench and she comes and she says 'are you got a pet, do you have a cat?' No, what you want to do with these? Oh, we have to cook that's the mince. We are going to cook it and have it with spaghetti. And she say 'my dear this is the cat food'. We say to her no it is mince we eat it all the time and she says no, no, that's not it's a cat food. And we open it, look mince, anyway. And then we just have the makaronia with cheese and not with mince.*

*Τας - We eat it for more than a year and a half.*

Aθ - Yeah because I guess you couldn't read the labels you were just going with what it looked like.

*Τας - No. No. And we did more than a year and a half.*

Ευα - Και τα παιδιά σας φυσικά στο σπίτι μιλούσατε Ελληνικά;

*Τας - All the time, yes. Yeah*

Ευα - Και στο σχολείο, τα πηγαίνατε στο ελληνικό σχολείο, είχε ελληνική κοινότητα, σχολείο που μπορούσαν να μάθουν την γλώσσα;

*Τας - Δεν τα πηγαίναμε εμείς τα δικά μας γιατί είμαστε μακριά και δεν είχαμε μέσον. Και δεν τα πήγα στο ελληνικό σχολείο.*

Ευα - Μόνο που μιλούσατε στο σπίτι ελληνικά.

*Τας - Στο σπίτι μόνο.*

Ευαγ - Μάθανε να γράφουνε ελληνικά;

*Τας - Ακόμα δεν ξέρουνε. Διαβάζουνε πολύ λίγο χτες είχαμε ένα e-μειλ και η κόρη μου το διάβασε αλλά δεν γράφουν.*

Ευα - Πείτε μας έτσι λίγο για την ζωή στο Ωκλαντ με την Ελληνική Κοινότητα. Πως αναμνηχθήκατε με την Ελληνική Κοινότητα;

*Τας - Τότε είμαστε λίγοι Έλληνες αλλά είμαστε όλοι κοντά, κλειστοί. Και όταν το '70, '72 νομίζω πουλιότανε, πέρασε κάποιος και είδε την εκκλησία που έχουμε τώρα ότι ήτανε για πούλημα και το είπε σε άλλους και πήραμε όλοι οι Έλληνες λέμε θα την πάρουμε αυτή θα δώσουμε ντεπόζιτ όλοι μαζί να την πάρουμε και την πήραμε. Και ο ένας ήτανε πιο μπροστά, ο ένας Έλληνας, αυτός ήτανε ο κύριος Σιδέρης, ο πρώτος που είδε την εκκλησία ήτανε ο Νικόλα, ο Γιάννης Νικολάου. Ήταν πρώτος που την είδε. Αλλά αυτός που έβαλε εγγύηση το σπίτι του ήτανε ο Σιδέρης.*

Ευα - Ναι, έβαλε το σπίτι του εγγύηση;

*Τας - Εγγύηση και πήραμε αυτή την εκκλησία*

Ευα - Ποια είναι τώρα η διεύθυνση που είναι αυτή η εκκλησία;

*Τας - Στο Western Springs*

Ευαγ - Στο Western Springs

*Τας - 105 Western Springs. Πήραμε αυτή την εκκλησία και σιγά σιγά την φτιάξαμε. Μετά πουλιόταν το σπίτι next door. Και εκάνανε έρανο, βρεθήκανε 30 άτομα και δώσανε από 1000 δολλάρια ο καθένας και πήραμε το ντεπόζιτ, δώσαμε το ντεπόζιτο 30,000 και μετά από donations από όλα όλα ξεκληρώθηκε και αυτό. Και μετά ο σύζυγος μου με τον Κώστα τον Ευαγγελιδάκη ένα καλοκαίρι κάθε μέρα δουλεύανε εκεί πέρα και σηκώσανε το σπίτι πάνω*

Ευα - Α, το χτίσατε εσείς δηλαδή; Η Κοινότητα το έχτισε;

*Τας - Το από κάτω ναι. Και χτίσαμε το χωλ και όλα. Με βοήθεια όλων μετά.*

Ευα - Και τώρα πείτε μας πάτε συχνά στην Ελληνική Κοινότητα; Τι κάνετε;

*Τας - Συνέχεια. Ό,τι και να γίνει είμαστε μέσα. Πάρτυ κάνουν, κάθε Κυριακή στην εκκλησία, έρανο κάνουμε ό,τι μπορούμε κάνουμε. Πουλάμε σουβλάκια μια φορά το χρόνο. Τα λεφτά πάνε στην Κοινότητα ό,τι μπορούμε. Τώρα ακόμα.*

Ευα - Πάντα είσασταν

*Τας - Πάντα πάντα.*

Ευα - Πάτε κάθε Κυριακή στην Κοινότητα;

*Τας - Κάθε Κυριακή πάμε. Μπορεί όταν δεν είμαστε καλά ξέρω εγώ τι να μην πάμε αλλά ο σύζυγός μου ψέλνει στην εκκλησία.*

Ευα - Σας βλέπω συχνά όταν έρχομαι στην Κοινότητα σας βλέπω στην κουζίνα κάνετε πράγματα.

