

**Pashto transcript:**

چی ددی نه بغیر مطلب پښتون culture د پښتون part دا یو داسی مطلب یو hospitality میلستیا  
culture is nothing.

honor کی هغه سری ډیر د عزت والی یی، ډیر د culture پښتون مطلب، په culture پښتون  
چی هغه طبعاً، والی یی  
who—who is very hospitable, and I must say that all of the Pashtuns<sup>1</sup> are like that  
system, each and everywhere. حجره —like there is a

دغسی ده نو زمونږه خپله یوه حجره ده. family زمونږه یو لویه ، ده family زمونږ خپله چی کوم مطلب  
باندی village level ، که تاسو واخلی، نو مطلب په countryside level, village level مطلب په  
کولای شو. entertain حجره یی، یا مطلب یو داسی خای چی چیر ته مونږه یو خپل میلمه

او مطلب هر پښتون دا یو خپل،  
—they feel honored when they entertain a guest... They try their level best to entertain  
them in the best possible way, whoever they are, like, whatever is their, like whether they  
are poor or they are well-off.

نو هغوی چی کم دی د خپل میلمه ډیر خیال ساتی، ما چی څنگه وویلی چی دا هغوی خپل یو عزت گنی  
گنی چی مطلب یو سری راشی او د هغی عزت وکی. honor یو

پښتانه چی کم دی، زمونږه چی خپله حجره ده نو مطلب دورخی ډیر خلک رایی  
as guests. کیری مطلب زمونږ entertain او هلته مطلب

And it's a part of our culture; it is not something... like we want to do, but this is a part of  
our culture; these are our traditions!

**English translation:**

*Melmastia*<sup>2</sup> or hospitality is a part of the Pashtun<sup>3</sup> culture, without which Pashtun culture  
is nothing.

<sup>1</sup> Due to regional dialectal differences, the speaker pronounces Pashtun (پښتون) as Pakhtun here.

<sup>2</sup> *Melmastia* (میلستیا) is the word for hospitality in Pashto. In *Pashtunwali* or the Pashtun ethical code, *melmastia* refers to the requirement the culture places on Pashtuns which is to require “hospitality and profound respect to be shown all visitors, regardless of distinctions of race, religion, national affiliation as well as economic status and doing so without any hope of remuneration or favour.” (*Melmastia*. (n.d.). In *Wikipedia*. Retrieved October 18, 2012, from <http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Melmastia&direction=prev&oldid=522706550>)

<sup>3</sup> The word Pashtun refers to the Pashtun tribe and culture and depending on the dialect of the language it is pronounced Pashtun or Pakhtun. The speaker uses the Pakhtun pronunciation, which is also a common pronunciation of the word Pashtun in Pakistan.

Pashtun culture, in Pashtun culture, that person is respected and honored very highly who naturally, who—who is very hospitable, and I must say that all of the Pashtuns are like that, like there is a *hujra*<sup>4</sup> system, each and everywhere.

Like our own family, for instance, we have a big family, so we have our own *hujra*. Similarly, if we take a village or the countryside, there is a *hujra* [even] in the village, or there will be a place which we could use to entertain our guests.<sup>5</sup>

And I mean, every Pashtun—they feel honored when they entertain a guest... They try their level best to entertain them [the guest(s)] in the best possible way, whoever they are, like, whatever is their, like whether they are poor or they are well-off.<sup>6</sup>

So they still take great care of their guest; as I said they consider it [entertaining and taking care of a guest] a dignified act, an honor, for instance, when someone comes [to their house] and they honor them.

Pashtuns are, like the *hujra* that we have; so for instance, during the day many people come and are entertained there as our guests.

And it is a part of our culture; it is not something... like we want to do, but this is a part of our culture; these are our traditions!

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<sup>4</sup> *Hujra* (هجره) is a Pashto word commonly used in the predominantly Pashtun parts of Pakistan to refer to a place for entertaining guests. (Mehmaan khana. (n.d.). In *Wikipedia*. Retrieved February 4, 2013, from [http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Mehmaan\\_khana&oldid=535500876](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Mehmaan_khana&oldid=535500876))

<sup>5</sup> Giving an example of his own family having a *hujra*, the speaker means that *hujra* is very common and thus anyone can hold such a gathering that will resemble *hujra* style hospitality and socializing environment and space.

<sup>6</sup> What the speaker here means is that they entertain guests in the best possible way no matter who the guest is, whether he/she is poor or rich.