



Stephen L. Morris

Special Agent in Charge of the Houston **FBI** Division

Interviewed by Julia Nader & Saleem Jaoude

The role of the FBI is somewhat undefined in the minds of most people. Who is the FBI ? What is the mission of the FBI ? Is the FBI still the major national intelligence-gathering agency? Does the FBI have a role regarding immigrants?

Lebanon Times Magazine took the lead in interviewing the Head of the FBI office in Houston Mr. Stephen L. Morris

♦ **What is the role of the FBI, their goals, and when do they intervene?**

Principal role is to defend and protect the Constitution of the United States. Three Principal roles. The first is to defend United States against foreign attacks whether it is counter intelligence or terrorist attacks. The other is to investigate violations against criminal law being committed against the U.S thirdly serving a leadership role where we go out and facilitate and teach and lead our domestic law enforcement agencies throughout the country. We have roughly anywhere from 18,000 or more law

enforcement agencies. We play a leadership role in providing national policy guidance training.

♦ **Is the FBI considered the highest authority agency in the USA?**

No, not the highest. We are partners with 18,000 law enforcement agencies and we provide leadership role when it comes to standardizing. One of the unique things that we have is a domestic law enforcement role and integral members of intelligence community. We are equal partners with other agencies. We do not supersede anyone. We bring to the table any information that may help other agencies.

♦ **Was the FBI able to lower the risk of terrorism outside the USA?**

I would like to say we have been successful. Outside of the U.S., we work hand & glove with host countries in a liaison capacity to help facilitate investigations. Through our partnerships with other countries we like to think we have been successful. Since 911, our presence in foreign countries has more than doubled. This is a reflection of the relationship we have built with other countries.

♦ **Does the FBI get involved in politics or security or both?**

Doesn't matter what political party is in the White House. When you find yourself involved in some investigations, particularly fraud, we have to be careful of our political involvement. We stay A-political.

♦ **Does the FBI have any presence in the Middle East?**

Our legal attaché offices have more than doubled. We currently have nine offices in the Middle East. Our mission is the same no matter what country we are in. We are the liaison in every country. Many times our offices are

not staffed in other countries, and they often have to do everything from typing reports to taking care of equipment and conducting investigations. It is challenging and we have been able to share information with other countries. It all comes back to protecting the U.S. and citizens traveling outside of the U.S.

♦ **Does the FBI work under cover or in the open, and what risks are they exposed to?**

The majority of investigations are in the open. Depending on the nature of crime or investigation, sometimes we have to be under cover. As an agency, we have a tremendous role of oversight. We have to make sure that investigations are being conducted within the law. The FBI strikes the balance in protecting civil liberties.





♦ **Do you have a lot of Agents from the Middle East?**

Hard to track how many agents we have from the Middle East because we don't track different ethnicities. We recruit from all walks of life. We are only as effective as we are able to get along with different communities. We don't keep numbers or statistics on agents' ethnicities.

• **What are the requirements to join as an agent in the FBI?**

Every FBI agent has to have a 4 year college degree. Minimum age is 23 years old and the maximum age is 37 for a field agent. Professional support can be older. I started in 1988 as administrative and then finished my degree then took the test. The FBI will perform a background check on your entire life. They will check everything about you. They also check your immediate family members. When you hold top secret clearance, it is extremely important that they know everything about you.

♦ **Can an FBI agent share his memoirs after retirement?**

Yes, an FBI agent can share their memoirs. They can even write books while employed, but it requires FBI approval. They just can't reveal any top secret stuff that would compromise a third party or intelligence.

♦ **What do you vision or see the role of**

the FBI ten or twenty years from now?

Looking back on last 20 years, the short answer is very high tech or cyber. As far as threats, it will go up. Cyber threats will be our biggest challenge. We have to evolve-- we have to change. If we don't then our jobs become extremely difficult. In Houston we had to stop resisting what we are looking at. We have to look down the road a bit. This is what is going on now, but where is it taking us? On a national level, the director is concerned with cyber threats. State sponsored stuff, international organized crime groups that are hacking, to just the basic 16 year old that defaces a website. Anonymity that the internet provides is the double edged sword. We live in a global community. The FBI has to be able to work outside the U.S. Our mission will always be to protect our country, and be partners with other countries to mitigate the threat.

