



THE HONORABLE JUDGE MIKE FARHAT

AMERICAN DREAM IS SIMPLE BUT PRICELESS

WORK HARD AND OBEY THE LAW

In the late 1970's, Mike Farhat set foot on American soil in pursuit of The America Dream. Leaving his homeland of Lebanon, He came to this country with the intention of creating a better life for his family and a name for himself but he never could have imagined that his American Dream would later include becoming Southlake, TX's Honorable Judge Mike Farhat.

He came to this country with a passion to succeed fueled by the responsibility to provide for his family and was able to not only accomplish the latter, but was also able to make a mark in this world with his humanitarian spirit.



Judge Farhat credits his success to his parents, who groomed him from a very young age to take over the Farhat family business. As a young boy, he remembers gladly trading his childhood pleasures for the future responsibility of his family's wellbeing. He recalls, "Always being proper in everything" and living for the sole purpose of one day, taking care of the Farhat family business and upholding his family name. Today, the Farhat name is recognized for great business acumen, humanitarian efforts, and making this world a better place to live.



Hon. Mike Farhat with Gov. Perry of Texas



Hon. Mike Farhat with Gov. Perry of Texas (right) and Gov Bobby Jendal of Louisiana (left) and Gregg Abbot Texas Attorney General (in wheel chair)



Hon. Mike Farhat with Gov. Perry of Texas



Hon. Mike Farhat With Mayor of Dallas Mike Rowland and Dr Mohammed Alzarooni (Dubai Airport free zone, director General)....in Dubai

His American Dream began to unfold in South Lake TX, when he opened the first convenient store in the town, in which he decided to call, "Magic Mike." This store soon became two and the "MAGIC" quickly began to spread through the town.

These two, Magic Mike locations are better known for supporting organizations like, The Carroll Education Foundation, an organization that helped fund teachers in need of classroom supplies. Benevolent business decisions like these have proven to be effective business plans and reveal the philanthropic and humanitarian side of the Honorable Judge Farhat. To-day he is an avid supporter of GRACE, Kids Matter, and other organizations like, National Charity League.

Judge Farhat believes that true prosperity for him means giving back to the community, and it is easy to see how his generosity and carrying spirit have helped thousands all over the world

Judge Farhat enjoys sharing his story in hopes that it will encourage someone like him, to take a leap of faith or continue to do the right thing. His message to young Lebanese citizens also seeking The American Dream is simple but priceless, "There is no free lunch in America... work hard and obey the law".

. He further emphasizes that loving and respecting America, along with hard work and education will propel you into your American Dream and will set you up for success. Although Judge Farhat makes success look easy as *American* pie, He confesses that he has seen his share of personal and business setbacks. Losing his daughter in a tragic accident was by far the most difficult time period for Judge Farhat,

but his loss came with a silver lining; he was able to adopt his grandchild and finally raise a boy!

Even through times of adversity, he encourages to always keep your eye on the prize and look for the rainbow. Many have learned from him the value of patience, perseverance and knowing that it's your mindset, not your circumstances, that define your future.

So, if you ask, "How does an immigrant from Lebanon become a respected businessman and judge in one lifetime?" The Honorable Judge Mike Farhat agrees that only in America, where opportunity is great and your accomplishments are a direct measure of your efforts, is it possible to accomplish your dream of dreams. The brave Honorable Judge Farhat came to The United States of America and conquered. He has lived up to all of his family's expectations and has created an International legacy for the Farhat name, but make no mistake about it; he's a humble and compassionate man... who loves to spread the *Magic*.



Hon. Mike Farhat With daughter Ashley



Hon. Mike Farhat With son Taylor



Hon. Mike Farhat With sister Layla





البقرة قمورة

أبو إبراهيم لديه بقرة أطلق عليها إسم قمّورة ، فكان كل يوم صباحاً يفك أسرها ويقول لها : اذهبي وارعي العشب الأخضر برعاية مار نقولا .