*Τας - Ω ναι ναι πάντα.*

Ευα - Μαγειρεύετε.

*Τας - Πάντα μαγειρεύω ε και προχτές είχαμε μεγάλο πάρτυ ήτανε πολύ ωραίο.*

Ευα - Αυτό ήτανε το Χριστουγεννιάτικο πάρτυ.

*Τας - Ναι ναι. Πάμε, μαγειρεύουμε όλες μαζί.*

Ευα - Και όλα αυτά τα χρόνια που είστε εδώ, πόσα χρόνια είστε τώρα σαράντα

*Τας - 46*

Ευα - 46 χρόνια, πως έχει αλλάξει η Ελληνική Κοινότητα; Έχει αλλάξει καθόλου;

*Τας - Έχει αλλάξει πάρα πολύ. Πάρα πολύ. Πριν είμαστε πιο ενωμένοι. Τώρα δεν είναι τόσο πολύ γιατί καθένας έχει την οικογένειά του, τότε δεν είχαμε τίποτα άλλο εκτός από αυτό. Τρέχαμε όλοι εκεί πέρα και πέρναμε τα παιδιά μας. Τώρα τα παιδιά μας δεν πάνε.*

Ευα - Δεν πάνε ε;

*Τας - Έχουνε δικά τους να κάνουνε. Εμείς δεν ξέραμε. Ενώ τώρα έχουνε άντε έχουνε ένα πάρτυ σήμερα έχουνε να πάνε σε φίλους τους αύριο δεν πάνε, η νεολαία δεν πάει.*

Ευα - Οπότε είναι γερασμένη αυτή η Κοινότητα;

*Τας - Πολύ πολύ. Και αυτό μας λειπεί πολύ διότι όταν φύγουμε εμείς διάλυση. Τα παιδιά μας δεν θα τα δείτε εκεί πέρα. Τα εγγόνια μας τώρα τα παίρνουμε. Αλλά μέχρι να γίνοντε 6-7 χρονών μετά δεν έρχονται ούτε αυτά.*

Ευα - Αλλάζουνε μεγαλώνουνε.

*Τας - Να η εγγονή μου τούτη εδώ την επιάρναμε κάθε Κυριακή. Πες της τώρα να ρθει δεν έρχεται.*

Ευα - Και της μιλάτε ελληνικά της κόρης σας; Της εγγόνης σας;

*Τας - Όλα όλα. Όλα τα εγγόνια μας μιλάνε ελληνικά.*

Ευα - Επειδή τα βλέπετε εσείς.

*Τας - Ναι.*

Ευα - Για πείτε μας σας φέρνουν εδώ τα παιδιά τους; Τα βλέπετε;

*Τας - Συνέχεια τα έχουμε. Συνέχεια με τα παιδιά τους είμαστε.*

Ευα - Μας είπατε ότι μετακομίσατε στο Flatbush επειδή μένουνε οι κόρες σας εδώ κοντά

*Τας - Ναι γιατί ήρθαμε. Μέναμε,είμασταν πολύ χαρούμενοι εκεί που είμασταν, είμαστε κοντά στην εκκλησία, κοντά στην πολιτεία σε όλα. Αλλά οι δύο κόρες είναι εδώ, η άλλη είναι στην Ελλάδα, τα εγγόνια μας είναι εδώ, τα παιδιά θέλουνε να μας έχουνε κοντά τους. Και έτσι μας υποχρεώσανε πουλήσαμε αυτό το σπίτι και πήραμε τούτο. Για να είναι δίπλα.*

Ευα - Σας ευχαριστεί που τους βλέπετε συχνά.

