

**Cite as:** *Las dos mužéres de Izák – Izak and his two wives*; performer: Zelda Natan, camera/ interview: Ioana Aminian, Deyvi Papo, transcription/ translation: Ioana Aminian, Deyvi Papo, Imane Sghiouar, editor: Deyvi Papo, retrieved from [www.oeaw.ac.at/VLACH](http://www.oeaw.ac.at/VLACH), ID-number: ladi1251TRV0028a.

## Metadata Participant

family name		Natan
birth name if different		Zümbül
given name		Zelda
Other family members interviewed		Şeli Gaon (daughter), Ilker Gaon (grandson)
sex (M – F – O)		F
year of birth		1927
ethnic/we group		Sephardim
✠ ✡ ✧ ✨ □ religion		Jewish
👄 mother tongue		Judeo-Spanish, French
👄 👄 further languages		Hebrew, Greek, English
📖 📚 education		Secondary
👩 profession		Housewife
👶 born in	location	Istanbul
	country/region	Turkey
🌱 grew up	location	Istanbul
	country/region	Turkey
👨👩 origin/parents		Edirne
👨👩👧 origin/grandparents		Edirne
family status		Widow
location(s) where living		Istanbul

## Subtitles

### Judeo-Spanish

1

00:00:12,600 --> 00:00:18,560  
Éra Izák Ęskenazí. Entendítes?

2

00:00:18,560 --> 00:00:23,920  
I éra úno de loz ríkos del, no Edirné,

3

00:00:23,920 --> 00:00:26,600  
Mustàpašá.

4

00:00:26,600 --> 00:00:33,000  
Sérka de Edirné aziya ---

5

00:00:33,000 --> 00:00:36,160  
Ipék böčeyí nasíl denír?

6

00:00:36,160 --> 00:00:38,920  
- Silk bugs.

7

00:00:38,920 --> 00:00:40,160  
İngilízge söyledím.

8

00:00:40,160 --> 00:00:43,240  
-Tamám.

9

00:00:43,240 --> 00:00:47,560  
El éčo de séđas i beslárđi, yáni.

10

00:00:47,560 --> 00:00:49,080  
Ipék böčeyí beslárđi.

11

### English translation

1

00:00:12,600 --> 00:00:18,560  
He [my grandfather] was called Izak Eskenazi.  
You understand?

2

00:00:18,560 --> 00:00:23,920  
And he was one of the rich people, not in Edirne,

3

00:00:23,920 --> 00:00:26,600  
but in Mustafapaša

4

00:00:26,600 --> 00:00:33,000  
Close o Edirne, he used to do ---

5

00:00:33,000 --> 00:00:36,160  
What do you call those insects that produce silk?

6

00:00:36,160 --> 00:00:38,920

7

00:00:38,920 --> 00:00:40,160  
I said it in English

8

00:00:40,160 --> 00:00:43,240  
-Ok.

9

00:00:43,240 --> 00:00:47,560  
[He was in] the silk business and he fed them.

10

00:00:47,560 --> 00:00:49,080  
He fed the silkworms.

11

## VLACH Transcriptions

00:00:49,600 --> 00:00:52,440  
Éra de sitüasyón bwéna,

12

00:00:52,440 --> 00:00:55,960  
ya éra un ómbre byen aedádo,

13

00:00:55,960 --> 00:00:58,920  
ke no túvo ízos.

14

00:00:58,920 --> 00:01:04,000  
Túvo úna mužér ke se yamáva Rašát.

15

00:01:04,000 --> 00:01:07,080  
I éste módo stávan bivýendo.

16

00:01:07,080 --> 00:01:13,160  
I un díya víno refúžíados de Bulgaria

17

00:01:13,160 --> 00:01:17,600  
loz embiyáron a Mustafápašá, es Mustápašá,

18

00:01:17,600 --> 00:01:20,480  
Edírne, no se.

19

00:01:20,480 --> 00:01:26,440  
I éran, avíya i múnčas mužeríkas mansevíkas.