فتذهب البقرة وتعود مساءً إلى حظيرة أبو إبراهيم وهكذا دواليك كلّ يوم يرسلها لترعى بإسم أحد القديسين . وصادف في أحد الأيام عيد جميع القديسين فهرول أبو إبراهيم إلى بقرته قمّورة وفكّ رسنها وقال لها وهو ينفخ صدره : اذهبي يا بقرتي يا قمّورة وارعي برعاية جميع القديسين ، وهكذا ذهبت قمّورة ولم تعد .

ونحن كلما تعقّدت الأمور في لبنان نذهب إلى طاولة الحوار بإسم جميع السياسيين ، وكلما تعقّدت الأمور في العالم العربي يذهبون إلى جامعة الدول العربيّة بانتظار الحلول . وكلما اشتدّت الإضطرابات في الشرق يذهبون إلى مجلس الأمن الدولي بانتظار الحلول . وهكذا تبقى المشاكل العربيّة هي هي وتذهب الحلول تماماً كبقرة أبو إبراهيم التي ذهبت بإسم جميع القديسين ولم تعد !!

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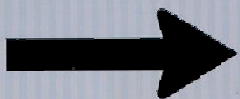
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Congressman Charles W. Boustany, Jr. MD

“Lebanese-American will play a leadership roll in the future of this country & future of American leadership internationally”.

Interviewed by Julia Nader & Laudy Yazbek

Charles William Boustany, Jr., does not need an introduction in America. **Of Lebanese ancestry,** Boustany is the U.S. Representative for Louisiana's 7th congressional district, serving since 2005. He is the first Republican elected from this area since 1884. Running for his 5th term in November 4th 2012

Who is Charles Boustany, in his own words!!!

I was born in Lafayette, LA (February 21,1956) I am the son of Charles and Madelyn Boustany.

My grand parents came to the United State at the very beginning of the 20th century from Lebanon the village of Deir El Kamar. – El Shouf.

My Paternal grand parents are Alfred F. Boustany and Florida Saloom...

My Maternal grand parents are George Akl and Stella Akl.

My Grand Parents raised 6 children, my dad was the youngest.

My Father was a physician and I followed his foot steps as a physician, I attended the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, earned my medical degree from Louisiana State University. I am a retired cardiovascular surgeon; I was first elected to Congress in De-

cember 2004. Serving my fourth term in office, I represent Louisiana's Seventh Congressional District, which covers Acadian and Southwest Louisiana. I am married to Bridget Boustany and blessed with two children Erik and Ashley.

When I was a small boy my grand Father Alfred uses to tell me stories about the Old country “Lebanon”, and describe the beauty of that area. He was someone who embraces the values of the old country but also was happy about embracing the values of his newly adopted country “United state of America”. He was an entrepreneur; he started a small business, than got into banking.

I learned from my grand parents about the old cultures ways and certainly about the food. “The Lebanese Food is the best”; MY favorite food is “Kibbi, Tabouli, Hummus, Baba Ghanouj, Grape leaves, Cabbage Rolls, Raw Kibbi” and don’t forget the “Moujadara “. Lebanese Food is very healthy.



Have you Been to Lebanon?

Yes!! I have been to Lebanon 2 times. In the 70's it was a very difficult times in Lebanon during the civil war. When things finally became open for the U.S Citizens to go in the 90's I was very busy with my surgical practice and I couldn't go at that time. After I ran for congress and became elected, my first opportunity to visit "Lebanon" was in 2006, two days after the cease fire. I had the chance to visit with former Prime Minister "Fouad Seniora" at the grand Serail in downtown Beirut accompanied by "Jeffrey Feltman" our Ambassador at that time. I also visited many areas but didn't have the chance to visit "Deir el Kamar" my village. After my first visit to Lebanon I felt some emotion about my home land. My Second visit to Beirut was in November 10th 2009, the same exact day the Prime Minister "Saad Hariri" unity government was an-

nounced. I met with every body and seem a lot of optimism about what was happening at that time; it was a new day in Lebanon.