"Technology continues to shrink our communities"

♦ **What is the percentage of terrorism the FBI was able to uncover?**

It is hard to measure something you don't know. There are probably threats that we have mitigated that we don't know about. We are good as an agency about responding to it and mitigating it. After 911, we can no longer afford to be reactive; we have to be more proactive.



♦ What is the difference between the FBI and the NSA?

That's a very good question because you're right. We are not like a national police agency that does it all. The best way of putting that is that the FBI is a domestic law enforcement agency, but we don't wear uniforms. What is unique about the FBI is that we have the largest jurisdiction. If it is a crime against the U.S. we override. We have over 400 criminal violations that we are currently charged with investigating. We are partners with the NSA and often find ourselves sitting at the same table. What a lot of people are confused is that we are full partners in the intelligence community. The FBI wears two hats: the intelligence community partners in charge of protecting the US and we have a basic law enforcement role.

♦ How can Lebanon times be of help to the FBI?

You just touched on it a minute ago. Personally, I found myself doing this over the last 15 years--demystifying the FBI. The perception is that we are this secret police force. The reality is that we are law abiding citizens that live and work where you do. Depending on which country an individual came from, their relationship with law enforcement is different. One of our biggest things is that it is all about civil rights and privacy and the constitution of the United States. Sometimes we are called upon

to investigate other agencies. Whether you are talking about fraud or corruption. If you had to sum it up, the FBI separates itself as a law enforcement agency and is the enforcer of civil rights. The Federal government has the most powerful tools when it comes to investigating or enforcing civil rights. So the FBI keeps everybody in check? Lebanon Times magazine can help us send a message to the communities that we are serving the people and protecting their civil rights. Every FBI employee is engrained to defend our rights as U.S. citizens and protecting our life. We want people to understand that their right to walk down the street and have businesses is as sacred to us as it is to them. When it comes down to what is truly our mission, we have to communicate that there is a level of trust. You have to trust the FBI. The FBI wants you to call with any suspicious activity. The number is 713-693-5000.

It's beyond civil rights its human rights.

♦ How many agents would you like to recruit in Houston from Middle East back ground in the next 12 months?

The more the merrier. It's difficult, but clearly our success as an agency regardless of where we are is directly attributed to how we are accepted in the community. The more Lebanese agents and employees we can employ, the better off we will be. There is no Limit.

That applies to any ethnicity.

♦ **When should someone from the Lebanese or Arab community call the FBI?**

If you feel that you or someone may be a victim of a crime or witnessed a crime. I don't care what country you come from, **if something doesn't feel right, you need to call the FBI.** Any time there is a concern call :

713-693-5000 or report to [fbi.gov](https://www.fbi.gov).

♦ **If a crime is committed that is a violation of local, state, and federal laws, does the FBI "take over" the investigation?**

The Houston offices of FBI have the best relationship with local police, state police, and other federal agencies. We work very closely with HPD Chief McClelland and Sheriff Garcia. We talk every week. The beauty of our great relationship is that it permeates through the office down to the street level. If a local officer comes into a situation, they can discuss where they can get the biggest bang, so they may decide to take it to a federal level to get the maximum penalty. We don't take over any investigations, we coordinate with other agencies.

