

Egyptian Arabic transcript :

الرجل: أنا عمري ما فكرت في السفر، بس لو اتهممت في مشروع ممكن افكر فيه. أنا عمري ما فكرت بطريقة جدية في السفر، يعني كذا ناس بتيجي تعمل طلبات عندي في مكتبتني بتبقى كمبيوتر. الحمد لله مستوى الكمبيوتر عندي كويس فيستخدم مستواي داه إن أنا أتاجر فيه، أو أتكسب من وراه، في ناس بتكتب وأنا بعيد على الكمبيوتر لأن مش كل الناس هون عندها كمبيوترات. فبتبقى معظمها طلبات للسفر للخارج، يعني معظم الشباب بيشرح إنو يسافر للخارج، لكن أنا ضد كده يعني، مبحش إن أنا أسافر بره مثلاً. أنا عاوز أدم نفسي داخلياً الأول وابتدي مثلاً... أبدا من بلدي. بلدي كويسه، بس عايزه سباب كويسين، لو أجتهد حياقي نفسه، وحياقي هدفه. هنا معظم الشباب مش عارف هو عاوز آيه، عشان كده هو نفسه تلاقيه بجواه هو نفسه أنه عاوز حد يديله القرارات وعاوز حد يملي عليه القرارات. مش صعب قرار، لكن هو عايز حد يملي عليه القرارات كده وهو إلي ينفذ. أنا ليه أشتغل عند واحد غريب ويره بلدي ويذل كرامتي وأنا أقدر أعمل كده جوه بلدي، أنا أقدر ارفع المستوى الإقتصادي جوه البلد لكن بره البلد مضمئش كده يعني. حطع واتغرب واتبهذل وفي الآخر خالص حبقى بعث نفسي بالفلوس. الفلوس بقى آيه. لكن لو طالع أدرب أو أنا حبقى أعلى منهم آيه ممكن.

نجله: بس بالسفر.

الرجل: هو ممكن مثلاً لو سافرت، لو ربنا أراد وأنا سافرت داه بيقى حاجه كويسه، حبقى استفدت إن أنا تعرفت على ناس جديده، ووجوه جديده وصفقات جديده. يعني مسافر إننا أعمل شغل وأجي كتاجر بيقى أنا حافرح، ليه، لأنني أنا حتعرف على ناس جديديه، وتعاملات تجاربه جديده، وثقافات أنا عمري ما شفتها. بس دي فوائد السفر، لكن عشان أشتغل عند أي حد تاني بيقى أنا مش عاوز أسافر.

English translation:

Man: I have never thought about traveling. But I failed my project -- perhaps I will think about it. I never thought seriously about traveling, because many people come and arrange documents at my office supply store on the computer. Thank God, my level of computer [skills] is good, so I use my skill, I mean, ah to earn money from it or get profit from it. There are people who print documents on my computer, because not all the people have computers ... ah, so most of them are requests to travel abroad. Most young men are encouraged to travel abroad, but I'm against it, I mean. I don't like to travel outside Egypt. I want to support myself internally first, and start, for instance, start from my country. My country is good, but it needs good people; it needs good young men. If they work hard, they will find themselves, and will find their aims. Here, most of the young men don't know what they want; that's why they didn't succeed. They themselves, the missing thing is in themselves, because they want someone to decide¹ for them and want someone to give them decisions; they are not decisive. But they want someone to decide for them, and they will follow orders.

¹ Here it means to give them orders.

Why would I work for a foreigner or [one] from outside my country who insults my dignity, while I can do the same in my country? I can raise my economic standard inside my country -- but outside the country, I cannot guarantee that, I mean.

I will travel, and migrate, and suffer, and, at the very end, I would have lost myself for money, I mean; however, if I travel to train people or to become better than they are -- yes, perhaps.

Woman behind camera: But while traveling

Man: Maybe if I travel, if our God wanted, and I traveled, I mean ... this will be a good thing, but ... ah ... I would have benefited by knowing new people, and new faces, and new deals. I mean, if I travel to make business as a merchant, then I will be happy -- why? Because I will know new people, and see new deals and cultures that I have never seen.

Ah ... that's it; these are the benefits of traveling. But to work for someone else, then I don't want to travel.

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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