

CultureTalk Albania Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Engagement Customs

Northern Albanian Dialect

Albanian transcript:

1: Do te doja te na flisnit pak per fejesat dhe martesat. Dicka qe ju e permendet me perpara, si dicka teper te rendesishme ne jeten shkodrane dhe shqiptare. Dmth, nqs mund te tregoni me ne detaje ne lidhje me ritualin e ketyre ngjarjeve te rendesishme ne jeten... qe eshte edhe pjese e kultures shqiptare.

2: Po. Duke fillue nga fejesa. Fejesa bahet ne disa lloje.

1: Dicka tjetër ne te njejten kohe qe mund te komentoni edhe per kete. Ju permendet qe jashte shtetit nuk ekziston kjo, faze si te thuash, fejesa, martesa. Nuk asht aq e randesishme. Do te doja te dija opinionin tuaj pse mund te jete kjo ndersa na shpjegoni dhe ndriconi ne lidhje me ritualin e ketyre ngjarjeve te randesishme ne jeten e nje personi, individi shqiptar.

2: Fejesat bahen ne disa llojesh. Si perfundojne, jo se bahen disa llojesh. Disa, sic jane ba edhe ne kohet ma perpara, ose sic kane ndodhe edhe kohet ma perpara...

1: Kohe ma perpara ?

2: Bahen me shkesi.

1: Kohe ma perpara i referoheni kujt, ciles kohe?

2: Edhe para 60 vjeteve. Por asnjihere duke perjashtue edhe rastet kur jane marre vete, pra me dashni. Rastet me shkuesi asht me njohje te larget, ku nji teze, nji halle (teze quhet nana e nanes, halle quhet nana e babes – “motra” ka dashte me thane), kojshite, kusherinjte propozojne. Njofin dikush djalin, dikush vajzen, edhe me nji propozim – asht nji vajze nga nji familje e mire, asht nji djale nga nji familje e mire, bahet fejesa dhe quhet me shkuesi. Bisedojne dy-tri here para. Dikur bile para 70 vjeteve as nuk kane bisedue, ndoshta edhe nuk jane pa, dhe jane ba fejesat krejt ashtu. Ka pase raste qe jane marre edhe me dashni, pra qe jane njoftete vete. Krejt thjesht ndoshta me nji te pame ne rruge. Se dikur, dikur dmth, larg larg, shume vite ma perpara, jane marre ndoshta vetem me nji te pame ne dritare. Ndersa vitet duke ardhe, duke ece duke ece... jane pa, diku jane njoftete ne shkollë, diku jane njoftete ne pune, diku ndoshta edhe me korrespondence. Edhe qe jane ba fejesat o me dashni ose me shkuesi. Por si mund te thuesh si kane perfundue. Kuptohet ne pergjithesi te gjitha kane perfundue mire dhe jane kurorezue me nji ceremoni. Ate ceremoni fejeset, ma perpara kane shkue vetem burrat. Kater pese burra nga djali, kater pese burra nga vajza. Kane pi kafe te vogla (quhet zakoni) dmth perpara kafeve te medhaja. Ato kafe te vogla kane kene sa me i perhajrue te dy palet ‘na qofte per

hajr'. Ndersa ma vone, kane kalue nji muej, dy ndoshta edhe tre, jane pi kafet e medhaja me gra edhe me burra, edhe kane ba edhe peshqeshe.

1: Dmth edhe nje pjesemarrje ma e madhe.

2: Ma e madhe, patjeter. Te dy fiset. Peshqeshe vajza i ka cue nanes e babes se burrit. Po te kishte edhe moter e vellezen peshqeshe (i jane cue), edhe te fejuemit.

1: Keto peshqeshet, ka pase ndonje objekt te vecante?