*Τας - Ω ναι. Ναι.*

Ευα - Τους βλέπετε κάθε μέρα;

*Τας - Κάθε μέρα.*

Ευα - Μαγειρεύετε για τους;

*Τας - Ω ναι ναι, συνέχεια.*

Ευα - Τι μαγειρεύετε;

*Τας - Ό,τι να 'ναι. Να χτες βράδυ τους είχα μαγειρέψει γεμιστά. Ένα ταψί για εμάς εδώ ένα ταψί για την κόρη που είναι εδώ. Ό,τι μπορέσω να τους μαγειρέψω τους μαγειρεύω. Έρχονται το παίρνουνε πάνε σπίτι τους. Η θα καθίσουνε εδώ να φάμε μαζί.*

Ευα - Πάντως διατηρείτε αυτή την οικογενειακή σχέση;

*Τας - Ω ναι. Ναι, ναι.*

Ευα - Παρόλο που η μία σας κόρη έχει παντρευτεί Νεο Ζηλανδό είπατε;

*Τας - Και οι δύο.*

Ευα - Και οι δύο είναι παντρεμένες με Νεο Ζηλανδό

*Τας - Και οι δύο. Και οι δύο Νεο Ζηλανδούς πολύ καλά παιδιά.*

Ευα - Τους αρέσει που είναι με Ελληνική οικογένεια;

*Τας - Ω ναι ναι ναι.*

Ευα - Η κουλτούρα, τα έθιμα



*Τας - Ο ένας μένει μαζί μας τώρα. Ενάμισυ χρόνο γιατί χτίζει σπίτι και κάθονται μαζί μας. Πολύ καλά. Δεν το χωρίζω από παιδί μου. Ο άλλος είναι Μαόρι. Της πρώτης μου κόρης. Πάρα πολύ καλός. Πάρα πολύ καλός. Ο άλλος είναι από Έλληνες γονείς. Όπως εμάς.*

Ευαγ - Αυτός που έχει παντρευτεί

*Τας - τη δεύτερη.*

Ευα - Τη δεύτερη. Τα παιδιά, τις κόρες σου τις μεγαλώσατε τι αξίες, τι Ελληνικές αξίες νομίζετε ότι τους περάσατε; Γιατί μεγαλώσανε στην Νέα Ζηλανδία σε μια άλλη χώρα.

*Τας - Ναι αλλά έχουνε όμως τα ήθη τα έθιμα που έχουμε τα έχουν. Έχουν ας πούμε τα Ελληνικά τους αρέσει πολύ, τους αρέσει που μιλάμε Ελληνικά στα παιδιά. Το πιο ωραίο είναι ότι είναι αγαπημένη οικογένεια. Είναι πολύ αγαπημένα τα παιδιά μου και τα τρία. Δεν μπορείς να πεις τίποτα στην μία το ξέρει και η άλλη.*

Ευα - Και αυτό ήτανε κάτι που τους το περάσατε ότι πρέπει να είναι ενωμένη σαν οικογένεια να είναι κοντά σαν αδέρφια;

*Τας - Βέβαια. Νομίζω ότι βλέπουνε εμάς.*

Ευα - Δηλαδή εσείς με την αδελφή σας είσαστε πάντα κοντά;

*Τας - Όχι. Η αδελφή μου έχει, με τα άλλα μου που έχω στην Ελλάδα πάρα πολύ με αυτή που έχω εδώ έχει ξεφύγει από τους Έλληνες από τα πάντα.*

Ευα - Γιατί παντρεύτηκε ξένο;

*Τας - Όχι Έλληνα.*

Ευα - Αλλά;

*Τας - Δεν θέλει καθόλου ούτε στην εκκλησία πάει, ούτε Έλληνες θέλει, ούτε τίποτα τίποτα.*

Ευα - Γιατί αυτό νομίζετε;

*Τας - Δεν ξέρω δεν ξέρω.*

Ευα - Είχε κάποια προβλήματα με την Ελληνική Κοινότητα;

*Τας - Όχι όχι όχι.*

Ευα - Αφομοιώθηκε από την

*Τας - Έχει παιδιά, τα παιδιά της αλλάζανε θρησκεία.*

Ευα - Αφομοιώθηκαν στην Ελληνική κουλτούρα;

*Τας - Τίποτα δεν την ευχαριστεί μονάχα η δουλειά. Τα λεφτά.*

Ευα - Έχει νομίζω ακόμα ένα εστιατόριο; Fish and chips;

*Τας - Ναι ναι, δεν θέλει τίποτα. Ούτε εδώ δεν έχει έρθει ακόμα. Παίρνω τηλέφωνο τον άντρα της του μιλάω, πηγαίνω εγώ και του λέω Γιάννη μου δεν ξανάρχομαι. Άμα δεν έρθει η αδελφή μου δεν ξανάρχομαι.*

Ευα - Αυτό θα είναι δύσκολο γιατί είναι η μόνη οικογένεια που έχετε εδώ.