20

00:01:26,440 --> 00:01:29,520  
Úno la vído a ésta Zimbúť,

21

00:01:29,520 --> 00:01:34,880  
un amígo de mi grànpapá ke no lo konosí, le díšo:

22

00:00:49,600 --> 00:00:52,440  
He amassed a small fortune

12

00:00:52,440 --> 00:00:55,960  
but he had already reached quite an advanced  
age,

13

00:00:55,960 --> 00:00:58,920  
and he had no children

14

00:00:58,920 --> 00:01:04,000  
He had a wife called Rachel.

15

00:01:04,000 --> 00:01:07,080  
And they were childless.

16

00:01:07,080 --> 00:01:13,160  
One day, a number of refugees arrived from  
Bulgaria

17

00:01:13,160 --> 00:01:17,600  
and were sent to Mustafapaşa

18

00:01:17,600 --> 00:01:20,480  
or Edirne, I don't know.

19

00:01:20,480 --> 00:01:26,440  
And among them were many young women.

20

00:01:26,440 --> 00:01:29,520  
Someone saw Zimbul.

21

00:01:29,520 --> 00:01:34,880  
A friend of my grandfather who I never knew told  
him:

22

## VLACH Transcriptions

00:01:34,880 --> 00:01:36,800  
<Ke dízes Izák?>

00:01:34,880 --> 00:01:36,800  
<What do you reckon, Izak?>

23  
00:01:36,800 --> 00:01:39,560  
Porké akél tyémpe éra harém.

23  
00:01:36,800 --> 00:01:39,560  
Because in those days, you could have a harem.

24  
00:01:39,560 --> 00:01:44,240  
Se pweďían kazár en tyémpe d'Osmanfí dos, tres, kwátro,

24  
00:01:39,560 --> 00:01:44,240  
In the Ottoman times, a man could marry two, three, four [wives]

25  
00:01:44,240 --> 00:01:50,200  
áma loz ģiďíos syémpre rezervatór, úna mužér.

25  
00:01:44,240 --> 00:01:50,200  
but the Jews, always more reserved, only married one woman.

26  
00:01:50,200 --> 00:01:51,640  
Le díšo: <Ke dízes?>

26  
00:01:50,200 --> 00:01:51,640  
And he told him: <What are you saying?>

27  
00:01:51,640 --> 00:01:55,880  
<No te kazáz yáne, te pweďe dar ižos!>

27  
00:01:51,640 --> 00:01:55,880  
<Wouldn't you marry her? She can bear you children!>

28  
00:01:55,880 --> 00:01:57,960  
Amá tospwés kwántoz áño?

28  
00:01:55,880 --> 00:01:57,960  
But after how many years?

29  
00:01:57,960 --> 00:02:01,000  
No, no te va pweďér dizír la eďá ke éra,

29  
00:01:57,960 --> 00:02:01,000  
I could not tell you how old he already was,

30  
00:02:01,000 --> 00:02:03,760  
ma, lo ke me kontáva mi máďre,

30  
00:02:01,000 --> 00:02:03,760  
but from what my mother told me,

31  
00:02:03,760 --> 00:02:07,280  
ya éra bwen ae-- ya éra aeďáďo,

31  
00:02:03,760 --> 00:02:07,280  
Although he was well advanced in age,

32  
00:02:07,280 --> 00:02:09,680  
me byā portánte.

32  
00:02:07,280 --> 00:02:09,680  
he was in remarkably good shape.

33

33

## VLACH Transcriptions

00:02:09,680 --> 00:02:11,680  
Entendíte?

00:02:09,680 --> 00:02:11,680  
Did you understand?

34  
00:02:11,680 --> 00:02:17,720  
I se vyéron la jón fiy kwálo ke ága.

34  
00:02:11,680 --> 00:02:17,720  
And they went to see the young girl, what should they do.

35  
00:02:17,720 --> 00:02:20,400  
Lo sta demandádo, ya sta mirádo,

35  
00:02:17,720 --> 00:02:20,400  
He [Izak] asked her, she reflected [on his proposal],

36  
00:02:20,400 --> 00:02:22,800  
i no tyéne ánde ir, kómo ir.

36  
00:02:20,400 --> 00:02:22,800  
she did not have anywhere to go, nor any means to leave.

