

CultureTalk North Africa Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Equality and Merit in Islam

Moroccan Arabic transcript:

ب: انا كفريت على آآ علي ex-Cat Stevens ألي دخل الاسلامولي يوسف إسلام، قال وحد القول: "الحمد لله ألي عرفت الاسلام قبل ما نعرف المسلمين" فما تحكمش على الاسلام مني انا لان ما كييعنيش اتنبي انا هو المثال ديار الاسلام و انا هو الاسلام غادي على رجليه، لا، انا واحد مسلم انا انسان خطأ يعني بالاخطاء ديالي بال حاجات ألي هي مزاينة فيا و هذا ما كييعنيش اني اذا درت شي حاجة خالية تلوم الاسلام. لا، الاسلام من سميته سلام يعني الدين ديار الاسلام، الدين ألي جا ألي احترم الناس كاملين، ماشي بحال دابا في الدول الاسلامية كانوا اليهود عايشين. كان سيد النبي عليه الصلاة و السلام عايش حداه يهودي...

ن: صحيح

ب: كانوا كيديرو التجارة معاهم يعني كانوا اهل الدين ما كانوا الناس، يعني كان متزوج بوحدة ألي هي قبطية.
ن: اسيوصو بهم، لأهل الكتاب يعني...

ب: يعني كتشوف ان ان الدين و ان تاريخ ديار الاسلام كامل كيبيين انه يعني دين ديار تسامح، دين ديار التعاون، دين ديار يعني دين ديار آآ انك خوك تهز به، انك خوك تعاونه يعني لا فرق بين عربي و عجمي إلا بالتفويي...
ن: و الناس سواسية كأسنان المشط

ب: يعني ما كلينش فرق...

ن: حتى العبودية يعني الناس كانوا يتعاملو على اساس اللون color يعني و لكن لما جا الاسلام حرم الحاجة دي اننا نتعامل و الاعلام بالنيات يعني حتى الرسول عليه الصلاة و السلام كان يقول لفاطمة بنته: "اعملی فاطمية فألي لا اعي الله عنك شئ" حتى فاطمة بنت النبي ما يعطيها إلا عملها يعني لا فرق بين عربي او عجمي إلا بالتفويي...

ب: و ما كانش فرق بين لمرا و الرجال و لا هو اقوى اولا احساس يعني شوف القيمة ألي اعطي الاسلام للدين اولا الى عطي سيدنا النبي عليه الصلاة و السلام للمرة ان اول مرا حملت شق، حملت سر ديار النبوة ديار هو هي امرا فيعني نحن دابا كنقولو لا و هذيك غير امرا اولا لا، يعني بالزارف ديار آآ لعيالات كانوا كيمشو معاهم للحرب. كانوا كيكونو هم الممرضات، كانوا هم كييعونهم بذوق الطبول بذوق كييعونهم كيكونو مثلا في ازمة...

ن: السيدة أسماء كانت بتأخذ الاكل لبابها و النبي عليه الصلاة و السلام يعني و كانت لسى صغيرة في السن و لكن كان لها دور عظيم و مزال حتى. هي المشكلة عندنا اتنا نحن ما نعرفش هذي الاشياء يعني الرجال لو يعرفو ان المرأة كيدا، او حتى السبات...

ب: تعرف قيمتها...

ن: تعرف قيمتها و ان دينها دالها كل الحق انها تعمل لا قال لها تعدي في البيت و ما تشاركيش في الحياة العملية و لا
قال لها تنزلي عن حقرفك...

English translation:

B: I once read about ex-Cat Stevens who converted to Islam and became Yusuf Islam and he said: “Thank God that I got to know Islam before knowing Muslims.” So, do not judge Islam based on me as if I am the role model or a walking Islam. Of course, I am not. I am just a Muslim and a human being: I make mistakes and I do good things, but it does not mean that, if I make a mistake, you blame Islam. From its name Islam means peace. It is a religion of peace and respects all people. For example, there are Jews living in all Muslim countries. The prophet Mohamed (peace be upon him) used to live next door to a Jew. They used to trade with each other and he even got married to a Coptic woman.

N: [Inaudible question]

B: From the history of Islam, we can see that it is a religion of forgiveness and collaboration. It is a religion where you help your brother; there is no difference between Arab and non-Arab except when it comes to their deeds and intentions.

N: And all people are equal like the bristles of a brush...

B: There is no difference...

N: Before, trading and relationships were based on skin color and, when Islam came, it prohibited this practice: all deeds are based on one's intentions. Even the prophet Mohamed (peace be upon him) used to tell his daughter Fatima: “Work... [Inaudible].” Even Fatima, the daughter of the prophet, will only be rewarded for her own deeds. So there is really no difference between Arab and non-Arab except when it comes to their deeds and intentions.

B: And there is no difference between a woman and a man: he is not better or stronger than she is. The value that Islam has given the woman is huge. The first person to know about the prophecy of Mohamed (peace be upon him) was a woman. We tend to say: “Oh, she is just a woman;” no, she is more than that. There were many women who fought with men in the war. They were the nurses and encouraged the men in battle.

N: Just like Asm'a¹, she used to bring food to her father and the prophet (peace be upon him). It is something very small but it meant a great deal. Our problem is that we do not know about these people. I also feel that men need to know how to value women more, and women need to value themselves. It is not true that her only role is to stay at home and not participate in the society—they just agree to renounce their rights.

¹ Asm'a is the daughter of Abu Bakr who was the first Muslim Khalifa (Caliph or successor) after the death of the prophet Mohamed (peace be upon him).

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