*Τας - Η μόνη, πολύ δύσκολο για μένα. Πολύ στεναχωριέμαι. Και χτες βράδυ μου λέει ο σύζυγός μου μήπως της είπες τίποτα και παρεξηγήθηκε; Δεν της είπα τίποτα. Τη μαλώνω, της λέω πως ανατραφήκαμε πως μεγαλώσαμε. Όσο κοντά είμαστε και τώρα εσύ έφυγες. Έφυγε.*

Ευα - Την οικογένειά σας στην Ελλάδα, μας είπατε έχετε καλές σχέσεις.

*Τας - Ω ναι.*

Ευα - Θυμάστε πότε πήγατε για πρώτη φορά στην Ελλάδα;

*Τας - Το '72.*

Ευα - Και πως ήτανε; Πως σας φάνηκε η Ελλάδα; Μετά από τόσα χρόνια που λείπατε;

*Τας - Η μεγαλύτερή μας χαρά ήταν που πήγαμε να δούμε τους γονείς μας, να δούμε τα αδέρφια μας. Πολύ ωραία ήτανε. Πολύ ωραία.*

Ευα - Είχε αλλάξει η Ελλάδα τότε;

*Τας - Είχανε αλλάξει πολύ γιατί μου φάνηκε παράξενο πως μιλούσε η αδελφή μου η μικρή στον πατέρα μου. Κάθιζε στα πόδια του τον αγκάλιαζε τον φίλαγε. Εμείς φοβόμαστε. Δεν είχαμε αυτή την ελευθερία.*

Ευα - Μας είχατε πει μια ιστορία τότε που είχατε πάει με τον άντρα σας και ο μπαμπάς σας θύμωσε που ζητήσατε από τον μπαμπά σας, θα μας την πείτε;

*Τας - Εγώ ήμουνα στον σύζυγό μου το σπίτι και είχα τα παιδιά. Τα δύο. Και μου λέει, ο αδελφός του, θα πάω στο, έλα να φύγουμε να πάμε στο καφενείο ξέρω εγώ. Εγώ πήγα έξω και του λέω θα αργήσεις τι ώρα θα γυρίσεις. Μέχρι να του πω τι ώρα θα γυρίσεις τσαφ το σκαμπίλι έφαγα στο πρόσωπο. Ο σύζυγός μου τσαντίστηκε. Γιατί με χτύπησε ο πατέρας μου. Δεν θα λες στον άντρα πότε θα γυρίσει. Ναι.*

Ευα - Και δεν του είπε τίποτα ο άντρας σας;

*Τας - Τίποτα τον εσεβάστηκε, δεν του είπε τίποτα.*

Ευα - Από σεβασμό.

*Τας - Αλλά μου είπε μετά μου ήρθε να γυρίσω να του γυρίσω το σκαμπίλι εγώ. Σε αυτόνε. Πολύ στεναχωρέθηκε. Ε από κει πρόσεχα δεν ξανάλεγα μπροστά τίποτα.*

Ευα - Σκεφτήκατε κάποια στιγμή να επιστρέψετε πίσω στην Ελλάδα;

*Τας - Πολλές φορές. Πολλές φορές.*

Ευα - Αλλά

*Τας - Τα παιδιά μετά. Το ένα άρχιζε σχολείο το άλλο μετά άρχιζε high school να τελιώσει το ένα να φτάσει το άλλο, μετά ήτανε πολύ αργά.*

Ευα - Μας είπατε πως μια φορά είχατε μαζέψει χρήματα και πήγατε πίσω.

*Τας - Πήγαμε πίσω το '72 για να μείνουμε για πάντα.*

Ευα - Και πουλήσατε τα πάντα εδώ;

*Τας - Όχι είχαμε ένα σπίτι, αλλά πήραμε λεφτά να κάνουμε μία αγορά στην Ελλάδα και να γυρίσουμε και να φύγουμε. Πήγαμε δεν μας ήρθανε τα πράγματα καλά, αρρώστησε ο σύζυγός μου έκατσε ένα χρόνο στο νοσοκομείο. Κόντεψε να πεθάνει. Και είχαμε δώσει προκαταβολή σε ένα ήτανε σπίτι από πάνω και από κάτω μαγαζιά. Για να το πάρουμε αλλά μετά στο νοσοκομείο που μπήκαμε πληρώναμε μέχρι που τελειώσανε όλα τα λεφτά. 135,000 τότε ήτανε πολλά λεφτά. 9,000 είχαμε πάρει σπίτι.*

Ευα - Πω πω.