37  
00:02:22,800 --> 00:02:27,040  
La demandó, la tomó..

37  
00:02:22,800 --> 00:02:27,040  
He asked her, and took her.

38  
00:02:27,040 --> 00:02:29,160  
I túvo ížos.

38  
00:02:27,040 --> 00:02:29,160  
And they had children together.

39  
00:02:29,160 --> 00:02:32,280  
I el primér ížo fwe mi páđre,

39  
00:02:29,160 --> 00:02:32,280  
The first son was my father,

40  
00:02:32,280 --> 00:02:34,960  
ke le metyéron el nómbre Nisím.

40  
00:02:32,280 --> 00:02:34,960  
to whom they gave the name Nisim.

41  
00:02:34,960 --> 00:02:37,600  
Nisím ya sáves kwálo ez en Ebró?

41  
00:02:34,960 --> 00:02:37,600  
Do you know what Nisim means in Hebrew?

42  
00:02:37,600 --> 00:02:39,240  
Mužizé desáne.

42  
00:02:37,600 --> 00:02:39,240  
Tell her [it means] 'miracle'.

43  
00:02:39,240 --> 00:02:41,880  
-Miracle.

43  
00:02:39,240 --> 00:02:41,880

44

44

## VLACH Transcriptions

00:02:41,880 --> 00:02:45,640  
Tyéne éste nómbre.

00:02:41,880 --> 00:02:45,640  
That is his name.

45  
00:02:45,640 --> 00:02:47,480  
I tospwés ---

45  
00:02:45,640 --> 00:02:47,480  
And afterwards ---

46  
00:02:47,480 --> 00:02:52,960  
Ma sáves kómo la konsideráva a la priméra ?

46  
00:02:47,480 --> 00:02:52,960  
But do you know how his first [wife] was treated?

47  
00:02:52,960 --> 00:02:55,080  
Biš-- bi kořtúk getírt oriyá.

47  
00:02:52,960 --> 00:02:55,080  
[Let her] bring a chair there.

48  
00:02:55,080 --> 00:02:56,160  
-Yok íyim ben.

48  
00:02:55,080 --> 00:02:56,160  
-No, I am fine here.

49  
00:02:56,160 --> 00:02:57,000  
-Péki.

49  
00:02:56,160 --> 00:02:57,000  
-Ok.

50  
00:02:57,000 --> 00:02:59,600  
La konsideráva,

50  
00:02:57,000 --> 00:02:59,600  
They considered her

51  
00:02:59,600 --> 00:03:01,600  
éya es la gránde syémpre ---

51  
00:02:59,600 --> 00:03:01,600  
to be the elder [most respected] one ---

52  
00:03:01,600 --> 00:03:03,600  
La gránde teníya ---

52  
00:03:01,600 --> 00:03:03,600  
The elder had ---

53  
00:03:03,600 --> 00:03:07,680  
Ayóra me vyéne el nómbre ke te kéro dizír en Ebró.

53  
00:03:03,600 --> 00:03:07,680  
The name I want to tell you only comes to me in Hebrew.

54  
00:03:07,680 --> 00:03:09,040  
- Dílo, dílo!

54  
00:03:07,680 --> 00:03:09,040  
- Say it, say it!

55  
00:03:09,040 --> 00:03:10,920

55  
00:03:09,040 --> 00:03:10,920

## VLACH Transcriptions

-Se tre mizórs.

- [?]

56

00:03:10,920 --> 00:03:14,720

La gránde syémpre báška bir hakkí várdi.

56

00:03:10,920 --> 00:03:14,720

The elder one always had special rights.

57

00:03:14,720 --> 00:03:17,360

-Another right.

57

00:03:14,720 --> 00:03:17,360

58

00:03:17,360 --> 00:03:20,080

-Hak, hak, anladí mı?

58

00:03:17,360 --> 00:03:20,080

Right, right, did you understand?

59

00:03:23,000 --> 00:03:26,640

La číka ke se yamáva Zimbút.

59

00:03:23,000 --> 00:03:26,640

The young one, whose name was Zimbul.

60

00:03:26,640 --> 00:03:32,760

E:, si me permétes so yo la Zimbút, entendíte?