In your opinion, which direction the Middle East is going to?

I am very fearful today about what is happening in Syria and the impact on Lebanon. It is very concerning... It's very uncertain not just about Lebanon but the Greater region. Lebanon seems to be almost having a stand still. Its wait and see pasture about what's going to happen to Syria and surrounding region. I'm hopeful that violence does not spill to Lebanon and that Lebanese people will control their destiny as they work to build a politically stable and independent nation, safe from the threat of terrorism."

As a physician!!! If you want to heal the Middle East, what is the medication you will prescribe?



Former President George Bush , Laura , Bridget & Charles



SOHR John Boehner, Bridget & Charles Boustany



With his Parents Charles Sr. & Madelyn Boustany

For the broader Middle East as we view policy, we need to look at each Country specifically and understand what is the Internal Forces had played. But for the broader Middle East what is missing, is Economic opportunity and a Political system will allow us for individual liberty.

If you look what is happening in the Middle East aside from oil sale, is a very little international trade. International trade creates Economic opportunity and will allow us for creation of value employments and ultimately with extensive trade we will see less much violence in the region.

So I'm hopeful that U.S. will be much more aggressive in pursuing trade agreement and international trade in the Middle East as well as Asia, which is a part of the world.

I think, it is very important way for the U.S. to lead and to show with economic freedom can come political freedom and ultimately democratic form of government.

How do you evaluate the current U.S policy and how do you see the economy within the united state?

It's great deal of uncertainly in the United States. But the United States is an exceptional Nation. I do believe that the United States will not only whether this economic downturn but will come out of it stronger. And I do believe that the United States will continue to be indisputably the leader in the 21st century.

However, we have to take care of our own situation here with regards to deficits, high unemployment. We need Policies that will promote economic growth increasing the value. To do that we need real Energy policy for the country that promotes American energy Production but open Market in energy not closed market.

We need comprehensive tax reform to lower the corporate and individual tax rate, reform the tax codes, flatten it and make it much more competitive to promote American business.

We need to take comprehensive look at Regulations and to look at those at a stifling economic growth and be very cautious about adding new regulations unless we understand the cost benefits analysis.



Finally is the international trade. United States has to leads international trade and to correct the imbalanced trade that we have by becoming a nation that we export as well as import and

which will help us with out manufacturing and agriculture development.

The education is also critically important to the United States. Lebanese- American families understand this almost more than any other Emigrants the value of education.

Charles Boustany has championed health-care reform tell us about the healthcare reform?

As a physician, I know the importance of healthcare and am at the forefront of health-care policy in Congress. I believe the patient-doctor relationship is the most important part of healthcare and I have worked to implement patient-centered healthcare solutions.

Afford is an important word. Our country is facing many challenges. The cost of health care is rising. Federal spending is soaring. We're piling huge debt on our children.

I was very opposed to the law that was passed. It's far too restrictive, it eliminates choice for families and businesses, and it

doesn't place enough emphases on high quality and lowering your cost. I think it will create barriers between the doctor and the patient and the doctor -patient relationship is critical. The doctor - patient relationship is built on trust and if you start placing democratic entities between the doctor and the patient this erodes the trust and the hobs quality in medicine. So we need to invoice the thing that work in the American health system. As a physician who has cared for thousands of uninsured patients and families in Louisiana, I believe Congress must do more to expand access to affordable health-insurance coverage. Congress can also be effective in pushing our health care system to improve treatment outcomes, limit waste, reduce waiting times, and improve patient satisfaction.

Who is the strongest in the world? The law, Money or the Women?

Women" no question!!!!