Τας - Και τα χαλάσαμε όλα. Στην υγεία αυτουνού. Και μετά που μας είπαν ότι δεν υπάρχει πια, σαν τελειώσανε τα λεφτά, δεν υπάρχει ζωή θα πεθάνει, αποφάσισα τον πήρα και ήρθα εδώ, έκατσε ένα χρόνο πάλι εδώ στο νοσοκομείο.

Αθ - Και τι είχε;

Τας - Είχε χολή, πέτρα στην χολή, kidney stone

Αθ - Kidney ή bladder stone?

Τας - Στο kidney

Ευα - Και δεν μπορούσαν να του το βρουν αυτό στην Ελλάδα;

Τας - Του κάνανε εγχείρηση στην Ελλάδα αλλά του αφήσανε κάτι μέσα και όταν γυρίσαμε στο χωριό, κάτι ένα τόσο γίνηκε πράγμα

Ευα - Μόλυνση

Τας - Και του κόβανε ένα και έβγαινε άλλο, 7 φορές τον ανοίζανε.

Ευα - Πήγε άσχημα.

Τας - Του βγάλανε τόσα κομμάτια, σαν orange, στρογγυλό πράγμα κάθε φορά.

Αθ - Tuma was growing.

Τας - Ναι. Ναι. Και κάθισε και εδώ άλλους 11 μήνες. Στο νοσοκομείο. Μέχρι που

Ευα - Αλλά αποφασίσατε να επιστρέψετε στην Νέα Ζηλανδία

Τας - Ναι.

Ευα - Γιατί πιστεύατε θα ήταν καλύτερα για την υγεία του ανδρός σας;

Τας - Και γιατί το περισσότερο και το άλλο λέω αν πεθάνει τώρα εδώ και είμαι εγώ με δύο παιδιά εδώ πέρα είμαι νέα το κάνεις σύμπτωση να μιλήσω σε κανένα και να λένε κοίτα αυτή τι λόγια θα λέγανε. Λέω πάρε να φύγεις και μπορώ να τον γλιτώσω όπως τον γλίτωσα κιόλας. Ο γιατρός που τον κοίταζε δεν το πιστεύει ότι ζει σήμερα.

Ευα - Και μετά επιστρέψατε και ξεκινήσατε πάλι από την αρχή;

Τας - Πάλι από την αρχή. Πάλι από την αρχή.

Ευα - Ο άντρας σας στο νοσοκομείο τόσους μήνες εσείς τι κάνατε, δουλεύατε, τα παιδιά, τι εισόδημα είχατε;

Τας - Τότε δεν, κάτι λίγες δουλειές part time έκανα εγώ αλλά πήγαινα στο νοσοκομείο όλη μέρα. Ήμουνα εκεί πέρα.

Αθ - Είχες το σπίτι σου;

Τας - Ναι είχα το σπίτι μου. Είχα το σπίτι μου.

Ευα - Ευτυχώς που δεν το είχατε πουλήσει

Τας - Ευτυχώς.

Ευα - Η κόρη σας η μια μας είπατε ζει στην Ελλάδα πως πήγε στην Ελλάδα να μείνει;

Τας - Τη στείλαμε στην Ελλάδα να μείνει για να τραβήξει και τις άλλες

Ευα - Α, θέλατε να πάνε πίσω τα παιδιά σας στην Ελλάδα;

Τας - Ναι. Θα γεύγαμε μετά και εμείς ζανά. Και τη στείλαμε αυτή επειδή ήταν η πρώτη, πήγε στην Ελλάδα, της κάνανε προξενιά, αυτή είχε μάθει από εδώ που δεν υπάρχουνε προξενιά. Δεν ήθελε. Και μια μέρα πήγε σε ένα νησί, στην Κω, ξέρω κάπου σε ένα νησί πήγε και έτσι με μια φιλενάδα της, αυτή από εδώ από την Νέα Ζηλανδία, είναι στην Ελλάδα τώρα στην Σοφία και έτσι που καθότανε στην άμμο περνούσε ένας λεβέντης από εκεί πέρα και μιλούσανε αγγλικά. Και τις άκουσε. Και τις, από την προφορά κατάλαβε ότι είναι από Νέα Ζηλανδία. Και πάει κοντά και τους λέει 'εσείς είστε ξένες από την Νέα Ζηλανδία είστε;' λέει 'ναι'. 'Και πως μας το κατάλαβες', 'από τα αγγλικά που μιλάγατε'. Εσύ του λένε από που είσαι λέει από την Νέα Ζηλανδία. Και του λέει η κόρη μου σε κατάλαβα του λέει είσαι Μαορί από τη Νέα Ζηλανδία. Λέει ναι. Και από κει τα φτιάξανε.

