

Moroccan Arabic transcript:

ن: الآباء يتحكمو في قرارات التعليم, الزواج و الحاجات دي أو دي حاجات بعيدة عنهم؟
ب: آآ كابينن, أنا كنعرف عائلات كان عندهم, الوالدين هما ألي اخذو القرار في الزواج و في لقراية ديالهم و لكن بعد يعني بالزاف فيهم كتلقو طراو مشاكل من بعد ندمو علي هذيك القرارات. أنا الحمد لله في البيت ما عمرهم قاع ما بالنسبة للقرارات ديال الدراسة ديالي خذيتها للراسي, بالنسبة للقرار ديال اني ندخل ميدان التعليم أنا ألي خذيته, قراري اني نجي لهذا فأنا ألي خذيته فيعني كان ندفع الاوراق و هذاك الشئ و كان نقولها لهم و كان يفرحو و يقولو أي حاجة عندها علاقة بالمستقبل ديالك فما يمكنش اننا نقفو فيها و نحن... واخة قاع قرار الزواج, ما يمكنش, عمرهم ما يقدر و ما يمكنش انهم يفرضو علينا هذا.

ن: كيف الرد تاع بابك كان لقرار انك تجي للولايات المتحدة؟

ب: كان يرحب بالزاف لان أي, هو يعني من صغرنا كان ربانا علي ما كينش شي حاجة احسن من التعليم فالواحد انه قارئ ماشي كيف واحد ماهو قاريش. واحد انه متعلم و ناجح في حياته العملية هذيك هي, يعني احسن حاجة هي الوالدين يقدر و يطلبو لولادهم فمنين يعرف انه كاين واحد ال program ألي هو غادي نعيش, غادي نمشي مثلا عام لمريكا و غادي نعيش لوحد و غادي نقرأ و غادي ينفعني هذ الشئ في الميدان العملي ديالي, يرحب به 200 في ال 100 فديما كنتاصل به أول حاجة ألي كان يوصيني عليها هي الدروس ألي كان نأخذو هنيا و الحاجة ألي غادي تنفعني منين نرجع للمغرب و يعني هو ماشي من النوع ألي يقول فرض عليك وحد الحاجة اولاً يمنع عليك وحد الحاجة. يعني هذي الحاجة كنحمد عليها سيد ربي لان مثلا السفر حتي داخل المغرب اولاً خارج المغرب كان نساغر لوحد و يعني ما كيكون ليش لا ما تسافر ليش اولاً لا ما ديريش و خصوصا الي كانت عندها علاقة بالميدان ديال العمل ديالي, فمعمره ما, بالعكس ألي حاجة فيها انها خادي تعاونك القدام, يقولك ما نمنعكش عليها.

English translation:

N: Do the parents decide their child's education, marriage, and things like that or are they entirely up to the person, him/herself?

B: I know of families who decide their children's marriage and education. But after many problems occurring when making these decisions, the parents realized that it was not a good idea to do so. *Alhamdulillah*¹, in my house, my parents never decided for us. In terms of my education, I decided myself. Similarly, I was the one to decide to go into teaching and the same is true for me coming here. When I was sending my application and I told them about it, they were very happy and they said: "Any thing that has

¹ *Alhamdulillah*: Thank God (literally: "Praise Allah"): An Arabic expression used in a variety of contexts, but most often to express thankfulness for or an awareness of grace in any good thing.

something to do with your future, we cannot stop you from doing.” Even when it comes to marriage, they would never force me to get married.

N: What was your father’s reaction to your decision to come to the USA?

B: He was very welcoming to the idea. Since we were young children, he raised us with emphasis on the importance of education, because an educated person is not the same as uneducated person. The best thing parents can hope for is an educated child who is also successful in his career. When my father heard that I will be coming to the USA for one year, which will be very helpful in my career, he was very welcoming and happy about it. For this, whenever I called him from here, the first things he asks me about are my classes, which will be very helpful to me once I go back to Morocco. He is not the type of person who forces you or prohibits you from doing certain things, which is something I often thank God for. Also, when traveling either inside or outside Morocco, I always travel by myself. He never said no to something of this sort, especially if it is related to my career; the opposite: if a certain thing will be helpful to me in the future, he would never object.

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