

**English Translation:**

**Woman behind camera:** So in case the death of a tribal sheikh, what happens next? Authority is, I mean, how...?

**Man:** ...aa... The tribal system is a hereditary one. It depends on family relation first then the mental qualification and the ability to rule. So if an eldest son of a tribal head, for instance, is not qualified mentally to rule...aaa... and socially, they take his younger brother. If he [the sheikh] doesn't have sons, only daughters, they must take either his brother to rule or one of his nephews.

**Woman behind camera:** Fine, is it true that the tribal sheikh has more than one wife? I mean, he practices polygamy in order to have a bigger number of sons?

**Man:** Polygamy in the tribal system is a pure Islamic practice, I mean, he goes up to four wives, and this is an Islamic system, not a tribal system.

**Woman behind camera:** True.

**Man:** ...aaa...if...aa... As four wives, there is no constant standard within the tribal system as for who will be...aa... I mean an heir or would inherit the position of sheikh after his father if he [a son] is this woman's son or that woman's son, it has no affect.

**Woman behind camera:** Yes.

**Man:** A father must decide who would succeed him first. I mean while he's alive, he would decide who will inherit the position of sheikh. Also, a sheikh's position isn't a mere inheritance; a sheikh needs preparation, I mean a tribal sheikh is prepared since [the time] he's a child. I mean his father chooses him, the sheikh, and prepares him since [the time] he's a child.

**Woman behind camera:** You mean they prepare him psychologically and physically.

**Man:** Since he's a child, he starts sitting next to the sheikh of the tribe. When he's still a child, he starts listening to what his father says and how he rules in tribal issues, in tribal conflicts, in divorce, in marriage, in crimes, in murders, in quarrels. He prepares him to learn to read and write. He must learn reading and writing, he learns to shoot and use a gun, he learns to be courageous and leave at night with no fear. So he has to learn manhood and manhood standards and courage. He learns faith; he must be a believer, he must be a good Muslim; he must be religious, I mean, to rule the right way from his father and from tribal meetings that he attends. When he grows up, he is well prepared to be a tribal sheikh in case the tribal sheikh dies or...

**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 everyday. 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.

© 2003-2012 Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and Five Colleges, Incorporated