

Levantine Arabic transcript:

المرأة: الثوب الفلسطيني، ثوب الملك، عندك ببيت لحم بيلبسوا ثوب الملك، مش هيك؟ أنت من بيت لحم، لهلاً بيلبسوا ثوب الملك؟

المرأة خلف الكاميرا: أيه إحنا من القدس بس ببيت لحم بيلبسوا بتصور.

المرأة: بلبسوا ثوب الملك، بس مش العروس بظن، ولا العروس لسا بلبسوها؟ كانت تلبس ثوب الملك المخمل.. حلو.. وتحط على راسها هاي الطاقية، بلبسوها الليرات الفضة، النصاص، والرابع، هذا كثير حلو.. بس حلو... الحلو انو إنتي لسا في بعض العادات الفلكلور لسا محافظ عليها. صراحة. يعني على مستوى التطريز والتراث الفلسطيني والعمل اليدوي بالعكس عم بتسوق بره بأوروبا، وبحاولوا أصلاً يسرقوه، بأمريكا أو بأوروبا. أنو انا بشوف الأجانب إلي بيحجوا هون عنا على الهلال كثير بحبوا قطعة مطرزة يعني ممكن تكون جزدان مطرزة، ممكن تكون هاد.. بلاقوها إشي كثير كبير. يعني وإحنا الحمد لله. يعني لا نزال. وكمان عم بنظوره بما يتناسب مع الموضه، بما يتناسب مع.. يعني لما بتعلمي دفتر تلفون مطرزة بتحطيه كثير مرتب، تعلمي كورنر عندك بالبيت، أرابيسك، أو تعلمي.. يعني كلوا هذا جميل. ولا يزال مطلوب. يعني وبالتالي إحنا بنحافظ عليه وبنظوره وفي طلب عليه. بنحاول أنو يعني هلاً، رح نعمل معرض إحنا قولنا هون بالهلال كمان.. هلا شوي.. قريب إن شاء الله.. معرض دائم. يكون في تسويق لأنو كثير في ناس بتيجي عنا. أجانب على الهلال وبيطلبوا دائماً التراث. وإحنا بنحاول حتى الأجانب إلي بيحجوا عنا، الهدايا إلي دايماً بنعطيهما هي تعكس تراثنا الفلسطيني. فهذا كثير شي مهم. وعنا فرق دبكة ما شاء الله، وبنعرضها دائماً بكل وفد بييجي. فرقة الدبكة الفلسطينية، يعني بالثوب الفلسطيني، بالحركة الخفيفة للشب والبننت جميله، وبتعكس الأغاني الفلسطينية، بتعكس المناطق الفلسطينية، بتعكس الوضع السياسي أحياناً والإقتصادي في البلد من خلال هاي الأغاني والدبكات. بتعكس.

English translation:

Woman: The Palestinian dress ... you have in Bethlehem the “angel” dress, isn’t it so? You are from Bethlehem? Do they still wear the “angel” dress?

Woman behind the camera: Yes. We are from Jerusalem, but in Bethlehem, I think, they wear it.

Woman: They wear the angel dress ... but I do not think the bride [does], or do they dress the bride [in it]? She used to wear the velvet “angel” [dress], pretty, and put on her head this hat; and they dress her with silver *liras* [coins], the halves, the quarters ... this is very pretty. But all of this ... but pretty ... the pretty [thing] is that you still preserve some of the traditions and the folklore ... honestly. I mean, on the level of Palestinian embroidery and tradition and handicraft - - on the contrary, it is being marketed outside, in Europe. And they tried to steal it, originally ... in the United States or in Europe. I see the foreigners who come to us here to the Crescent; they very much like a small piece of embroidery. I mean, it might be a wallet; it might be ... they think it’s something really great. I mean, we thank God, we still ... and we even develop it with

what is suitable according to the fashion, with what is suitable ... I mean when you make an embroidered phonebook [cover] and you put it [make it] very neatly -- when you make a corner [throw pillow] at your house -- an arabesque, or make I mean, all of this is beautiful, and it is still on demand; thus, we preserve it and we try to develop it, and there is demand for it, *wallah*. I mean, we try now to make an exhibition here in the Crescent, also -- soon, God willing, a permanent exhibition. There will be marketing, because many people come to us -- foreigners [come] to the Crescent and ask for tradition [traditional goods], and we try, even with the foreigners who come to us; even the presents that we give are those that reflect our tradition, the Palestinian. So this is a very important thing, and we have *dabke*¹ bands, *mashallah*,² and we always show it to every delegation that comes. The Palestinian *dabke* band, in the Palestinian dress ... the light movement of the *shab*³ and *benet*⁴ ... ah ... pretty. And it reflects the Palestinian songs; it reflects the areas; it sometime reflects the political situation and the economic situation in the country, through these very songs and *dabkaat*. Yes, it reflects....

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 Name of a Palestinian traditional dance.

² “God bless,” or “what God has willed.”

³ A term used in Arabic for a young man, between youth and manhood.

⁴ A term used in Arabic for a young women, practically means “girl.”