

Radio Citadel
(The Helping Hand)

An original Sitcom Play
by
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Episode 3

RADIO CITADEL

EPISODE THREE

ACT ONE

EXT. RADIO CITADEL BUILDING

A CROWD OF PEOPLE ARE GATHERED IN THE OPEN AIR COURTYARD.

EXT. RADIO CITADEL

(ALAN)

ALAN

Good morning, Kurdistan. Good morning everyone, wherever you are, whatever you're doing stop and listen to celestial music from around the globe in this 'Morning Becomes Eclectic' program starting now and until 11:00. This is Alan Deelan with you and we will kick off with the lovely Tara Jaff to put you in the mood for this beautiful sunny day.

HE PLAYS A TARA JAFF SONG.

INT. RADIO CITADEL - PERÎ XAN'S OFFICE

(CANDIDATE 1, PERÎ XAN, SHWAN, CANDIDATE 2, CANDIDATE 3, CANDIDATE 4, CANDIDATE 5, CANDIDATE 6, CANDIDATE 7, BLIND CANDIDATE, CANDIDATE 8, MAM MIRZA)

PERÎ XAN AND SHWAN INTERVIEW PEOPLE.

CANDIDATE 1

You mean I will have to clean the entire station including the bathrooms?

PERÎ XAN

Including the bathrooms.

CANDIDATE 1

Can we not include the bathrooms?

SHWAN

Get out.

CUT TO:

CANDIDATE 2

I only work one hour a day and I do not work before ten. I do that with all my jobs.

PERÎ XAN

How many jobs do you have?

CANDIDATE 2

I don't have one now. But I had two last year.

CUT TO:

CANDIDATE 3

I can run errands. I can change light bulbs. I can maintain the generator and I can dust the office, but you will need someone to clean.

PERÎ XAN

Have a good day.

CUT TO:

PERÎ XAN (CONT'D)

Can you clean and do other light work?

CANDIDATE 4 SHAKES HIS HEAD.

PERÎ XAN (CONT'D)

Then why are you here?

CANDIDATE 4

To get a job.

PERÎ XAN

Doing what?

CANDIDATE 4

I have to work? I have a letter from
an important official. Do you want to
call him?

PERÎ XAN

No, I want you out of here.

CUT TO:

CANDIDATE 5

Is this a government job?

PERÎ XAN

No, we're private sector.

CANDIDATE 5

No way, you're going to make me work
like a dog.

CUT TO:

CANDIDATE 6

Would I qualify for a piece of land?

PERÎ XAN

In your dreams.

CUT TO:

CANDIDATE 7

Would there be a car to pick me up
everyday? And for lunch I eat
everything but prefer kabab.

SHWAN

No falafel?

CANDIDATE 7

There is no meat in falafel. I know
everything.

SHWAN

Really? What is the capital of
Eretirea?

CANDIDATE 7

What?

CUT TO:

A BLIND CANDIDATE WITH A SMALL BOY FOR GUIDE. SHWAN RAISES
HIS HAND.

SHWAN

How many fingers do you see?

BLIND CANDIDATE

Is that a trick question?

CUT TO:

CANDIDATE 8

I can do pluming. I can do electric
work. I can cook. I can fix machines
and I can dust and clean twenty four
hours a day. But I won't do it.

PERÎ XAN

Why not?

CANDIDATE 8

Because I'm invalid.

HE STANDS UP AND LAUGHS ALOUD AS HE WALKS OUT.

PERÎ XAN

That's it, I give up.

SHWAN

We can't give up. Why don't you let me check them out in the courtyard. Maybe I'll find the right person.

PERÎ XAN

Be my guest.

SHWAN LEAVES. MAM MIRZA WALKS IN.

MAM MIRZA

How did it go?

PERÎ XAN

Terrible. Something is wrong with our society. I don't know how we can progress.