Women have progressively become more important in society and -through this path- have turned the idea of taking leadership in the social, economic, and political fronts into an increasingly balanced responsibility between men and women. Women rights are so



Congressman Boustany & president Editor



Congressman Boustany & Julia Nader



Congressman Boustany & Laudy Yazbek

important. As we see women right are giving more prominence in the Middle East and Asia and we will see more democracy at the end of the day.

What is your message to the Lebanese-American and Arab community in the United States?

On the bright spots of my life since I have been able to serve in the congress is been the opportunities to meet so many Lebanese-American all over the country that I would never known and to see how Lebanese-American are leaders in every single industry in the United States "Art, Education, Professions of Law, Medicine, science.

Lebanese-American will play a leadership roll in the future of this country & the future of American leadership internationally.

My message to Lebanese-American community is to recognize all the great contributions we have made to the American society and to unite together so we can have a political voice in this country.

If we can bring all of us together we can have very powerful political voice.

Let us remember the words of Lebanese Poet Gibran Khalil Gibran when he wrote in his message to young Americans of Lebanese descent:

"IT IS TO STAND BEFORE THE TOWERS OF NEW YORK, WASHINGTON, CHICAGO AND SAN FRANCISCO SAYING IN YOUR HEART, "I AM THE DESCENDANT OF A PEOPLE THAT BUILT BY-BLOS, TYRE, SIDON, ANTIOCH AND NOW I AM HERE TO BUILD WITH YOU, AND WITH A WILL."

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اسهر على كيفك : واستمع الى الطرب وشارك في الغناء والرقص على كيفك : ونفخ عليها تنجلي بأطيب أركيلة أيضاً وأيضاً على كيفك : هذه هي أجواء كيف كافيه ومجلة لبيانون تايمز تقدم لجميل دعبول بمناسبة عيد ميلاده سنوات عديدة وألف مبروك . وهذه بعض اللقطات نتمنى أن تكون على كيف كيفك .



المطرب القدير أيمن الخطيب



وجدي والدم أبي رافع



صندوق الاقتراع أم صندوق الفرجة

بإذنه تعالى سنرمي صوتنا في الصندوق عام 2013 وسنشارك في صناعة القرار اللبناني حتى ونحن في الخارج.

إذن سجل عندك ايها المغترب هذه الأرقام وتلك الملاحظات التي افادني بها مرجع مسؤول في الحكومة اللبنانية :

أولاً : تكلفة انتخابات المغتربين لعام 2013 هذا إذا تمت بحدود 10 ملايين دولار .

ثانياً : لبنان متواجد في 35 دولة من خلال البعثات الدبلوماسية ويبقى اكثر من مئة دولة لا وجود للبنان فيها لعدم وجود سفارات او بعثات دبلوماسية .

ثالثاً : إذا أقر الاقتراع في الخارج للمغتربين فالعملية الانتخابية في الدول التي تتواجد فيها البعثات بحاجة الى 4000 شخص للإشراف على الانتخابات فاللوجستية معدومة واستئجار مقرات وصالات غير واردة لدى الدولة اللبنانية .

رابعاً : من أصل 18 مليون لبناني ومتحدر من أصل لبناني هناك 700 ألف حاملي الجنسية ومسجلين أنفسهم في السفارات .

خامساً : حتى اليوم لا حملات اعلانية واعلامية لحث المغتربين على التسجيل والاقتراع .

واخيراً يضيف المرجع الوزاري قائلاً : في حال أقر مشروع الاقتراع في الخارج إذا اقترح 25 ألف لبناني واسقطوا أصواتهم في الصندوق من اصل 18 مليون لبناني ومتحدر من اصل لبناني ، عندها تكون حصلت معجزة في الالفية الثالثة .

والآن أيها المغترب اللبناني هل سنرى صندوق الاقتراع في الخارج أم سنبقى نتفرج على صندوق الفرجة ؟

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Zahle , Zahle , Zahletna



Zahle was founded about 300 years ago in an area dating back some five millennia. The first emigrant settlement which grew into a sizeable town dates back to the beginning of the 18th century. Early in the 18th century, the new town was divided into three separate quarters, each of which had its own governor. In the 19th century the city became the region's first independent state with its own flag and anthem.