♦ **What are the biggest crime problems threats facing the FBI in Houston?**

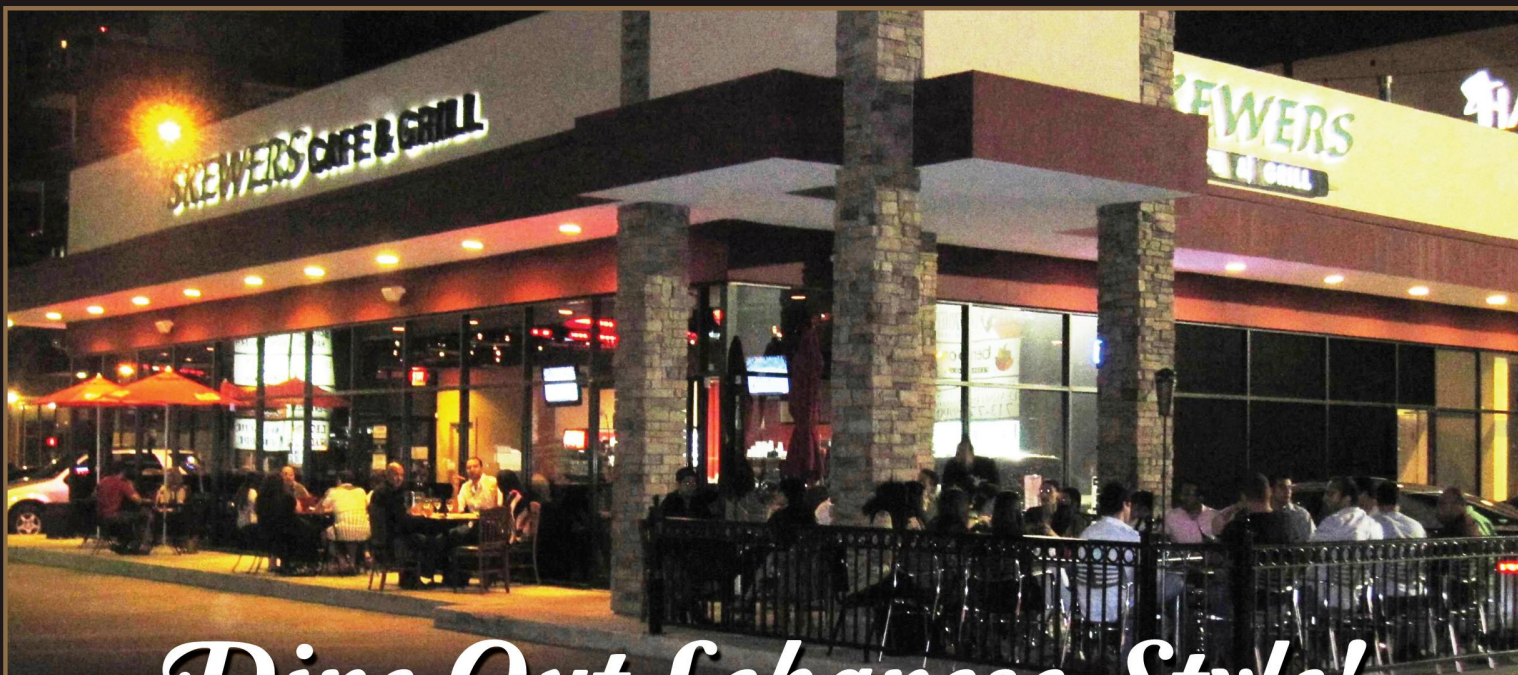
Nationwide, preventing any terrorist act from happening is top priority. Terrorism is absolutely the top priority. Second priority would be any threats from foreign intelligence, or spies, coming in and stealing our information, technology, or way of life. Third is Cyber. From there, public corruption is our top criminal

threat. That gets to the integrity of our way of life as far as our trust of elected officials and people in power is concerned. When you lose your position of power and trust that is when you start degrading our way of life. Of course civil rights are right on the heels of corruption.

♦ **Are we safe?**

Right now we are. I say that because we have been successful. I feel more confident that although we hit some bumps in the road as far as information sharing, we have significantly improved in our ability to share information and mitigate threats. I think we are safe, but **it is not an end game, it is a constant intuitive thing. It is a mindset. You are constantly striving to do your best.** The community has a responsibility to keep the FBI informed of suspected threats. The individuals that inform the FBI can keep their identities anonymous.