60

00:03:26,640 --> 00:03:32,760

If you allow me, I am also Zimbul, you understand?

61

00:03:36,080 --> 00:03:38,240

Le dáva múnčo onór a Rašél

61

00:03:36,080 --> 00:03:38,240

She paid an awful lot of respect to Rachel

62

00:03:38,240 --> 00:03:40,520

kwándo paryó Nisím.

62

00:03:38,240 --> 00:03:40,520

when she gave birth to Nisim.

63

00:03:40,520 --> 00:03:44,320

Éya lo tomó, éya lo engrandesyó.

63

00:03:40,520 --> 00:03:44,320

She took him, she raised him.

64

00:03:44,320 --> 00:03:46,600

La číka no avláva náđa

64

00:03:44,320 --> 00:03:46,600

The young one did not protest

65

00:03:46,600 --> 00:03:47,840

i tóđos savíyan,

65

00:03:46,600 --> 00:03:47,840

and everybody knew [about the arrangement],

66

00:03:47,840 --> 00:03:49,360

tóđos loz ižíkos.

66

00:03:47,840 --> 00:03:49,360

[including] all of the children.

## VLACH Transcriptions

67 00:03:49,360 --> 00:04:01,000 Túvo ikí, üç, dört -- sínko, doz mužéres i trez ížos.	67 00:03:49,360 --> 00:04:01,000 He [Izak] had two, three, four -- five, two girls and three boys.
68 00:04:01,000 --> 00:04:03,480 I tóđoz se ívan a la skóla faťán.	68 00:04:01,000 --> 00:04:03,480 And they all went to school, and so on.
69 00:04:03,480 --> 00:04:08,720 I a Zimbút la teníyan ke es ermána gránde súya.	69 00:04:03,480 --> 00:04:08,720 They looked up to Zimbul as if she were their elder sister,
70 00:04:08,720 --> 00:04:09,920 Lez dizíyan:	70 00:04:08,720 --> 00:04:09,920 They announced to her:
71 00:04:09,920 --> 00:04:13,280 <Zimbút, tenémos ámbre! Dámos guté!>	71 00:04:09,920 --> 00:04:13,280 <Zimbul, we are hungry! Give us a snack!>
72 00:04:13,280 --> 00:04:17,200 I a Rašél la yamávan 'maná'.	72 00:04:13,280 --> 00:04:17,200 And they called Rachel 'maná'.
73 00:04:17,200 --> 00:04:21,360 Maná éra úna fasón de mamá. Maná, mamá.	73 00:04:17,200 --> 00:04:21,360 'Mana' is a kind of 'mama'. Mana, mama.
74 00:04:21,360 --> 00:04:25,520 I la kerían muy, muy múnčo byä:n.	74 00:04:21,360 --> 00:04:25,520 And they loved her very much.
75 00:04:25,520 --> 00:04:28,280 I un díya le dišéron en la skóla,	75 00:04:25,520 --> 00:04:28,280 One day, they were teasing him in school,
76 00:04:28,280 --> 00:04:31,440 ya sáves, kötú insanťár	76 00:04:28,280 --> 00:04:31,440 you know, like those people wishing you ill
77 00:04:31,440 --> 00:04:34,360 uľaštírír ya haberí.	77 00:04:31,440 --> 00:04:34,360 and always bringing bad news.