MAM MIRZA

Years of oppression, dictatorships, internal wars, religious backwardness and this is what we get. Our job is not to get angry at them, but rather guide them towards the light.

PERÎ XAN

How can we do that if they don't work?

MAM MIRZA

Entice them with good pay. It's the same people who would sell their souls to the devil. That is why we've always had so many traitors, which in turn is why our oppressors don't take our plight seriously.

PERÎ XAN

Because they can buy us?

MAM MIRZA

They have done it throughout history.

PERÎ XAN

So we should pay a price they can't refuse even though they are lazy and reckless.

MAM MIRZA

Yes. Hire the worst of them and let's see if we can fix him.

MIRZA LEAVES. PERÎ XAN THINKS FOR A MOMENT, THEN NODS HER HEAD.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWOINT. RADIO CITADEL - COURTYARD

(ALAN, WOMAN, SHWAN)

A HANDFUL OF REMAINING JOB CANDIDATES STAND ABOUT. ALAN WALKS IN, LOOKS AT THEM, THEN WALKS UP TO A HEAVYSET WOMAN.

ALAN

Can you fix my toilet stool?

WOMAN

You pervert.

THE WOMAN BEATS HIM ON THE HEAD WITH HER HANDBAG. ALAN RUNS OUT OF THE COURTYARD. SHWAN WALKS IN.

SHWAN

What happened? What are you doing?

WOMAN

That man is a pervert.

SHWAN

O, I see. Don't pay him attention.
(points to his head)

he has some loose screws here.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREEINT. RADIO CITADEL - MAIN OFFICES

(NAZNAZ, PERÎ XAN, BÊRIVAN, MAM MIRZA, ALAN, EVERYONE,
SHWAN, AYSHÉ, BÊRIVAN & NAZNAZ)

PERÎ XAN WALKS IN, POURS HERSELF A COFFEE.

NAZNAZ

Any luck?

PERÎ XAN

No, I give up.

BÊRIVAN

Somebody should open an employment
agency.

NAZNAZ

There is one for Filipinos and I hear
they do cleaning work.

PERÎ XAN

We have to import a cleaner? Have we
imported enough experts? Now we need
cleaners too?

MAM MIRZA WALKS UP.

MAM MIRZA

There is an old woman named Ayshé. Her
best friend who who used to fool
around with her.

BÊRIVAN

That best friend, was his name Mam
Mirza?

MAM MIRZA

Who told you that?

BÊRIVAN

I'm a journalist.

MAM MIRZA

And I'm your boss, but how does that relate to what I was saying about Ayshé?

NAZNAZ

It's called a journalist's instinct.

BÊRIVAN

Yeah, I could see it in your eyes.

MAM MIRZA

See what?

NAZNAZ

That it was you who was fooling around with Ayshé.

ALAN

Who is Ayshé?

NAZNAZ

Mam Mirza's old flirt

MAM MIRZA

You've been ridiculous.

BÊRIVAN AND NAZNAZ STARE AT HIS EYES.

MAM MIRZA (CONT'D)

And don't look into my eyes. I don't know why I have hired you people?

BÊRIVAN

Because we're the best?

ALAN

Because we have a sense of humour?

NAZNAZ

No, no, I got it, I got it, because we
are funny.

EVERYONE STARES AT HER.

ALAN

What did I say?

MAM MIRZA

This wasn't a riddle. It was a
complaint.

ALAN

Now, Mam Mirza we've only been in
operation for three days...

MAM MIRZA

Stop it, would you. You know, I have
an idea. No, it's an order. I order
you to attend a workshop on
communication skills, because from the
minute I stepped out of my office I
haven't heard one coherent word in
your silly one liner flirts and
accusations.

HE BARGES INTO HIS OFFICE.

NAZNAZ

I think he is upset.

ALAN

Are you sure?

NAZNAZ

No, may be he was just angry.

THEY LOOK AT HER.

PERÎ XAN

You will have to be nice to him. Stop mucking him. He is a very good man.

