

Egyptian Arabic transcript:

المرأة خلف الكاميرا: مين إلي كان هنا بقى؟ إيطاليين و...؟

المرأة: كان في إيطاليين، كان في فرنساويين، كان في يونانيين، كان في أرمن كثير، الأرمن هم كانوا ماسكين كل الشغل إلأى بتعمل بالذهب...
المرأة خلف الكاميرا: الجوهرة والحاجات دي...
المرأة: الجوهرة..هم دول كلهم كانوا...
المرأة خلف الكاميرا: لسا فيه أرمن كثير.
المرأة: فيه، لسا، لما تروحي حضرتك الخان الخليلي، كلهك، كل الصياغ هناك، كلهم أصلهم كانوا أرمن.
المرأة خلف الكاميرا: كان في كمان يونانيين كثير، خصوصا بالإسكندرية...
المرأة: أه بالإسكندرية، زيادة من مصر، زيادة من القاهرة، كان في كثير..
المرأة خلف الكاميرا: سمعت برضوا أن في ناس كثير جوه من بلاد الشام، سوريا ولبنان، وجوه لمصر وخدو الجنسية واشتغلوا هنا، كثير منهم اشتغلوا في الإعلام، في الأهرام والحاجات دي، فكنت عايزه أخد رأيك عن الموضوع ده.
المرأة: أه كان فيه..هو لازم تعرفي حاجة إه، و مصر من وقت زمان خالص كان في تملي فلسطينيين ولبنانيين وسوريين وأردنيين، تملي جايبين مصر عشان مصر كانوا بيقولوا عليها أم الدنيا. وهي مصر كانت متقدمة زيادة، لبنان آيه هي كانت صغيرة، سوريه كانت شوية أهم، وفلسطين كانت أرض صغيرة، مصر كانت حاجة كبيرة عشانهم، يعني كان في شغل، كانوا ببيجوا وكانوا بيلقوا شغل، وقعدوا وأخذوا الجنسية المصرية، بس أصلهم برضوا فضل لبناني أو سوري أو فلسطيني.
المرأة خلف الكاميرا: يعني ممكن نقول أن النهار داه المجتمع المصري مختلف، يعني في ناس جايبين من أماكن مختلفة جدا..
المرأة: cosmopolitan.
المرأة خلف الكاميرا: أوي...
المرأة: cosmopolitan.
المرأة خلف الكاميرا: يعني في ناس..في إيطاليين، في ناس من أصل يوناني، في ناس من أصل أرمني، في ناس من أصل لبناني...
المرأة: متلخيطين أوي..متلخيطين أوي..
المرأة خلف الكاميرا: متلخيطين خالص. ودي حاجة حلوة في الشعب المصري أن كل واحد ليه شكل مختلف، وبيتكلم لغة مختلفة، ويعني في ناس من كل حنة، من سوريا، في عرب، وفي ناس من أصل أوروبي..
المرأة خلف الكاميرا: مصر كانت تملي إيديها مفتوحة، كانت تملي تستقبل، استقبلت تملي، كل الناس يعني بحب و...
المرأة خلف الكاميرا: ودا من وقت زمان أوي من الفراغنة يعني.
المرأة: من وقت زمان ولغاية دلوقتي كمان بتكمل.

English translation:

Woman voice: So, who used to be here? Italians and ... ?

Woman (white shirt): There used to be Italians, there used to be French, there used to be Greeks, there used to be a lot of Armenians ... the Armenians were in charge of all the work that had to do with gold, and

Woman voice: Jewellery and such?

Woman (white shirt): Yes, jewellery, they were the

Woman voice: There are still a lot of Armenians.

Woman (white shirt): Yes, there are still a lot; if you go to the Khan al Khalili market, for example, all of the jewelers there are Armenians, of Armenian origins.

Woman voice: There were also a lot of Greeks, especially in Alexandria, right?

Woman (white shirt): Yes, they were more in Alexandria than in Cairo, more than in Cairo ... they were a lot

Woman voice: I also heard that a lot of people came from the Levantine countries, Syria and Lebanon ... and they came to Egypt, and they got citizenship, and they worked here ... a lot of them working in the media, at the *Al-Ahram* newspaper¹ and such

Woman (white shirt): Yes ... Yes

Woman voice: So, I wanted to get your opinion on this issue?

Woman (white shirt): Yes, there used to be There is something you must know: there have been Palestinians, Lebanese, Syrians, and Jordanians in Egypt for a very, very long time. They used to come to Egypt because they used to say about Egypt that it was the “mother of the world.”

Woman voice: It really is the mother of the world.

Woman (white shirt): They used to call it “the mother of the world,” and Egypt was much more developed than Lebanon. What was Lebanon? I mean it was small. Syria was a bit more important, and Palestine was a geographically small piece of land, Egypt was something big for them. I mean there were jobs. They used to come and find work, and they stayed and took Egyptian citizenship, but their origin remained Lebanese, Syrian, or Palestinian.

Woman voice: I mean can we say that today the Egyptian society is different? I mean there are people coming from very different places...

Woman (white shirt): Yes! Cosmopolitan...

¹ The *Al Ahram* newspaper is one of the oldest Egyptian newspapers, in circulation since 1875, and one of the most widely-distributed newspapers in the country. It also has weekly editions published in French and in English.

Woman voice: Yes, very much so, I mean there are Italians, and people of Greek origin, there are people of Armenian origin, there are people of Lebanese origin...

Woman (white shirt): They are very mixed...They are very mixed...They are very mixed...

Woman voice: Yes they are completely mixed, and this is a beautiful thing of the Egyptian people, that everyone has a different appearance, and speaks a different language, I mean there are people from everywhere, from Syria, there are Arabs, and there are people of European origin...

Woman (white shirt): Egypt has always had open hands,² she always used to welcome, she always welcomed all people with love and generosity.

Woman voice: And this has been the case for a long time, since the Pharaohs I mean.

Woman (white shirt): Yes for a long time, and until today she does that.

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.

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² This must be understood as the equivalent of “to welcome with open arms” in English.