CultureTalk Albania Video Transcripts: http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu

Engagement Coffees and Wedding Customs

Northern Albanian Dialect

Albanian transcript:

1: Ndersa tani mbas viteve 90' kafet e medhaja organizohen ndryshe; nder lokale dhe kane marre pak a shume pamjen e nji dasmes se vogel. I bajne te dyja palet bashke. Sic thame ma perpara, kafet e medhaja jane ba gjithsekush ne shtepija te veta... Ndersa tashi mbas viteve 90' kafet e medhaja jane ba dicka ma me shpenzime, shqip, a ba si ne forme te dasmes se vogel, por gjithmone duke marre pjese te dyja palet, si te dhanderit edhe nuses. Gjithmone flasim per fejesen. Aty nuk qerasen ma sic qerasshin neper shpija me karamele, me llokuma, por thjesht bahet nji dasem e vogel me meze, por ma te pakta se ne dasmat (e mirefillta). Por ka raste qe edhe fejesat, pra keto ceremoni, bahen si ne forme koktejsh prej te dy paleve. Orkestra, qe kohet e fundit, fale asaj qe tani merren shume shtrenjte orkestrat, bajne shume shtrenjte per me u marre ne lokale, e bajne organizimin e ketyne fejesave me DJ. Pra asht zevendesue me DJ.

2: Cila eshte muzika e preferuar?

1: Muzika e preferueme, gjithmone nder keta (ceremoni) asht muzika popullore. Edhe per ma teper shkodrane, edhe ajo tiranse, e Shqiperise s'Mesme, Elbasani e keta. Perse do te thuesh ti. Asht ma e mire me kercye dhe ma e kapshme per veshin, jena rrite dmth me ate muzike, edhe na pelqen. Sic na pelqen ne, i ka pelqye prindeve tone, i pelqen edhe femijeve tone. Pra, kjo asht me tradite. Ndersa martesa; vajzat gjate kesaj kohet te fejeses… dikush martohet mbas nji vitit, dikush mbas nji vitit e gjyse, dikush mbas gjashte muejsh, si ta kete ate terezine, dmth punen dhe pushimet e veta. Martesa ka kete ritual; vajza ban mobiljet, dmth con paje, mobiljet e saja. Dhomen e gjumit quhen mobiljet. …Dhoma e gjumit; vajza bjen dyshekun bashkshortor, dy jasteke, dy jorgana, me batanije, komplet garderoben e saj, edhe garderoben e burrit me te brendshme, me kemisha, edhe me peshqire, e komplet ca i duhet burrit gjanat e reja komplet i bjen nusja. Ndersa burri i con nuses velin e nuserise qe ajo do te bahet nuse, i con nji gja te arte, o i con psh nji unaze plus edhe vathe edhe nji gjerdan, si te jete edhe gjendja ekonomike. Dikush vetem me nji unaze ndersa te tjeret qe mund ta kene gjendjen ekonomike ma te mire edhe vathe edhe gjerdan. Pra ajo varet nga deshira dhe gjendja e gjithsecilit. Djali con edhe fustane nuses, edhe pallto, canta, kepuce, cizme, cadra, kuti tualetit, pra cdo gja qe nuses mendohet se i duhet per pjesen mbasi te martohet. Ca i con tjeter djali… … Nusja i con tjeter ne shtepi te burrit peshqeshet e gjithe njerezve te familjes. Peshqeshe ato jane, ne i thojme bacalleqe. I con prindeve te burrit, edhe njerezve te afert. Njerezet e afert nuk futen vetem motrat dhe vellezenit, po futen tezet, hallat, axhat, dajat. Pra asht nji shenje respektit, sic thashe edhe ma perpara traditen qe kane ruejte brez mbas brezit te rinjte. Pra gjithmone nen udhezimet e prindeve, sidomos nanave te tyne, sepse ato e dine ma teper traditen edhe zakonet e shkodraneve ne pergjithesi. Mbasi kryhen keto formalitete diten e shtune bahet dasma nga nusja. Mbasdite pa ardhe ora e mbramjes qe fillon dasma vijne krushkat. Krushkat jane vetem grate qe vijne per me pa nusen si ka