Αθ - Α, είναι Μαορί

Τας - Ναι.

Ευα - Και έκανε διακοπές αυτός στην Ελλάδα;

Τας - Διακοπές αυτός.

Αθ - Και παντρεύτηκαν και έμειναν;

Τας - Ήρθανε εδώ και έγινε ο γάμος και τώρα είναι 6-7 χρόνια στην Ελλάδα.

Αθ - Α, και αυτός μιλάει Ελληνικά;

Τας - Ναι, ναι. Έχει δύο παιδιά τώρα, είναι στην Ελλάδα.

Αθ - Και τι κάνει εκεί;

Τας - Αυτός, η κόρη μου είναι στο Αμερικάνικο Πανεπιστήμιο, και αυτός είναι πάλι στο Αμερικάνικο Πανεπιστήμιο στους κομπιούτερ.

Ευα - Μας είπατε ότι η κόρη σας σπούδασε στην Αμερική

Τας - Τούτη που είναι εδώ. Αυτή που είναι εδώ στην Ινδιανάπολη. Αυτή πήρε το πτυχίο της από την Αμερική και ήρθε εδώ.

Ευα - Και πως νιώθετε που είναι η μια σας κόρη στην Ελλάδα;

Τας - Πολύ άσχημα.

Ευαγ - Ναι;

Τας - Στεναχωριέμαι πολύ. Αλλά λένε θα ρθουνε δεν ξέρω τώρα τι θα γίνει. Της πήραμε σπίτι εκεί πέρα.

Ευα - Στην Αθήνα;

Τας - Ναι. Στην Ηλιούπολη. Της πήραμε σπίτι αυτηνής, είναι εντάξει. Αλλά θέλει να έρθει εδώ δεν ξέρω τι θα γίνει. Οι άλλες δύο είναι εδώ. Καλά είναι αυτές.

Αθ - Η μια από τις αδελφές μου πήγε πίσω στην Ελλάδα τώρα 30 χρόνια μείνει εκεί στην Αθήνα. Κοντά στην θάλασσα.

Τας - Στην Γλυφάδα

Αθ – Γλυφάδα εκεί.

Τας - *Εντάξει είναι αυτή εκεί.*

Ευα - Σκεφτήκατε ποτέ ακόμα και τώρα να πάτε να μείνετε στην Κρήτη για μεγάλο χρονικό διάστημα; Ή να φύγετε ή εδώ πλέον είναι η ζωή σας; Το έχετε πάρει πια απόφαση;

Τας - *Να πάμε στην Ελλάδα πηγαίνουμε σχεδόν κάθε χρόνο*

Ευα - Α!

Τας - *Αλλά για να μείνουμε για πάντα τώρα όχι.*

Ευα - Όχι

Τας - *Γιατί είναι εδώ τα περισσότερα εγγόνια που θα τα αφήσουμε; Όχι.*

Αθ – Και πό την Ελληνική ζωή τι έχεις πονέσει;

Ευα - Τι σου λείπει;

Αθ – Τι σου λείπει;

Τας - *Όλα τα Ελληνικά μας λείπουνε. Όλα. Όλα.*

Αθ – Όμως ήθελες να φύγεις από την Ελλάδα

Τας - *Ε, αλλά τώρα η Ελλάδα όσο να είναι όσο και να έχεις πληγωθεί είναι στην καρδιά μας αυτό. Μέρα νόχτα. Ποτέ δεν έχουμε ονειρευτεί ότι είμαστε στην Νέα Ζηλανδία. Πάντα στην Ελλάδα. Πάντα.*

Ευα - Η ζωή σας κάθε μέρα είναι γεμάτη από την Ελλάδα;

Τας - *Πάντα. Πάντα.*

Ευα - Επειδή μιλάτε Ελληνικά, μαγειρεύετε Ελληνικά

Τας - *Και τα Χριστούγεννα και το Πάσχα, όλα εκεί, εκεί είναι το μυαλό μας. Πάντα.*

Αθ – Και άμα θα έμενες στην Ελλάδα, if it is not for your children you go back to Greece?