Zahle was burned in 1777 and 1791, then again burned and plundered in 1860. The opening in 1885 of the railway line, connected it to Beirut, Damascus, Mosul, and Baghdad making it the internal "port" of the Beqaa and Syria, and a main agricultural and trade center. It is considered the birthplace of the Lebanese army and has played a major role in the political life of the country.

The fame of the city has attracted many notables: the poet and diplomat Alphonse de Lamartine in 1833, the prince of Belgium in 1885, the sons of the Czar of Russia in 1888, the Emperor of Germany with his wife and retinue in 1898, General Gouraud who announced in 1920 the birth of the Greater Lebanon, General Charles de Gaulles in 1942, the Egyptian poet Ahmad Chawki and the great Egyptian musician Mohammed Abd-el-Wahab. Zahle is also the native town of the actor Omar el Sahrif and of the grandparents of Shakira the now worldwide famous singer.

Kadri Hotel

At the starts of the 20th century and the growth of tourism, Zahle began building hotels of which the most famous is the Kadri hotel built in 1906. It was taken over by the Turkish army in 1914 and used as headquarters and a hospital during World War I. It was from here that General Gouraud announced in 1920 the annexation of some areas to Mount Lebanon which gave birth to the "Greater Lebanon".

The Shrine of *Our Lady of Zahle*

The shrine of *Our Lady of Zahle*, which lies to the town's east, was built in 1968; it is a 54-meter-high hill-top tower topped by a 9m high bronze statue of Our Lady of Zahle, the work of the Italian artist Pierrorti. A lift takes you up to the summit from where there is a spectacular view over the Beqaa valley. The base houses a small chapel and a large underground basilica.

Zahle's Berdawni Restaurants

The Baradawni river is associated with Lebanese gastronomy, and is synonymous with outdoor eating and Lebanon's famous mezze. The cliff and riverside restaurants known locally as casinos for which Zahle is famous began over a hundred years ago as simple riverside cafes. Today it is a beautiful tree-shaded eating place with fountains, pools, and cool arcades. V. In the Area



زحلة يا دار السلام فيك مربي الأسود

هل قبر نوح في زحلة - الكرك ؟

ضمّ الأقضية الأربعة وهي اليوم مع جبل لبنان تشكل لبنان الكبير بحدوده الدولية .

أما أقدم كنيسة بُنيت عام 1700 كانت كنيسة سيدة الزلزلة ، وفي عام 1968 افتتح أعلى برج في البقاع 54 متراً وهو مقام سيدة زحلة وفي داخله مصعد يصلك إلى تمثال للعذراء من البرونز يعلو عشرة أمتار من صنع الفنان الإيطالي Pierrotti .

وتروي التقاليد المحلية بأن الآثار المحيطة في زحلة وهي الكرك ، أن مياه طوفان عظيم غمرت سهل البقاع وحولته إلى بحيرة رست على ضفافها سفينة نوح فعاش بقية حياته فيها ، وهذا ما يفسر وجود قبره في الكرك ، وهو عبارة عن قبر طوله 42 متراً وعرضه ثلاثة أمتار موجود داخل البلدة ، وقد بُنيت جدرانه من بقايا أبنية رومانية تزينا نقوش وكتابات عربية قديمة (الكرك تبعد كيلو متر واحد عن مدخل زحلة شمالاً) .

أما أصل تسميتها فيعود الى الأرض الزاحلة ومنهم من رد اسمها الى زحلان احد ملوك بني هلال الذي احتلها في القرن السابع ميلادي فأطلق إسمه على المدينة . ومنهم من ردها الى كوكب زحل حيث كان يعبد الرومان وجعلوه آله الخصب . كل هذه التسميات تدل على أن زحلة مدينة لها تاريخ عريق .