78 00:04:34,360 --> 00:04:39,840 Le dišéron: <Zimbúť, Rašél no es vwéstra mádre.	78 00:04:34,360 --> 00:04:39,840 They were telling him: <Rachel is not your mother.
79 00:04:39,840 --> 00:04:43,320 Vwéstra mádre es Zimbúť!>	79 00:04:39,840 --> 00:04:43,320 Your mother is Zimbul!>
80 00:04:43,320 --> 00:04:46,600 Vinyéron yorándo.	80 00:04:43,320 --> 00:04:46,600 They came home crying.
81 00:04:46,600 --> 00:04:49,160 Éste módo es, la vída es éste.	81 00:04:46,600 --> 00:04:49,160 Life is tough, you know?
82 00:04:49,160 --> 00:04:51,720 Vinyéron yorándo.	82 00:04:49,160 --> 00:04:51,720 They came home crying.
83 00:04:51,720 --> 00:04:54,000 <Ke tenéš?> ésta dizyéndo Rašél.	83 00:04:51,720 --> 00:04:54,000 <What's happened?>, asked Rachel.
84 00:04:54,000 --> 00:04:57,120 Se muría por éyos.	84 00:04:54,000 --> 00:04:57,120 Her heart was breaking for them.
85 00:04:57,120 --> 00:05:00,120 <Zimbú:ť tu no sós mwéstra ermána?	85 00:04:57,120 --> 00:05:00,120 <Zimbul, you are not our mother?
86 00:05:00,120 --> 00:05:03,480 Mádre sos tu, i eya ken e:--?	86 00:05:00,120 --> 00:05:03,480 You [Rachel] are our mother, and who is she?
87 00:05:03,480 --> 00:05:07,480 Ésa, no se artík kómo lo izyéron.	87 00:05:03,480 --> 00:05:07,480 I don't know exactly how it was explained.
88 00:05:07,480 --> 00:05:10,640 Dónk, la kižéron múnčo byän i a Rašél,	88 00:05:07,480 --> 00:05:10,640 They loved Rachel very much,

## VLACH Transcriptions

89 00:05:10,640 --> 00:05:15,480 i, i Zimbúť, dizían ke éra úna mužér muy, muy sāmpatík.	89 00:05:10,640 --> 00:05:15,480 and they said that Zimbul was a very pleasant woman.
90 00:05:15,480 --> 00:05:20,000 Un díya, estávan alečándo,	90 00:05:15,480 --> 00:05:20,000 One day, she was breastfeeding,
91 00:05:20,000 --> 00:05:24,320 Zimbúť, en la káma, al řáđo está el maríđo.	91 00:05:20,000 --> 00:05:24,320 Zimbul, on her bed, next to her husband.
92 00:05:24,320 --> 00:05:27,760 Rašél ya koryođíđo oyó un buṃ.	92 00:05:24,320 --> 00:05:27,760 Rachel was running as she had heard a noise all of a sudden.
93 00:05:27,760 --> 00:05:29,680 Ésto lo kontáva mi máđre.	93 00:05:27,760 --> 00:05:29,680 This is what my mother told me.
94 00:05:29,680 --> 00:05:32,440 Oyó un buṃ,	94 00:05:29,680 --> 00:05:32,440 She had heard a 'bum',
95 00:05:32,440 --> 00:05:33,440 <A Dyo!> díšo.	95 00:05:32,440 --> 00:05:33,440 <Oh my God!> she cried.
96 00:05:33,440 --> 00:05:36,720 <El bebé kayó!> estáva alečándo,	96 00:05:33,440 --> 00:05:36,720 <The baby has fallen!> While she [Zimbul] was breastfeeding,
97 00:05:36,720 --> 00:05:39,520 kedó durmyéndo, kayó.	97 00:05:36,720 --> 00:05:39,520 she had dozed off, the baby had slipped from her grasp.
98 00:05:39,520 --> 00:05:42,960 A sigún la ris-- lo tomó a mi pádre.	98 00:05:39,520 --> 00:05:42,960 And as they were telling me, my father started laughing.
99 00:05:42,960 --> 00:05:45,680	99 00:05:42,960 --> 00:05:45,680

## VLACH Transcriptions

<Pašá de la mád(r)e, mádre ke no áye!>

<Dear child with no mother!>

100

00:05:45,680 --> 00:05:48,080

S'alevantó i éya.

100

00:05:45,680 --> 00:05:48,080

She [Zimbul] then woke up.

101

00:05:48,080 --> 00:05:53,520

<Voz andávoz ať láđo de vwétro maríđo!> l'avíya díčo.

101

00:05:48,080 --> 00:05:53,520

<You go next to your husband!> she [Rachel] scolded her.

102

00:05:53,520 --> 00:05:57,000

Ésto le kontó Zimbúl a mi mádre.

102

00:05:53,520 --> 00:05:57,000

This is what Zimbul told my mother.