BÊRIVAN

We muck him out of love, you know that.

PERÎ XAN

I know. He's under a lot of tension. You know, starting a radio, things not going very well.

ALAN

Maybe we should hire his Ayshé. It will keep him busy.

PERÎ XAN

It didn't sound she would be the right person. We are a respectable establishment.

NAZNAZ

I think it is a great idea. She could rub his shoulders. You can include that in the job description.

BÊRIVAN

Not a bad idea.

ALAN STRETCHES HIS BODY.

ALAN

I've been under a lot of stress too, God, does my body ache.

BÊRIVAN

Alan, Ayshé is more likely Mam Mirza's age. Is that what you want?

ALAN

No, I was hoping you would volunteer.

BÊRIVAN

(smiles)

Not even in your dreams.

PERÎ XAN

Guys, I think we should have Ayshé work here. Let's tell him.

THEY WALK UP TO MAM MIRZA'S OFFICE, KNOCK ON THE DOOR.

PERÎ XAN (CONT'D)

Mam Mirza, can we hire Ayshé for the job?

MAM MIRZA OPENS THE DOOR, STICKS OUT HIS HEAD.

MAM MIRZA

What Ayshé?

NAZNAZ

Your friend, I mean, her best friend's
friend.

MAM MIRZA

What?

NAZNAZ

Ayshé.

MAM MIRZA

There is no Ayshé. I was trying to
tell a joke, but would you let a man
finish his words?

EVERYONE

A joke? O, a joke.

NAZNAZ

Tell us, please. I promise I won't
interrupt.

MAM MIRZA

Not anymore, I have a headache.

HE SLAMS THE DOOR ON THEM.

NAZNAZ

I want to hear the joke.

PERÎ XAN

Don't worry, he'll tell it when he's
back in a good mood.
(looks at her wrist watch)

In about three minutes.

SHWAN WALKS IN WITH THE HEAVYSET WOMAN.

SHWAN

Everyone, I like you to meet Ayshé.

EVERYONE IS SHOCKED. ALAN HIDES BEHIND HIS COWORKERS.

SHWAN (CONT'D)

She is the perfect candidate for the job.

NAZNAZ

Now we'll never hear Mam Mirza's joke.

SHWAN

She can clean, she can fix things, she can even cook. She is a genius. She knows everything. Ask her anything.

PERÎ XAN

What is the capital of Eritrea?

AYSHÉ

Asmara.

BÊRIVAN

Ethiopia?

AYSHÉ

Addis Ababa.

NAZNAZ

Zimbabwe?

PERÎ XAN

Stop it, everyone. Ayshé khan, welcome to Radio Citadel. Please come into my office.

PERÎ XAN AND AYSHÉ WALK TOWARDS PERÎ XAN'S OFFICE.

SHWAN

Did she get the job?

PERÎ XAN

With that IQ? I'm considering giving her your jobs and have you all do the cleaning work.

NAZNAZ

Please, Perî Xan, I just did my nails.
(to Shwan)

See what you've done?

SHWAN

Don't worry, dear, you won't lose your job. If you do, I will go on hunger strike for a full hour.

NAZNAZ

(happy)

Thank you, Shwan. You're so sweet.

BÊRIVAN

Alan, what's wrong? You look pale.

ALAN

I do? Yes, because I may be the one who has to leave.

NAZNAZ

She can do DJ work too? I love that woman.

ALAN

Naznaz, have you been to Kesnezan?

NAZNAZ

Yes, it's on the way to Koyé.

ALAN

Right. Now, when you pass Kesnezan you will see rolling hills. There is one hill with a lonely tree on the left.

NAZNAZ

I know.

ALAN

Good again. Now, go sit under that tree and don't come back until we call you.

NAZNAZ

You will call?

ALAN

I will try, but you will be out of the network's range.

NAZNAZ

You're not normal today.

SHWAN

Ayshé also thinks he is crazy.

