

Egyptian Arabic transcript:

الرجل: الأغاني إلي أنا بسمعها هي الأغاني القديمة، مش الأغاني الجديدة، لأن الأغاني الجديدة، بجميع المقاييس أغاني هبطت كثيرا باللغة والألحان، هبطت من كل المقاييس. إن أنا أحب أسمع أم كلثوم، وأحبها أغاني معينه، زي أغنية أنساك، هجرتك، ألف ليله وليله. الف ليله وليله دي يعني جميله جدا... بتقول فيها... استني أفكر طيب... يا حبيبي النجوم في السما والليل وقمره وإننا وأنا يا حبيبي أنا والهوا أه منو الهوى سهران الهوى يسقينا الهوى ونقول للهوى يا حبيبي يلا نعيش في عيون الليل ونقول الشمس تعالي تعالي بعد سنه مش قبل سنه دي ليله حب حلوه بالف ليله وليله بكل العمر هو العمر آيه غير ليله. وعبد الحليم... عبد الحليم ليه أغاني جميله جدا زي بتلوموني ليه زي خساره زي سواح، ليه أغاني جميله جدا وليه أغنية بقول فيها: يا صحابي يا أهلي يا جيرانى أنا عايز أخدمكوا في أحضاني... لأن هو فعلا كان بيحب مصر. أحب وديع الصافي وغنى لمصر عظيمه يا مصر يا أرض النعم. وديع الصافي داه مش مصري، لبناني. مصر وسوريا كانوا في وقت من الاوقات بلد واحده، مصر وسوريا كانوا في وقت من الاوقات بلد واحده، كان اسمها الجمهوريه العربيه المتحده. وسوريا ولبنان يعتبروا دوله واحده من قديم، علاقتهم مع بعض قويه جدا، يكادوا أن يكونوا بلدا واحدا. فوديع الصافي وفريد الأطرش وشاديه، فريد الأطرش هو أصله سوري إنما برضه جيه مصر لأن مصر من زمان جدا بلد الفن، بلد الجمال، بلد الحضارة، حضارة 7000 سنه. بس الأغاني إلي بسمعها هي الأغاني القديمه، مبسمعش أغاني جديده، الاغاني القديمه دي بحس فيها بالفن والكلمات والألحان وأحس فيها بكل شيء جميل، على عكس الأغاني الجديدة إلي فعلا هبطت بالمستوى الفني

English Translation:

Man: The songs that I ... ah ... listen to are the old songs, not the new songs, because the new songs ... ah ... by all standards are songs that fell down with regards to language and melodies. They fell down by all standards. For me, I like to hear Um Kulthum,¹ and I like specific songs by her, such as the song, *I forget You, I left you, One thousand nights and one night*. *One thousand nights and one night* is, I mean, very beautiful. It says ... ah ... she says in it Wait until I remember ... ah

My lover, the stars in the sky, and the night and its moon and you and me; oh my lover and love; oh! It's love. Love is up tonight, love waters us. And we tell love; oh! My lover, let's live in the eyes of the night and tell the sun: come; come, after a year, not before a year. This is beautiful love night worthy of one thousand nights and one night, in an entire life time. Life is what, but one nigh, like this night.

And Abdul Haleem²; Abdul Haleem has very beautiful songs such as *Why do you blame me; such as A Loss; such as A Tourist*; he, he has very beautiful songs, and he has a song where he says in it:

My colleagues, my family, my neighbors,
I want to hug all of you.

¹ Um Kulthum (1898-1975) was one of the greatest, if not the greatest, female singer in the history of Egypt, with more than 200 songs and several movies.

² Abdul Haleem Hafez (1929-1977) was also a great singer in Egypt. He sang many national songs dedicated to the July Revolution in Egypt (1952).

Because he really loved Egypt. I like Wadee el-Safi,³ and he sang for Egypt *Great Egypt, the Land of Graces*.

And ... ah ... not Egyptian Wadee el-Safi is not Egyptian -- Lebanese. Egypt, Egypt and Syria were at some point one country. Egypt and Syria were at some point one country. It used to be called the United Arab Republic. And Syria and Lebanon are considered one country ... ah ... for a long time. Their relation together is very strong; they are almost considered to be one country. So Wadee el-Safi and Fareed el-Atrash⁴ and Shadya⁵, and... Fareed el-Atrash is from a Syrian origin, but it's also Egypt because Egypt, for a very long time, is the country of art, a country of beauty, a country of civilization, a country of 7000 years.

... ah ... that's it. Songs, songs that I listen to are the old songs. I feel them

Woman behind camera: [Unclear audio]

Man: I don't listen to new songs. The old songs, in them I feel the art, and the words, and the melodies, and I feel every beautiful thing in them, unlike the new songs that truly at the artistic level have declined ...

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use every day. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

© 2007-2010 Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and Five Colleges, Incorporated

³ Wade el-Safi (1921-present) is a Lebanese singer with an Egyptian citizenship. He's one of the pioneers in the field of singing.

⁴ Fareed el-Atrash (1917-1974), originally from Syria, was one of the best singers even in Egypt and the world. He came from a royal family. His mother was a princess from Syria.

⁵ Shadya (1928-present) is a great Egyptian singer with many songs and movies during the 40s, 50s and 60s.