زحلة أنجبت الكثير من كبار السياسيين والمشرعين والمفكرين والقانونيين والشعراء والأدباء وغيرهم من أصحاب الإختصاص . وأخيراً ستبقى زحلة دائماً تنشد : " زحلة يا دار السلام فيك مربي الأسود" . وكيفك يا ديني!!!!

سُميت عروس البقاع ومدينة الشعراء والخمر ، وعرين الأسود ، كلها صفات تميزت بها مدينة زحلة عاصمة البقاع ، حيث القرميد سيد المظاهر والأبنية القديمة تتمازج مع الحديثة . يعود تاريخ مدينة زحلة إلى أكثر من ثلاثمائة سنة خلت في منطقة تاريخها يعود إلى أكثر من خمسة آلاف سنة تقريباً . تمتعت زحلة ولفترة وجيزة عام 1858 بحكم ذاتي فأضحت الجمهورية الأولى في الشرق ، حيث كان لها نشيدها وعلمها الخاص .

زحلة احترقت عامي 1777 و 1791 ودمرت عام 1860 بعد مؤامرات عديدة قاوم أبناؤها ببسالة حتى النهاية مما جعلها تنهض من جديد لتصبح صلة الوصل بين بيروت ودمشق وبغداد والموصل بعد إقامة الخط الحديدي عام 1885 .

تتميز بالمقاهي الموجودة على نهر البردوني الشهير النابع من مغارة في سفح جبل صنين ، ويعود تاريخ المقاهي إلى مئة سنة، أما علاقة زحلة بالعرق والنبذ فهي علاقة قديمة حيث أقيم تمثالاً على مدخل المدينة يرمز إلى الخمرة والشعر ، ويعتبر العرق والنبذ الزحلاوي هو كدموع البنات كما يقول الزحلاويون .

أما السراي القديم فيعود ببناءه إلى عام 1885 أيام الحكم العثماني ، وهو اليوم مركز لبلدية زحلة المعلقة، أما أوتيل قادري فهو جزء من تاريخ زحلة الذي شيد عام 1906 ، وفي عام 1914 وأثناء الحرب العالمية الأولى حوّل جمال باشا العثماني هذا الفندق إلى قيادة ومستشفى لجيشه ، وفي هذا الفندق أعلن الجنرال غورو عام 1920

كفى نواحاً وحزناً

قصة أول مهاجر لبناني إلى الولايات المتحدة الأميركية

بعض المال كي لا نموت نحن
الإثنين من الجوع ، فهناك باخرة
ستنتقل من شواطئ لبنان سأصعد
على متنها ، فهي ستحملني إلى
عالم المجهول .

فصرخت والدته : ولمن تتركني يا
إبني أنطوان ؟

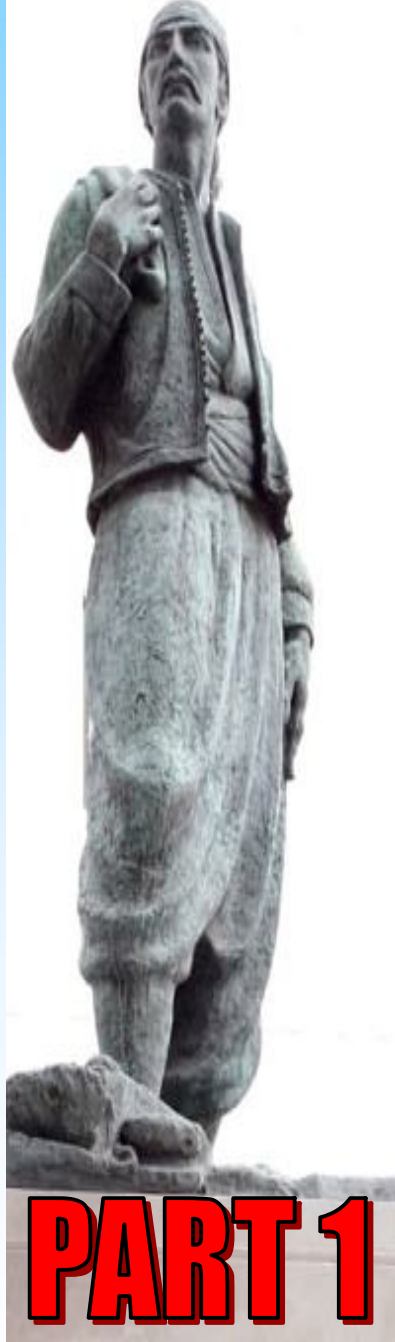
فقال : لصاحب الخيمة الزرقاء هو
سيهتم بك .

