

Script: "Relation with the Dead"  
Fady  
May 2017

The aim of this documentary is to show that relationships are not only with living people, they could also take place with dead people. Mariam Mazhar talks about her experience in talking with her father and staying in contact with him even after he passed away. Also, Hala Hashem talking about her experience about what she tells her deceased husband.

*Music: Fade in (Sad Piano Music ♪-♪ - Solstice) 00:00*

Death, has touched us in one way or another. A friend, a family member or even a role model. Some of us suffer, live in denial, and only a few people stay in contact with their deceased beloved ones through visiting them, talking to them or even asking for advice about everyday problems and critical ones. People might think that those individuals are negating this fact of life but in fact this is one of the strongest and sincerest forms of relationship. (:35)

*Mariam Mazhar (MM): "My father passed away in September 2013, I am still in contact with my father, I talk to him about my feelings." (:07)*

Hold on, could you introduce yourself.

*MM: "My name is Mariam Mazhar I am twenty-one years old." (:14)*

She lost her dad 4 years ago.

Her mother, Hala Hashem is still in contact with her husband, Mariam's father. Let's see what they tell him.

*Hala Hashem (HH): "what I tell is whatever I need to say sometimes either grumbling about problems and issues in life or sometimes just expressing that you miss them."  
(:13)*

*MM: "I'd like to believe that my father actually sees and hears and knows everything that I speak to him about, I tell him all the things that I am not able to tell to other people and the things that I would normally tell him if he were still here." (:14)*

How do you feel when talking to him?

*MM: "it makes me feel good. I feel like I am getting out a lot of stuff that I wouldn't have gotten out if I didn't do that and even after I went to a therapist after my father passed away because I developed anxiety attacks and he made me sit there and speak to my father." (:21)*

I guess some people would say that you're in your head to much. (:2)

*HH: "it's not something weird or getting dramatic, it's just life goes on normally and if you want to feel the closeness of people you love you get warmth and it really helps you go on with life."*  
(:17)

But going on with life is not easy after losing someone specially when this person was involved in your daily life. What do you feel when talking to him now, after he is gone? (:13)

*M.M: "I feel like he listens sometimes I feel like I am just speaking to the idea of him."*  
(:07)

*H.H: "what I feel is that sometimes I need to listen, it's not enough that you relate and you feel they're hearing you or getting your message but sometimes, in certain, you really need the answer you need to hear it in words."*  
(:15)

That means you are waiting for a reply, right? (:04)

*H.H: "no no, just sometimes you feel it inside but not all the time, and probably it is your own feeling."*  
(:13)

Then you wait for a direct reply. (:03)

*M.M: "I don't wait for a reply as in a direct reply, but I believe that there are signs."*  
(:11)

What do you mean by signs? (:02)

*M.M: "Dreams and dreams that I get and dreams that other people get."*  
(:05)

Isn't this your unconscious mind? (:03)

*M.M: "I know that a lot of people would argue that dreams are just your unconscious mind is saying the things that you'd like to see or all that but I think that there a lot of dreams that other people have dreamt that relate to stuff that has been going on in my life and they didn't know anything about it."*  
(:23)

Some people call this denial! (:02)

*H.H: "it's not denial because you know they are not there, they are not coming back they have been a big part of your life so how is it you just flush or slash the door and they are like never been there before."*  
(:17)

What about you Mariam? (:02)

*M.M: “so I just think that it’s not that you need that you are in denial or that you need answers to certain questions or that you just can’t live without this person it’s just that when someone is a very big part of your life you can’t just turn the page when they’re gone you just can’t continue your life without actually continuing this relationship.”*

(:23)

Do you have rituals to remember him?

*M.M: “rituals, it’s just that I visit him every Friday maybe or every other Friday, my mother visits him every Friday which I find very very fascinating and I think it gives her a lot of peace and it’s important to her.”*

*H.H: “for me I go visit them every Friday it’s just like a very peaceful place to stay I go there and read what I need to read on Fridays like soret al kahf and soret Yassin and I stay there and I say hi how are you and I start talking as if they are there, because Friday is a family day so I need to go to them in the morning for an hour an hour and a half and then continue the day with my kids and my sister.”*

What happens to people who die before getting buried? (:04)

*Hazem Bahaa (H.B): “According to the Baha’i religion, the dead are buried just like the Christians and the Muslims, actually it is more of a mixture between them; in which their body is cleaned wrapped up in a white cloth.”*

(:21)

*M.M: “Generally in Islam what happens is, people who die are bathed and washed in a certain way by a professional and then they are put in a white cloth also in a certain way. And then they are taken to a mosque where people pray the funeral prayer and it looks the same as any other Islam prayer but the difference is that it is not the same movements; people do not bend they just keep standing.”*

(:41)

What about the burial in the graveyard? (:03)

*M.M: “They are taken to the graveyard where there is rooms under the ground, where there is places for people to be put.”*

(:10)

Visiting our dead in their graveyards is tradition in Egypt and that dates to the Pharaohs as they used to visit their deceased kings in their tombs. The first king to be buried in a tomb was Thutmose the first. The Pharaohs used to visit his tomb in the valley of the kings as a sort of remembering him and mourning him. It seems that strong relationships are one of the genes that are present in all the Egyptians.

*Music: Fade in (Sad Piano Music ♪ - Solstice) 06:41*

This audio documentary is produced by Fady Khalil for the Audio Production course at the American University in Cairo taught by Professor Kim Fox. Special thanks to Mariam Mazhar, Hala Hashem and Hesham Bahaa for their time. Also, music credit go for Ross Bugden.