Τας - *Ναι.*

Ευα - Στο χωριό;

Τας - *Όχι στο χωριό. Στα Χανιά.*

Ευα - Στα Χανιά

Τας - *Όχι στο χωριό δεν πήγαινα. Θα πήγαινα αλλά να καθήσω στο χωριό όχι.*

Ευα - Ποιος είναι στο χωριό τώρα από την οικογένειά σας;

Τας - *Είναι ο αδελφός μου, όλες μου οι αδελφές είναι σε χωριά. Μία είναι μόνο στα Χανιά. Όλα στα χωριά.*

Αθ – Έχουνε καλή ζωή;

*Τας - Όλες ευχαριστημένες είναι. Όλες. Όλες. Πηγαίνουνε η μια στην άλλη αυτό είναι το ωραιότερο. Στις γιορτές.*

Ευα - Μιλάτε συχνά στο τηλέφωνο, πως επικοινωνείτε;

*Τας - Ω, πολύ συχνά, ου πολύ συχνά. Προπαντός με τον αδελφό μου κάθε βδομάδα. Κάθε βδομάδα. Αυτός θα ρθει εδώ.*

Ευα - Δεν έχει ξαναέρθει;

*Τας - Όχι όχι.*

Ευα - Α, θα έρθει πρώτη φορά;

*Τας - Θα έρθει το καλοκαίρι που θα έχουνε εκεί θα έρθει με την γυναίκα του. Αυτό καν δεν περιμένω να ρθει.*

Aθ - Is your life different to your sister's in Greece?

*Τας - Could be, they are more happy there. I think.*

Aθ - Than you

*Τας - Yeah.*

Ευα - In what ways they are happier?

*Τας - They got each other, they've got. If I have my sisters here I never want to go back*

Aθ - So it is the family that you are missing?

*Τας - I never want to go back, never; never. My sisters, my sister-in-laws. Everybody. Everybody. No way I can go to Greece if they are here.*

Aθ - So, that's what you are missing?

*Τας - That's why I am always upset with the sister I have got here. That's very upset for [56:09] She changes oh, she changed she never gone to any Greek house, she never got any Greek friends, she never goes nothing nothing.*

Aθ - Something must have happened.

*Τας - No*

Aθ - No?

Ευα - Was she always like that? Or did she change at some point?

*Τας - No, she was, I don't know, she completely different than me. She doesn't care. Come on we go to the church? No. Come on Pacha, πάμε στην εκκλησία; No.*

Ευα - Αυτή ήτανε πιο μεγάλη από εσάς;

*Τας - Πιο μεγάλη.*

Aθ - Maybe it's the way of coping by cutting all out. Maybe she is so home sick. She doesn't want anything. Has she gone back to Greece?

*Τας - She's been a couple of times. Yeah, but her life is, she's got no life. She never go to the restaurants, she never goes nowhere.*

Aθ - Does she work?

Τας - *She's got the shop*

Aθ - A, the shop so she works there all the time.

Τας - *All the time. Yeah, that's all. She's happy to go to the shop, that's it.*

Ευα - Έχετε Νεο Ζηλανδούς φίλους, εδώ με τους γείτονες σας, παλιά στο Mt Albert είχατε

Τας - *Oh, yeah.*

Ευαγ - Είχατε σχέσεις;

Τας - *Oh yeah, and here. I know them all. We've eaten each other; they bring us cake, take them cake, oh a lot.*

Ευα - Ποιες είναι οι εντυπώσεις μετά από τόσα χρόνια στην Νέα Ζηλανδία σαν κοινότητα σαν άνθρωποι τι σκέφτεστε εσείς για αυτούς; Για τους Νεο Ζηλανδούς, ποια είναι η γνώμη σας για αυτούς;

Τας - *Είναι ήσυχοι άνθρωποι. Δεν είναι όπως εμάς τους Έλληνες. Είναι πολύ ήσυχοι. Εμένα μου αρέσει που είναι ήσυχοι, μου αρέσει που δεν φωνάζουνε, μου αρέσει όλα αυτά. Ναι.*

Ευα - Και έτσι νιώθετε ότι αυτή η χώρα ήτανε καλή για σας; Σας φέρθηκε καλά;

Τας - *Πάρα πολύ. Πάρα πολύ μας φέρθηκε. Δεν έχω παράπονο τίποτα. Ούτε με τους ανθρώπους ούτε να πούνε αυτοί είναι Greeks και να σε τίποτα τίποτα. Ε, στην Αυστραλία λένε ότι δεν τους θέλουν τους Έλληνες εκεί, ενώ εδώ, χα είσαι Greek I want to go to Greece. Εγώ τους βλέπω όλους friendly.*

Aθ - Τα πρώτα χρόνια δεν τους ήθελαν γιατί ήτανε πολλοί.

