

Levantine Arabic transcript:

يعني عاداتنا وتقاليتنا خلينا نحكي في المناسبات زي رمضان والأعياد. وبالتالي هي عادات تقريباً في منطقة بلاد الشام كلها وحده. هلا زيارة الأقارب مثلاً في رمضان مثلاً، الدعوات، الأهل، والعلاقات الاجتماعية والإنسانية بتتوطد أكثر. صلة الرحم إلى تكون بين الأقارب بتتوطد أكثر في رمضان. العزائم لا تزال موجودة لعلمك. حتى لو الواحد تلاقي مسكين معوش بدين من شان يعزم بنتوا أو يعزم أخوه أو يعزم أخيه برمضان. وبالتالي هاي هي بيعتبروه من الناحية الدينية وصلة الرحم كثير يعني مفروض عليهم بهذا الشهر الفضيل. بالأعياد كمان، زيارة القبور من العادات المتوارثتها الناس، صلة الرحم أول يوم بالعيد، حتى يعني بتلاقيه بنت عموماً لازم يزورها بالعيد، لازم يروح يعيدها، لازم يقلها كل عام وإنني بخير. وبالتالي هاي الأعياد الرسمية والمناسبات بتلاقي فيه العلاقات الاجتماعية بتتوطد أكثر. وبالتالي هاي كثير مهم. يعني أنا بقول للأطفال إلى عايشين أو للأسر إلى بالهجرة بره. أنو هاي كثير مهم. نقول أنا والله بحسن فايد، فش عندي عيد. يعني المفروض حتى لو مكنش في أقارب، كان في أصدقاء كثير لازم تعرفي الأطفال أنو هذه عاداتنا، هذا تراثنا، في إشي اسمو رمضان، شهر كريم، تعلمي الصيام، تعلميه كيف إنو يزور أخوه، يزور أخيه، تعلمي الأطفال إنو هدول ولاد عهم، أنو في عنا إحنا مناسبات وهاي بنهم فيها، بالأعياد قديش بنبط لما بزورو عموماً أو خالوا. يعني هاي صلة الرحم كثير مهمه كمان إنو الأطفال ينشوا عليها بهاي المناسبات الرسمية. وتعري في طقوس رمضان والعزائم والتتنوع بالغذاء، الأعياد والحلويات والشكولات، والعيدية، إلى لسا الأطفال بنبسطوا عليها، كيف العم بعيد ابن أخوه، كيف الحال بعيد ابن أخوه. يعني هي رمز وليس. بالرغم من الوضع الإقتصادي إلا تلاقي هاي، من وحنا صغاري، وأجداد أجدادنا، ولا تزال هاي العادات متوارثة. وإن شاء الله إحنا بنحب إنها كمان نظلنا محافظين عليها، لأنو فعلًا هي عادات.. بتتبسطي إنني لما بيجو.. كبرت بس بتقولي بي والله عمى ما أجا عندي هذا العيد، بتز علي، أو خالي ما أجا عندي. يعني وقديش بتتحسي حالك إنك أنت.. الأسرة كيف هيكم متمسكة، قاعدة، حديث واحد، بعيدوا على بعض.. هذا نوع يعتبروا من العادات وال culture إلى لازم إحنا نحافظ عليه.

English translation:

I mean our norms and traditions ... let us speak of occasions such as Ramadan and celebrations. Thus, traditions in the area of Belaad al-Sham¹ are similar. For example, visiting relatives during Ramadan -- the people, the social and human relations, are more established. Visiting relatives, which takes place among relatives, is more established during Ramadan. Invitations are still made, as you know. Even if one is poor, does not have [a thing], he goes in debt so that he can invite his daughter, or invite his brother, or invite his sister during Ramadan. It is considered from a religious point of view ... and visiting relatives, I mean, is strongly required for people during this virtuous month. Also during celebrations, visiting graves is one of the customs that people have inherited. Visiting relatives occurs on the first day of *Eid*, I mean, you even find him [someone] going to visit the cousin of his cousin; he goes to greet her, to tell her, "May every year find you in good health." Thus, you find that social relations are established in these official holidays and celebrations. Thus, they are very important. I mean, I say, [to] the children living, or the families who immigrated outside, that it is very important. To say, "God, I do not feel there is a celebration, I do not have a celebration." I mean, it is supposed to be [the case] that, even if you do not have relatives, there are many friends whom you should ... the children should know that this is our tradition; this is our

¹ Great Syria.

heritage; there is something called Ramadan, a noble month -- teach him fasting, teach him how to visit his brother, visit his sister, teach the children that there are their cousins, that we have occasions that we care about. How happy is he [the child] when he visits his uncles during celebrations. I mean, visiting relatives is very important. Also, those children grow up on it [visiting relatives] on these occasions ... and know the rituals of Ramadan, the invitations, and the diversity in food, the feasts, and the sweets and the chocolates, and the *eid*² -- which the children feel happy about -- how the uncle gives money to his niece, how the uncle gives money to his nephew. I mean it is a symbol not ... in spite of the economic situation, you will still find that, since we were children and [since] our great grandfathers, these are the inherited traditions. And, God willing, we would like to continue preserving them, because, in fact, such traditions ... you feel happy when they come ... you have gotten old, but you still say "oh God, my uncle did not come to see me this *Eid*." You feel sad ... or my uncle did not come to see me. And how much do you feel that you yourself ... the family is cohesive, sitting, they speak as one, they celebrate with each other. This is the kind of tradition and culture that I think we should preserve.

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² Money given to children during Ramadan.