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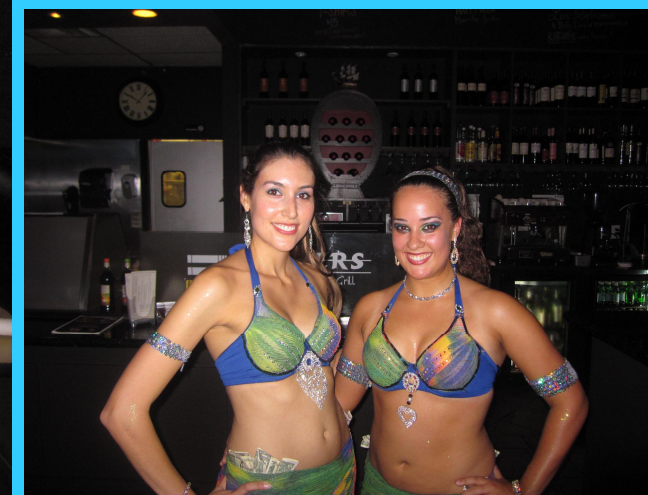
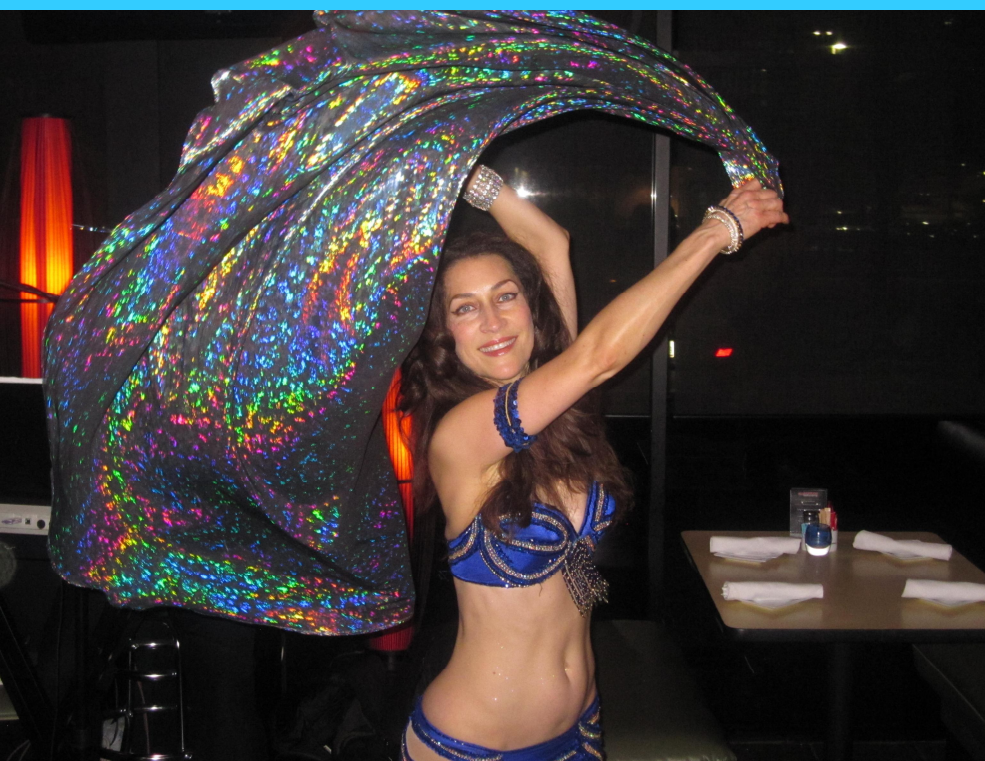
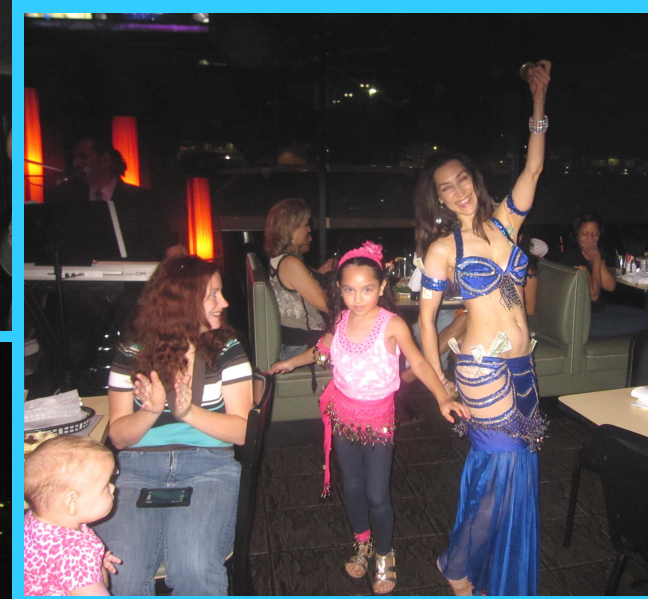
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Ashley & Fred with their Parents



Ashley & Fred



Jenny Savage Ibrahim

Dr. Majed and Mrs. Jenny Savage Ibrahim celebrated the engagement of their beautiful daughter Ashley to Mr. Fred Becker. The celebration was at their beautiful residence with friends and loved ones filled with joy, and amazing music. Lebanon Times magazine wishes the newly engaged couple the best. (Below are some pictures of the event)