Τας - *Ναι.*

Aθ - Forty thousand. Sixty thousand in Melbourne. Fourteen in Adelaide. Εδώ ήτανε small number.

Τας - *Μα και εκεί τώρα δεν σέβονται τους ξένους, τους ακούς θα πας στα σόπινγκ σέντρες και φωνάζουνε, 'Μαρία', φωνάζουνε ο ένας στον άλλον, δεν σέβονται τον διπλανό τους. Ενώ εδώ τους σεβόμαστε. Όπως μας σέβονται και αυτοί.*

Ευα - Επειδή είστε πιο λίγοι, είμαστε πιο λίγοι οι αριθμοί αφομοιώνεσαι πιο εύκολα

Τας - *Ναι.*

Ευα - Όσο πιο μεγάλο είσαι... In Australia there are so many Greeks they didn't have to worry how they other perceive them because they were in their community.

Aθ - Yeah.

Ευα - So there were more supporters let's say to be sustain themselves. Well here they try to contain themselves.

Aθ - Yeah. I don't know. Μεγάλωσα εγώ σε αυτή την κοινωνία και ήτανε ωραία.

Τας - *Τώρα εμείς είχαμε πάει στην Αυστραλία πέρυσι, πήγαμε σε ένα μέρος που το λένε Όκλει my God και να φωνάζανε οι Έλληνες. Ντρεπόμουνα. Ντρεπόμουνα που τους άκουγα.*

Aθ - Που στο Όκλει;

Τας - *Όκλει. Στο Melbourne.*

Aθ – Στο Melbourne

Ευα - Γιατί έχετε συνηθίσει να είστε σε μια άλλη κουλτούρα που είναι πιο ήσυχα γενικά και δεν ακούγεται διαφορετική κουλτούρα παρά the mainstream only.

Τας - *Ναι. Ναι.*

Aθ – Ναι όμως όταν το ζεις με αυτό θα σου πω μερικές ιστορίες.

Ευα - Λοιπόν και άμα ήτανε κυρία Τασούλα κανείς ότι τώρα είστε 21 χρονών και είχατε ξανά την ευκαιρία να ξανα, πάρτε την απόφαση να έρθετε στην Νέα Ζηλανδία θα την ξαναπαίρνατε, ξέροντας αυτά που ζήσατε;

Τας - *Όπως είναι η ζωή τώρα στην Ελλάδα; Δεν θα έφευγα.*

Ευα - Δεν θα φεύγατε

Τας - *Δεν θα έφευγα. Όχι. Γιατί τώρα ούτε μαζεύουνε τις ελιές έτσι, έχουν τα δίχτυα, ούτε θερίζουν δεν σπέρνουνε τίποτα, ζούνε πολύ ωραία. Δεν θα έφευγα.*

Ευα - Δεν θα φεύγατε

Τας - *Όχι.*

Ευα - Έχετε έτσι καμιά άλλη ιστορία να μας πείτε; Κάτι που θα θέλατε να προσθέσετε;

Τας - *Τι άλλη ιστορία*

Ευα - Κάποια άλλη μνήμη;

Τας - *Μνήμες είναι πολλές αυτές αλλά ναι*

Ευα - Αν θέλετε να μας πείτε άλλες ιστορίες κάποια στιγμή πείτε μας και θα ξανάρθουμε. Ή θα τα πούμε από το τηλέφωνο. Λοιπόν ευχαριστούμε πάρα πολύ κυρία Τασούλα για τον χρόνο σας, την Εθηνά και εγώ η Ευαγγελία σήμερα στις 14 του Δεκεμβρη

Τας - *Αύριο είναι γιορτή του Αγίου Ελευθερίου ε; Ναι.*

Ευα - Α, η αδελφή μου γιορτάζει αύριο και η αδελφή σας

Τας - *Αυτή που πέθανε.*

Ευα - Τα κουλουράκια που μας δώσατε. Λοιπόν ευχαριστούμε πάρα πολύ

Transcription by Lucy Anastasiadou-Hobbs