**OpenLIVES Spanish Émigré interviews – Carmelo & Fatima Alonso (2)**

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| Interviewee: | Carmelo & Fatima Alonso |
| Interviewer: | Dr. Alicia Pozo-Gutierrez |
| Interview date: | 27 March 2008 |
| Location: | Zaragoza |
| Duration: | 00:05:27 |
| Countries of migration: | England |

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** OpenLIVES materials are interviews with individuals and describe the personal memories, perspectives, and knowledge of those individuals. English synopses for OpenLIVES were created by students working on the project. The idea behind the synopsis is to give a broad outline of the content NOT to give an exact translation of an interviewee’s words. In some cases, there were sections which were difficult to hear or summarise and which we have been unable to clarify. These areas are highlighted in red. If users of this material do further work in contextualising this testimony, please share your work with the world through the HumBox!

**Synopsis:**

[00.31 – 05.27] Funny Anecdotes

Carmelo recalls a story he likes to tell about his first years in England. He had a job where, whenever he was feeling a little down after having done something wrong, someone would say to him “Don’t worry Mr. Alonso, it’s just a question of mind and get”. So one day he asked what they meant by that. They said that it meant “you don’t care and we don’t mind”. The guy who told him this was a Cockney. They have very good memories of England, very good. Fatima would like to go back to England.

This same Cockney was the one who told Carmelo the story of the sparrow. He liked telling stories and often told ones with a moral to them. The Cockney starts to tell him the story of the little sparrow. He says “imagine, one morning, everything’s covered in white snow, and right in the middle of it all, is a sparrow. The poor little thing looked around and could see nothing to eat, so it started wishing it would die soon so that it wouldn’t have to live with the pain of hunger any longer. And then, in the throes of death, along comes a cow and \*SPLAT\* right on top of the poor little bird. But then it started to feel warm and realised that cows eat seeds, just like birds do. So he began to eat and he was so happy that his life had been saved that he began to sing. A cat that was nearby heard him singing and decided to drag him out of the shit and eat him whole.” And he said “there are 3 important lessons to learn from this: not everyone who shits on you is your enemy, not everyone who takes you out of the shit is your friend, but if you are in the shit and happy, shut your mouth.” The guy who told these stories was called Jack.