Dr Khoury, Dr. Sabbagh, Dr. Majed, Ahmad & Sanaa El Khatib & Fadia Khoury



Jack, Sara, Ashley, Fred, Jenny, Alexander, Dr. Ibrahim



Dr. Abdelkader & Malak Fostok, Dr. Ibrahim



Antonio Ibrahim & family



Dr. Khoury, Dr. Ibrahim, Dr. Sabbagh



Ashley & Fred with their friends



Sanaa & Ahmad El Khatib



Kari & Patrick Delaney



Anne Jones, Daniel Gonzales, Jennifer Phillips



Al & Loretta Lawson & Eileen



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ويعتمد رجائي مدفعاً صدياً يعود تاريخه الى عام 1890 وضع في شارع مزدحم في القدس الشرقية يطل على أسوار المدينة القديمة . ويقول رجائي :لا ينهي أحد من الصائمين قبل سماع صوت المدفع وهذا فخر لي .

ويضيف قائلاً في أحد الأعوام إرتكبت خطأ شنيعاً إنطلق المدفع قبل موعده بدقة وفي اليوم الثاني كان الجميع يصرخ في وجهي ويريد ضربي فأدركت مدى أهمية دوري في شهر رمضان ودور عائلة صندوقة التي تتولى هذه المهمة منذ عام 1892 .



Dr. Firas Rahman

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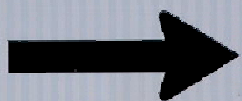
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Dr George ,Nadine ,Stephen & Claudine Boutros



Dr Sean, Claudine , Stephen & Dr George Boutros

Happy Birthday Stephen

Attorney Stephen Boutros celebrated his 40th birthday on July 4TH. He was surrounded by many friends and family members at his beautiful mansion. Lebanon Times Magazine wishes him the best.



Laura , Emily & Wendy



Tarek. Stephen, Elias & Marwan



Brandi, Mercedes, Lillian & Kristi



Dennis, Mark, Peggy & Tandi



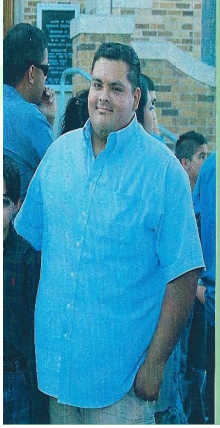
Melissa, Jason, Heather & Jeremy



Dennis, Julie Claudine , Roxanne, Lucia & John

Lose Weight, Enjoy Life!

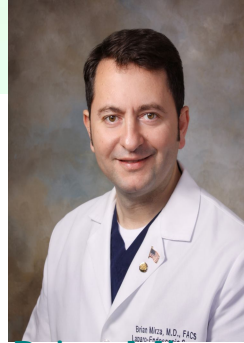
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تعال معي لزيارة المتحف

أسود جائمة حيث يجلس الملك أحيرام على عرش تحرسه تماثيل أبي الهول المجنح ومن الجهة الثانية نقوش حملة الهدايا والقرايين .

وإلى يسار المدخل أيضاً أثر خشبي ، قطعة من خشب الأرز تعود إلى العام (41 ق.م.) تشير إلى الأرز الدهري . أما الطابق الأول فيضم فخاريات من الألف الرابع (ق.م.) ومن عجائب بالإضافة إلى تماثيل برونزية مغطاة بورق الذهب ، وتيجان وأكاليل ودروع وصندوق مذهب وفؤوس ذهبية وخنجر مرصع بالذهب والفضة والعاج وخواتم وأساور ذات نقوش لرؤوس حيوانات .

أما الواجهة الزجاجية فهي مخصصة لنماذج من القماش المصبوغ بالأرجوان ، أصله من الحلزون البحري .

هذه جولة بسيطة وسريعة قمنا بها سوياً داخل المتحف الوطني اللبناني .. ويبقى الكثير والكثير من الحقبات التاريخية تحكي قصة وطن يعود تاريخه إلى ستة آلاف سنة .

