

CultureTalk Iraqi Arabic Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Women in Tribal Law

English Translation:

Man: A woman in general, unfortunately, under the tribal law has a very weak role and it might be passive; and she has no role and has no word. Sometimes, more than one woman is given, given... of course under the tribal law, she mustn't be insulted and mustn't be attacked, and her chastity is protected for life, when a woman is given as a hostage¹. She is not given to be harassed. She's given either as a wife or as a helper, for instance, [to] a certain family to serve and take care of them. However, she constantly regrets her fate and hurts inside. And many songs and Iraqi common epics deal with this subject to point out the oppression against women in this aspect. She would always say, "I, I.." she calls herself *fasleya*². *Fasleya* means she was given as a *fasel*³

Woman behind camera: She was given as a *fasel*. You mean her right is gone?

Man: Her right is gone and she moved, she left her family and friends in her tribe and moved to another tribe and started serving that tribe and she stays *fasleya*.

Woman behind camera: She stays *fasleya* because, I mean, they used her to solve a problem.

Man: Exactly.

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.

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¹ Hostage here means a woman given to solve a tribal issue. She's a hostage because she has no right to decide to refuse the final decision that was made against her. Also she would go and serve the other tribe for the rest of her life.

² *Fasleya*: a woman given to solve a *fasel*.

³ *Fasel*: an Iraqi term for a compromise between two tribes.