BÊRIVAN

And Ayshé knows every thing.

ALAN

(angry)

She doesn't. She doesn't, she doesn't she doesn't.

NAZNAZ AND BÊRIVAN WALK UP TO HIM.

BÊRIVAN & NAZNAZ

O, poor Alan. What is the matter?

ALAN

She can't fix the toilet.

AYSHÉ AND PERÎ XAN WALK OUT OF PERÎ XAN'S OFFICE. AYSHÉ HOLDS
A LARGER THAN NORMAL RANGE IN HER HAND.

AYSHÉ

Where is that toilet stool.

EVERYONE LOOKS AT HER WITH SURPRISE AND POINTS TO THE TOILET.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOURINT. RADIO CITADEL - STUDIO/CONTROL ROOM

(BÊRIVAN, HEWLÉRI, ERBILI, LISTENER 1, LISTENER 2, LISTENER 3, LISTENER 4, LISTENER 5, LISTENER 6, SHWAN, PERÎ XAN, MAM MIRZA, NAZNAZ, ALAN, AYSHÉ)

BÊRIVAN WITH HEADPHONE PRESENTS A LIVE PROGRAM. ACROSS FROM HER, ALSO IN HEADPHONES, ARE TWO GUEST. SHWAN RUNS THE MIX AND DIRECTS IN THE CONTROL ROOM. PERÎ XAN STANDS NEXT TO HIM.

BÊRIVAN

Good afternoon dear listeners. I am
Bêrivan Botani with the second episode
of our program "The New Awakening."

Today we will talk about the new laws
implemented by the departments of
traffic and municipality as the first
ever joint venture towards improving
life in our city.

I am happy to have two distinguished
guests with me in the studio who are
the brains behind the new initiative,
which we will talk about in a moment.
My guests are, Mr. Azad Hewléri, he is
the director of city planning and
Chief Officer Azad Erbili of the
city's traffic department. Welcome to
the show. I will start with you Mr.
Azad.

HEWLÉRI

Engineer Azad.

BÊRIVAN

Sorry, Engineer Azad. Would you tell our listeners about this initiative and how it all began.

HEWLÉRI

I will be happy, Bêrivan khan. The plan is basically designed to regulate parking on the busy streets of our town. Basically we have a color theme for the pavement sides. Each color will indicate a certain parking rule. They are: red; no parking at any time. Green: parking permitted. Yellow: parking for taxi's and public transportation only. White: temporary parking just long enough to drop or pick up a passenger, or to load and unload a commercial vehicle.

BÊRIVAN

That is ground breaking.

HEWLÉRI

Yes, when we came up with this idea we knew we hit a jackpot.

ERBILI

Excuse me, but you didn't come up with the idea. It came from us. Us, the department of motor vehicles.

HEWLÉRI

Don't be so sure. We only contacted you to tell you about it.

ERBILI

Wrong. We came to you and asked you to do the job. In fact we borrowed the idea from Europe, but we figured it is the municipality's job to do the actual work, that is the painting of the pavements.

HEWLÉRI

O, yeah? Then who decided on what color does what?

ERBILI

We did.

HEWLÉRI

No, we did.

ERBILI

No, we did.

HEWLÉRI

We did.

ERBILI

Nope. We did.

BÊRIVAN LOOKS AT PERÎ XAN AND SHWAN FOR HELP. THEY SHRUG THEIR SHOULDERS.

INSERT:

TAXI ON STREET

DRIVER AND PASSENGERS LISTEN TO THE ARGUMENT ATTENTIVELY.

HEWLÉRI (ON RADIO)

We did, or I leave the show.

ERBILI (ON RADIO)

Leave the show because you didn't. We
did it.

TEAHOUSE

PEOPLE LISTEN TO THE RADIO

HEWLÉRI (ON RADIO)

Prove that you did it.

ERBILI (ON RADIO)

Did what?