إذا زرت المتحف الوطني اللبناني ستجد بأنك دخلت إلى المرحلة الرومانية البيزنطية ، حيث تطالعك لوحة فسيفساء للحكماء السبعة الشهيرة (كاليوب) ملهمة الفلسفة ، ويحيط بها سقراط ورجال الحكمة السبعة ، بالإضافة إلى تمثال للأمبراطور هوريان . أما الفوانيس الأربعة فهي من القرن الثاني ميلادي ، وعلى هذه النواميس نقوش تماثيل مترنحة لإله الحب كيوبيد . بالإضافة إلى نقوش من أسطورة أخيل . كما يُشاهد الزائر آلهة الشفاء عند الفينيقيين الذي كان مشهوراً في شفاء الأطفال ، لذا كثرت تماثيل الأولاد الذين كانت تقدم له قرايين ، ومن الجهة اليسرى ترى عرش كبير ومعه ستة عروش صغيرة لإلهة عشروت (فينوس) وعليه عدة نقوش لأبي الهول المجنح من الحقبتيين الفارسية والرومانية .

أما أهم موجودات المتحف على الإطلاق هو ناووس أحيرام ملك بيبيلوس (القرن العاشر ق.م.) والكتابة المحفورة على الناووس هي أقدم كتابة معروفة بالأبجدية الفينيقية التي هي أم الأبجديات جميعاً . وهذا الناووس يركز على أربعة

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Lebanon Times Design





The National Museum Beirut

On the ground floor of the museum are displayed mosaics and stone pieces, some of which are monumental. In the central and right hand sections of the hall are objects from Roman-Byzantine period (64 B.C. to 636 A.D.), starting with the famous Mosaic of the Seven Wise Men at the museum entrance. This well-preserved mosaic, which once decorated the dining room of a Roman villa in Baalbeck, depicts Calliope, muse of Philosophy, surrounded by Socrates and the Seven Wise Men. Nearby is statuary from the same period, including the statue of Emperor Hadrian, discovered in Tyre.

Four carved second century A.D. Roman Sarcophagi, two on either side of the central hall, are arguably among the most spectacular objects in the museum. One is decorated with the Drunken Cupids, another with scenes of Battle between Greeks. Facing them, the two others depict the legend of Achilles. The sarcophagi were found in Tyre's necropolis, along with dozens of other tombs and sarcophagi discovered by Emir Maurice Chehab, Lebanon's first Director General of Antiquities (1942-1982). You can also see stone architects' models of the Roman Theater in Baalbeck and the Roman temple at Niha in the Beqaa valley. Also from Niha temple is a reconstructed stone

altar flanked by carved lions.

The rest of the museum's ground floor is dedicated to the second and first millennium B.C. On the right side of the hall are the objects associated with Eshmoun, the Phoenician god of healing, whose temple can be seen near Sidon. Eshmoun was especially venerated for healing children, and the statutes of babies (usually boys) were used as votive offerings to the god. Also look for the huge tribune from Eshmoun temple (4th century B.C.), carved with gods and goddesses on one tier and dancing figures on the other. Displayed on the left of central hall is the collection of thrones. A big one, discovered in the temple of goddess Astarte (Venus). Flanked by winged sphinxes, the Astarte thrones come from various sites in Lebanon and date from the Persian to the Roman periods.

The imposing limestone colossus in the Egyptian style at the far left of the hall was found in Byblos. Of local manufacture, its date is uncertain although it probably reflects the pervasive Egyptian influence in Byblos during the 3rd and 2nd millennium B.C. In the same room is a plain marble sarcophagus with a Phoenician inscription. Found in Byblos, it dates to the 4th century **B.C.**



The museum's most important piece is undoubtedly the sarcophagus of Ahiram, King of Byblos (10th century B.C.). The inscription which starts on the side of the coffin and continues on the border of the lid, is the earliest text using the Phoenician alphabet, the prototype of Roman-Byzantine sarcophagi, this limestone coffin reveals a mixture of Egyptian and Hittite-Syrian influences. The sarcophagus on four crouching lions while one side king Ahiram is seated on a throne guarded by winged sphinxes. The other side shows people procession bearing offerings.

Only two of the museum's 26 white marble anthropoid sarcophagi, each with the carved face of the deceased, are on display. This important collection will be exhibited in its entirety after extended work in the building's lower level is complete. Dating from the 5th century B.C., 19 of the sarcophagi were found near Sidon in 1901. They were called the "Ford Collection" in honor to the Director of the American Presbyterian School where they were discovered.

Later, other anthropoid sarcophagi were added to the collection.