dale. Nusja goditet nga parukierja. Edhe vijne njerezit e dhanderrit per me ba nji vizite ne shtepine e nuses. Edhe gjithmone me nji autoritet qe 'na jena njerezit e burrit e kjo nusja asht e jona'. E bajne ate vizite, krejt thjesht, kenaqen me nji muhabet me njena tjetren, se njerezit e nuses ma teper jane te angazhuem me qerasjet per njerezit e burrit. Mbaron kjo vizite, percillen, bahet dasma e nuses te shtunen mbrama. Mbasi mbaron dasma e nuses, pa mbarue dasma e nuses, ne gjyse, vijne njerezit e burrit. Marrin pjese ne dasmen e nuses dhandrri me gjithe njerezit e te afermit e tij. Aty bashkohen te dy palet, si njerezit e nuses, si njerezit e dhandrrit, edhe kalojne disa ore shume te kandshme ne dasem. Kulmin dasma e ka kur kercen cifti ne ate dasem, ku dhe shume prej dasmoreve hedhin pare nuses. Kuptohet gjithmone njerez te afert, por plus edhe shoqnija.

English translation:

1: After the '90's, the big coffees are [now] organized differently, in restaurants, and they resemble a small wedding. Both families would be there. Just like I mentioned before the big coffees are still drunk at their houses. But now, after the '90's, there are more expenses. It resembles a small wedding, and both sides participate, the bride's and the groom's. We are talking about the engagement still. They don't serve the desserts, *llokuma* that they would serve at home but they still have an engagement that is not as big as a real wedding. Sometimes these engagements are done as small cocktails from both sides of the family. Nowadays they do not hire an orchestra … because it is so expensive they get a DJ. Therefore, it has been replaced by a DJ.

2: What is the favorite music?

1: The preferred music, always in these kinds of ceremonies, is folk music. Most of it is music from Shkodra, Tirana, the middle of Albania, such as Elbasani. You would wonder why. It is nice music to dance to, and we are used to it. We grew up around it and we like it. Just like we like it, our parents liked it and so do our children. It is a tradition. Whereas the wedding … girls, after their engagement …. someone gets married after a year, someone else after a year and a half, someone after six months, depending on how much stuff they have going on, meaning work or vacation. The wedding has this ritual. The girl buys the furniture. She brings her dowry, her furniture … furniture meaning that of the bedroom. The girl buys the mattress, two pillows, two blankets, two comforters, all of her clothes, her husband's clothes including the intimates, t-shirts, towels, and everything that he might need. The bride buys them all new. Whereas the husband brings the wedding veil so that she can be a bride. He brings something that is gold, for example a ring, earrings or a necklace, depending on his economic status. Others would buy only a ring and those that were better-off economically would buy earrings and a necklace. Therefore it depends from the desire and the ability of someone to afford it. The man also brings dresses to his bride … jackets, bags, shoes, umbrellas, make-up … basically everything the bride would need after she gets married. What else does the man bring … the bride also brings presents for the husband and all of his family members. The presents, we call them *bacalleqe*. She brings them to her husband's parents and close relatives. Close relatives are not only brothers and sisters, but also aunts and uncles. It is a sign of respect, just like I mentioned before. It is a tradition that has been saved

generation after generation … always under the parent's advising, especially their mothers, because they are the ones that know more about the traditions of Shkodrans, in general. After these formalities are done on Saturday, the bride's wedding is done. Before the night falls, when the wedding starts, the in-laws come. The in-laws are only women who come to see how the bride looks. The bride is prepared from the hairdresser. The groom's people come to pay a visit to the bride's house. They always come with the type of authority that "we are the groom's people and this bride is ours." It is a very simple visit; they enjoy talking to each other because the bride's side is busy serving them desserts and drinks. After the visit is done, you have the bride's wedding at night. After the brides wedding is over, before the wedding is over, the groom's people come. They become part of the bride's wedding, the groom together with all of his relatives. There, you have sides, the groom's family and the bride's family. They have a wonderful time at the wedding. The culmination of the wedding is when the couple dances and a lot of the people who are there throw money at the bride. It is understandable that they are the closest relatives, but there are friends also.

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