HEWLÉRI (ON RADIO)

I don't know. What did you do?

ERBILI (ON RADIO)

The parking theme is ours. It belongs
to the department of Traffic and that
is that. Go ask anyone on the street.

END OF INSERTS

HEWLÉRI

Why would the people on the street
know?

ERBILI

I don't know why. You're the engineer.

HEWLÉRI

What does that mean?

ERBILI

It means you act as if you know everything. You just wait. I know where you park. Here is a message to my traffic police, where ever Engineer Azad Hewleri's car is parked, ticket him because that zone will become a red zone. Red zone means no parking ever, as it is part of our new parking zone initiative which we have recently come up with.

HEWLÉRI

I am not parked on the street.

BÊRIVAN

Wait, you guys. Engineer Azad, you said let's ask the citizens. I think that is a great idea, especially since we have so many on line.
(presses a button)

You are on 'The New Awakening', what is your comment?

LISTENER 1

Hello,

BÊRIVAN

Hello, you're on air, please give as your comments.

LISTENER 1

How are you?

BÊRIVAN

We are fine, please give us your
comments, we are running out of time.

LISTENER 1

A... Emmm, yes, I like to welcome your
guests, they are really... really, ah,
I mean you have a good show...

BÊRIVAN

Go on.

LISTENER 1

You have a good show.

BÊRIVAN

We got that. What do you have to say
about the color zoning initiative?

LISTENER 1

Ha? O, anyway, I was saying you
have...

BÊRIVAN

(shouting)

Stupid. Get lost.

SHE PUSHES ANOTHER BUTTON.

BÊRIVAN (CONT'D)

Hello, you are on the air, do you have
a comment or do you just want to kill
our time too?

LISTENER 2

Hello, how are you?

BÊRIVAN

Shut up, just give us your comment.

LISTENER 2

I don't have a comment. And I don't like the way you answer.

BÊRIVAN

Me neither but you leave me no choice.
(presses another button)

You are on the air. What is your comment, please.

LISTENER 3

I do not have a comment, but I have a question.

BÊRIVAN

Shoot.

LISTENER 3

My question is about the gasoline prices.

BÊRIVAN

Sorry, this show is about the parking zones and the new initiative.

SHE PRESSES ANOTHER BUTTON.

BÊRIVAN (CONT'D)

You're on the air.

LISTENER 4

Hello, I will go right to the heart of the issue.

BÊRIVAN

Thank you, you are my man.

LISTENER 4

Sorry, I'm married. But we can meet.

BÊRIVAN PRESSES ANOTHER BUTTON.

BÊRIVAN

You are on the air.

LISTENER 5

Look, what deferent does it make who's
idea it was, just do the damn work.

That is all I have to say.

BÊRIVAN

Thank you. I'm with our listener. Why
don't you just do the job? Let's have
another opinion. You are on the air.

LISTENER 6

Yes, stop fighting and do the job and
Officer Azad, please do something
about double parking. It has to stop.

ERBILI

I fully agree with you. So you like
our idea for the color theme?

LISTENER 6

I love it. I don't know why the city
didn't think about this before.

HEWLÉRI

You will have to understand, we have been very busy fixing and cleaning the streets. We had this idea for a long time, just didn't have the time to initiate it.

ERBILI

Now, he had the idea for a long time. You had no idea whatsoever and you still have no idea.

HEWLÉRI

I do too.

ERBILI

You do not.

HEWLÉRI

I do.

ERBILI

You don't.

HEWLÉRI

That is it. I'm leaving this show.

ERBILI

Good. Me too.

THEY BOTH TAKE OFF THEIR EARPHONES AND BARGE OUT OF THE STUDIO.

SHWAN

I love it. So far every guest we've had has walked out on us.

PERÎ XAN

I guess we'll make it our trademark.

PERÎ XAN SIGNALS TO BÊRIVAN TO FINISH THE SHOW.