One wood object can be found among all these stones. To the left of the entrance is a well-aged chunk of cedar, dating to 41 B.C. Valued for its long lasting properties, the Cedar of Lebanon played an important role in the early commerce of Tyre, Sidon and Byblos.

If the carved and inscribed stones on the ground floor are architectural and monumental in scope, the first floor reveals artistry of a finer kind. Here are the march of history seems to slow down as the traditions of pottery, jewelry and glass-making reveal the timelessness of human endeavor.

At the end of the visit, a vitrine displays damaged objects during the war. Lumpish blobs of molten glass, blacked stone and twisted metal give some hint of the war's effect on Lebanon's heritage and of the tremendous task of rehabilitating the museum. Many other objects are being restored and will gradually be shown to the public.

وحياة الله أنا مش روم

وهما يصرخان قائلين : نجينا يا ربّ من صاحب المزرعة الذي يريد ذبح التركي أي يريد ذبحنا ، كل هذا العقاب لأننا مش روم .

وبين صريخهما وعويلهما وعلى صوت النيران وصل البوليس الذي ألقى عليهما القبض ، ولكنه لم يفهم شيئاً منهما إلا بعد أن استعان في اليوم التالي بمترجم للغة العربية ، وعند الإستفسار وتفهم الوضع غرق الجميع بالضحك .

واليوم أحفادهما أصبحا يملكان 18 موتيل ما بين نيويورك ونيوجرسي ، وهما يحتفظان بشراويل فدعوس وروكز في منازلهما .

هذا نموذج عن القهر والعذاب الذين كانا يرافقان أوائل المهاجرين إلى دول الإغتراب الذين حفروا الصخور بأظفارهم ومهدوا طريق النجاح للجيل الثاني والثالث .



The End

وهكذا عندما اقترب عيد THANKSGIVING أي عيد الشكر سمعا روكز وفدعوس صاحب المزرعة يقول لزوجته بأن غداً سيذبح التركي إحتفاءً بعيد الشكر ، فصرخ روكز بوجه فدعوس قائلاً : هل سمعت ... غداً سيذبحنا (لأنه في عام 1910 كان اللبناني يصل إلى دول الإنتشار بجواز سفر تركي وكانوا يطلقون عليه إسم تركو) لذا اختلط الإسم بين التركي (أي ديك الحبش) والتركو فاعتقدا بأن صاحب المزرعة سيذبحهما ، فأخذا يفكران عن طريقة لإنقاذ أرواحهما من الذبح فاسرعا وأخذا ثيابهما وأخذا يركضان في الظلام للهروب فشاهدهما صاحب المزرعة فاعتقد بأنهما سرقا شيئاً ما من مزرعته فحمل بندقية الصيد التي كان يحتفظ بها وأخذ يطلق عليهما النيران وهما يقفزان وأحياناً ينبطحان على الأرض

في العدد القادم يبدأ مسلسل جديد عن أول مغترب وصل الى أميركا

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وبكى الجمّل

وقف إعرابي أمام جملة الذي يُفارق الحياة ، حزينا كنيبا

فوجده يبكي ، فاستغرب الإعرابي للأمر وقال له :

لماذا تبكي أيها الجمّل؟

لكن الجمّل رفض الكلام ، فقال له الإعرابي :

سامحني إذا ضربتك يوماً بالعصا .

لكن الجمّل لم يتوقف عن البكاء

فاقترب منه الإعرابي قائلاً :

سامحني إذا تركتك تعطش

سامحني إذا حملتك أكثر مما تستطيع

سامحني يا جملي ، يا رفيق عمري

لكن الجمّل إستمرّ في البكاء .

عندّها صرّخ الإعرابي وقال :

بربك قل لي لماذا تبكي ؟

فنظر الجمّل الى الإعرابي وقال :

لم أبك من سوء معاملتك لي

ولا أبكي لأنك كنت تضربني

ولا لأنك كنت تحملني أكثر مما أستطيع

بل أبكي لأنك كنت تربطني وراء الحمار ، وتجعله يمشي

أمامي ... لهذا السبب أبكي ، ولن أسامحك أبداً .

والآن أيها القارئ إذا كنت تبكي فهذه مُصيبة ، وإذا كنت لا

تبكي فالمصيبة أعظم ... قل لي من يمشي أمامك؟؟!!

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