103

00:05:57,000 --> 00:06:00,120

A Rašél no la konosýo mi mádre.

103

00:05:57,000 --> 00:06:00,120

My mother did not know Rachel.

104

00:06:00,120 --> 00:06:03,000

<Andávós ačár ať láđo de vwéstro maríđo,

104

00:06:00,120 --> 00:06:03,000

<Go and lay next to your husband,

105

00:06:03,000 --> 00:06:06,640

yo ya duspwés d'agóra yo lo va tenér.>

105

00:06:03,000 --> 00:06:06,640

I will hold him from now on.>

106

00:06:06,640 --> 00:06:09,680

Te kéro dizír la kerénsya ke teníya

106

00:06:06,640 --> 00:06:09,680

What I mean with that, she loved them very much

107

00:06:09,680 --> 00:06:12,320

i mi tóđos loz ermános

107

00:06:09,680 --> 00:06:12,320

And all the brothers

108

00:06:12,320 --> 00:06:15,440

éste ompresyádo ke éra el ótro dospwés,

108

00:06:12,320 --> 00:06:15,440

this [?] that it was the other one afterwards,

109

00:06:15,440 --> 00:06:17,960

ke moz miró a mozótro.

109

00:06:15,440 --> 00:06:17,960

that was taking care of us.

110

00:06:17,960 --> 00:06:20,160

Le dizía a mi pádre:

110

00:06:17,960 --> 00:06:20,160

She [mother] told my father:

## VLACH Transcriptions

111 00:06:20,160 --> 00:06:21,960 <Teniya úna fotó yo de Rašél,	111 00:06:20,160 --> 00:06:21,960 <I had a picture of Rachel,
112 00:06:21,960 --> 00:06:23,480 tu tyenés de Zimbúl?	112 00:06:21,960 --> 00:06:23,480 do you have one with Zimbul?
113 00:06:23,480 --> 00:06:25,080 No la sto topándo!	113 00:06:23,480 --> 00:06:25,080 I cannot find it!
114 00:06:25,080 --> 00:06:26,760 Kéro topárla!	114 00:06:25,080 --> 00:06:26,760 I want to find it!
115 00:06:26,760 --> 00:06:28,560 La kéro metér ał salón.>	115 00:06:26,760 --> 00:06:28,560 I want to put it in the living room.>
116 00:06:28,560 --> 00:06:29,920 Éste módo dizía.	116 00:06:28,560 --> 00:06:29,920 She said it like that.
117 00:06:29,920 --> 00:06:32,680 Dõnk, la kería múñčo byän i a Rašél.	117 00:06:29,920 --> 00:06:32,680 They loved Rachel also very much.
118 00:06:32,680 --> 00:06:36,800 Dõnk, kwándo nasían las kreatúras de mi mádre,	118 00:06:32,680 --> 00:06:36,800 And, when my mother's children were born,
119 00:06:36,800 --> 00:06:43,880 ke éra el primér, primér nómbre ke metía éra Rašél.	119 00:06:36,800 --> 00:06:43,880 the first one received the name Rachel.
120 00:06:43,880 --> 00:06:46,400 I sigúnda éra Zélida.	120 00:06:43,880 --> 00:06:46,400 And the second one, Zelda.
121 00:06:46,400 --> 00:06:48,280 No Zélida no, Zimbúł.	121 00:06:46,400 --> 00:06:48,280 Not Zelda, Zimbul.

122

00:06:48,280 --> 00:06:49,760

En káza me yamáron Zélida.

122

00:06:48,280 --> 00:06:49,760

They called me Zelda at home.

123

00:06:49,760 --> 00:06:53,600

Yo en el akt dö nesáns téngo Zümbúl,

123

00:06:49,760 --> 00:06:53,600

But on my birth certificate, my name is Zümbül,

124

00:06:53,600 --> 00:06:56,080

ke ez úna róza ke góle ermóso.

124

00:06:53,600 --> 00:06:56,080

which means a flower that smells beautiful.

125

00:06:56,080 --> 00:06:57,080

Entendítes?

125

00:06:56,080 --> 00:06:57,080

Do you understand?