ALAN TIPTOES TO THE BATHROOM AND PEEKS IN. AYSHÉ IS BUSY FIXING THE STOOL. SHE TURNS TO HIM AND GIVES HIM A MEAN LOOK. ALAN RUNS AWAY.

BÊRIVAN

Dear listeners, thank you for your contribution to our lively live show, and we thank our guests for their wonderful plan which they stole from Europe and refuse to share. Until next time I leave you in God's care.

BÊRIVAN WALKS OUT RELIEVED. MAM MIRZA COMES OUT OF HIS OFFICE.

MAM MIRZA

Bêrivan, let me have a word with you.

BÊRIVAN

Am I grounded for getting angry at the listeners?

MAM MIRZA

No, you're promoted. And Alan, you stop peeking at Ayshé, she is your mother's age.

NAZNAZ

Shame on you, Alan.

ALAN

I'm waiting for my toilet stool.

NAZNAZ

Shame on you again.

ALAN HOLDS HIS HEAD IN DESPERATION. BÊRIVAN WALKS INTO MAM MIRZA'S OFFICE.

MAM MIRZA

Next time your guest begin to fight
break for a commercial. Don't involve
the listeners, even though it makes
for good comedy. Wait, it does make a
good comedy, hmmm, forget what I said,
the hell with the guest, stick to the
comedy.

BÊRIVAN

Thank you, Sir. Would that be all?

MAM MIRZA

No. Yes... I forgot... I remember
now... I forgot again.

BÊRIVAN

Just holler when you remember again.

BÊRIVAN BEGINS TO WALK OUT.

MAM MIRZA

Got it. Find yourself a good spouse.
There is nothing better than a good
spouse.

BÊRIVAN

I don't know many people in this town.
I'm sure the right man will eventually
knock on the door.

ALAN KNOCKS ON THE DOOR.

BÊRIVAN (CONT'D)

Get lost, Alan.

ALAN

You know I'm happily married. But I think you should meet my wife's uncle's neighbor's butcher. He's got meet.

BÊRIVAN

Shut up, Alan. You know I'm a vegetarian.

MAM MIRZA

Alan, do you know about the hill with the lonesome tree past Kesnezan?

ALAN

Yes, Mam Mirza, but it's already booked. Naznaz beat us to it.

MAM MIRZA

Then go sit on your toilet seat and don't come out until we call you.

ALAN

I can't. John Wayne won't let me in.

BÊRIVAN

He means Ayshé Khan.

MAM MIRZA

Okay, my last option. Let me just kill you.

HE PULLS OUT HIS GUN.

ALAN

No, please don't bother. I'll go to
the toilet.

ALAN DISAPPEARS. MAM MIRZA LOOKS AT THE GUN IN HIS HAND.

MAM MIRZA

Who was it that said 'don't pull out a
gun unless you intend to kill
someone'?

BÊRIVAN

John Wayne?

MAM MIRZA NODS HIS HEAD.

BÊRIVAN (CONT'D)

Look, I'm leaving too. I should go.
Thank you for the advice.

SHE RUNS AWAY. ALAN WALKS TO AYSHÉ.

ALAN

Excuse me, but I think Mam Mirza was
calling you.

AYSHÉ WALKS INTO MAM MIRZA'S OFFICE. WE HEAR A BIG COMMOTION
IN MAM MIRZA'S OFFICE, INCLUDING FALLING BODIES AND BREAKING
SOUNDS. EVERYONE RUNS TO LOOK.

AYSHÉ HAS PINNED MAM MIRZA FACE DOWN ON THE FLOOR. EVERYONE
IS SHOCKED.

AYSHÉ

He had a gun in his hand, I think he
was going to kill himself.

MAM MIRZA

Would somebody help me, please.

NAZNAZ

In a minute.

EVERYONE PICKS UP THEIR MOBILE PHONES AND TAKES PICTURES.

END OF ACT FOUR

END OF EPISODE