وأدار وجهه والدموع تنساب من
عينيه ، وحمل بطانية ممزقة
مهترئة على يده ، ومشى وهو
يصرخ : يا ربّ بين يديك أضع
أمّي وأنا رميت نفسي في البحر
لتنقلني السفينة ، رجاءً احملني
بين يديك .

وقبل أن يُغادر بلدته صاليم حفر
على أحد الأشجار العبارة التالية :

أنطوان البشعلاني ترك أمه
ولبنان عام 1854 إلى أميركا .

أمّا ماذا حصل لأنطوان البشعلاني
أول لبناني وصل الولايات المتحدة
الأميركية عام 1854 فإلى العدد
القادم .



عام 1800 ، ظلام الليل يكسو
أرض لبنان ، الجيش التركي
سلطته تمتد على لبنان وسوريا
جوع كافر ، أمراض السلّ
والطاعون تغزو البلاد . نظر
أنطوان البشعلاني المولود في 22
آب 1827 من بلدة صاليم في
المتن إلى والدته قائلاً :

يكفي يا أمي ظمأً وقهراً ، أشقائي
الستة فارقوا الحياة مع والدي ولم
يبقَ إلا أنتِ وأنا أحياء فيكفي
نواحاً وحزناً ، سأتركك وأهاجر
إلى العالم الجديد الذي يُدعى
الولايات المتحدة الأميركية .

فركت الوالدة على الأرض وهي
تقبل أقدام ابنها أنطوان :

وماذا سأفعل وحيدة وأنت أُملي
الوحيد ، هل سأقفل باب المنزل
وأرمي المفتاح في الفضاء
وأصرخ قائلة : يا ربّ لم يبقَ لي
إلا مفتاح البيت فخذهُ فهو لك ؟

فأسرع أنطوان البشعلاني ليقبل
أيادي والدته قائلاً :

أتركيني لقدرتي ، على الأقل في
الإغتراب سأعمل وأرسل لك

PART 1



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اول الكلام

رؤساء الجالية في تكساس

عام 1956 قرر رئيس الجمهورية اللبنانية كميل شمعون زيارة الجالية اللبنانية في البرازيل التي كان عددها آنذاك في حدود 4 ملايين نسمة .

فقامت قيامة الجالية التي اسرعت لإستقباله واعداد احتفال له فهو رئيس جمهورية لبنان والمعروف عنه بانه فتى العروبة الأغر .

فزحفت الجالية لمشاهدته ومصافحته من كل المناطق البرازيلية وأثناء الإحتفال صعد مقدم برنامج الحفل الى المنبر حاملاً المذيع ليلقي كلمة ترحيب بالرئيس شمعون فقال :

فخامة الرئيس كميل نمر شمعون اسمح لي أن أقدم لك اربعة ملايين رئيس لبناني في البرازيل .

(على أساس كل لبناني يدعي بأنه هو رئيس للجالية)

فذهب الرئيس شمعون على ظهره من الضحك .

هذه واقعة حقيقية جرت ومدونة في مذكراته .

... والآن ما هو عدد الجالية اللبنانية والعربية في تكساس ؟ كي نعرف عدد الرؤساء فيها .

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