2: Jo, krejt thjesht respekt per nanen e baben e burrit, per motren e vellane, edhe dmth edhe te fejuemit. Nqs fejesa asht ba me shkuesi nji peshqesh i asht cue edhe shkuesit, pra atij qe i ka shkue ne mendje per me bashkue keta dy te rinj. Ndersa me dashni (kur jane marre), nuk i ka cue kujt peshqesh, po krejt familjes se burrit. Edhe shkues nuk ka pase, ata jane marre vete. Atehere asht ba nji fejese, vetem jane pi kafet. Kafet e medhaja si jane quejte? Kane qerese nuset ne pergjithesi, njerezit e afert, motra, nusja e vellait, kunanat, vajzat e tezeve, nuset e djemve te tezeve. Keto kane kene te afermit qe kane qerese kur kane ardhe me pi kafet ose me nderrue shenjin (nji tjeter zakon). Qerasjet ca kane kene per n'ate kohe; karamele, pije e ambel ashtu quejte per at kohe (emir i pijes), llokuma me arra, llokuma pa arra, amareti. Kane kene shurup... shurupet jane ba me drandafite. Me drandofilet e shpijave shkodrane. Mandej edhe kafja ne fund. Dikush dikush qe mund te kene pase gjendjen edhe ma te mire mund te kete ba edhe nga nji ambelcine, ua ka qite krushqve. O ka nji kallep bakllave, ose kadajif, ose tollumba si mund ta kete pase. Po ne pergjithesi nuk asht ba (dicka e tille), ndonji rast i vecante. Kjo ka kene pra kafet e medhaja.

English translation:

1: I want you to talk a little bit about engagements and marriages. You mentioned it before as being something very important to the Shkodra and Albanian life. If you could tell me in details the ritual of these important celebrations in our life ... which is also part of the Albanian culture?

2: Yes. Starting with engagements ... engagements are done in different ways.

1: Another thing that you should comment on ... you mentioned that abroad these phases don't exist, engagements, marriages. It is not as important. I would like to know your opinion as to why that is, while at the same time explain to me these important rituals in a person, in an Albanian individual.

2: Engagements are done in different ways. Well, the way they end, not that they are done in different ways. Some of them are done the way they were done long ago.

1: Long ago?

2: Arranged engagements.

1: What times are you referring to when you say long ago?

2: Sixty years ago ... but there were also times that they got engaged because they fell in love with each other. Usually it would be that an aunt (the "aunt" is the mother of my mother) or neighbors and cousins propose. Someone knows the boy, someone knows the girl and then there is a proposal. There's a girl from a good family, there's a boy from a good family, and then you have an engagement, which is an arranged one. They talk two, three times before. However seventy years ago, you would have engagements where the boy and the girl had not even talked or seen each other yet. However, there were also cases where they met themselves and fell in love. They might have had love at first sight; someone would see the other walking in the street. A very long time ago someone would become engaged to the other just by seeing them once on a balcony. As years go by, things change ... now they meet somewhere, at school, work and sometimes even through correspondence. So that is how engagements were done with love or arranged. They all have different endings. Most of them ended up with a coronation ceremony (marriage ceremony). In the engagement ceremony, before, only men would go ... four or five men from the boy's side and four or five men from the girl's side ... They drank the small coffees (that was the tradition) before the big coffees. The small ones were just to wish good luck to the couple and hopefully everything will go well. Later on, after a month, or perhaps two or three, they drank the big coffees with both women and men being present, and they also gave presents.

1: Meaning there is a large participation by the people.

2: Yes of course, very large ... both families. The girl makes presents for the husband's parents. If the husband had a brother or a sister, then she had to bring them presents as well and of course to her fiancée as well.

1: These present, did they have a special objective?

2: No, it was just to show respect for her husband's parents, brother, sister and of course her fiancée. If the engagement were arranged, then a present would also go to the person who arranged it since he/she had the idea to bring these two young people together. If the two found each other by themselves, then there is a simple engagement where they drink the coffees. How did they call them, the big coffees? You would have the women of the family serving them, sister, the brother's wife, sister-in-laws, cousins, the brides of the aunt's son. These were the closest relatives who would serve when the in-laws came and to also change the *shenjin*. The things they would serve at that time were candy, sweet drinks they called them at that time, *llokume* with nuts, *llokume* without nuts. We also had syrups ... they made them with rose petals ... with the roses from the Shkodran's houses ... and then you had the coffee at the end. Someone else who was in a better economical status would also make desserts and bring them out for the in-laws. Maybe a little bit of baklava, *kadajif* or *tullumba*. Usually this didn't happen though, it was very rare. These were the big coffees.

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