

**Levantine Arabic transcript:**

الرجل: بمعنى أنو قبل ما أصمم أي حركة بدني أسأل حالي. هل أنا حافظت على التراث ولا أضفت عليه؟ وإذا أضفت عليه وكانت الإضافة جيدة. هل بعد عشر سنين أو بعد خمسين سنة، الحركة إلي أنا أضفتها صفت تراث من ضمن التراث الموجود ولا إشي واضح بالنسبة للناس إلي بدربووا جديد أو الناس إلي بدخلوا المساحة هذه. عنا إشي ثاني. الحركة المسرحية إليها تأثير كمان. المسرح هو أصلا ثقافة غربية، باعتقادي ثقافة غربية، مش موجود بترائنا إلا بإشي، بديش أحكي بإشي رسمي إشي واضح، بس عمليا كل حياتنا دراما إذا أجييتي للمزبوط. يعني أصل الثقافة الإسلامية العامة، يعني من سنوات، من أول ما بلشت الأدمية تمشي على الأرض، في إشي إلة علاقة بالتعبير والحركة والجسد. الطفل لما يبيلش يكبر شوي شوي عمليا بعمل حركات درامية، بمثل، بقيم، بعمل شغلة، بتهيالوا ماسك صحن بوكل من صحن، عمليا دراما. أنا بدني أحكي عن المسرح كشي أكاديمي إشيء ثقافي بحت. لأنو ما أظنش إنو كان موجود، يعني إشي إلو علاقة بالفن الشعبي أو التراث الشعبي. حاليا في حركة مسرحية، قديش الحركة المسرحية بتندعم الثقافة إلي خاصة بالفن الشعب أو الفنون الشعبية إلى عنا موجوده بشكل عام. بحكي فنون لأنا عمالنا بنعبر، التطريز فنون، الرقص فنون، القصة فنون، الممثل فنون، المحكية والحركية كمان..

**English translation:**

Man: I mean, before I design any move I have to ask myself, did I preserve the tradition, or did I add to it? And if [I] added to it, was the addition good? After ten or fifty years, the move which I added became a tradition within the existing tradition, or something clear to the people who are new trainees, or to the people who enter this space. We have a second thing. The theatrical movement has an impact as well. Theater is originally a [form from] western culture; I think it is not found in our tradition. It is not found in a formal way – practically, all of our life is drama, if you want the truth. I mean, the origin of the general Islamic culture ... I mean, for many years, since humans began walking on earth, there is something that has to do with expression, movement, and the body. The child, when he starts growing, he as a matter of course makes dramatic moves. He acts, carries, does something -- he thinks of carrying a plate and eating from it. Practically drama. I want to speak about theater as something academic, as something culturally pure. Because I do not think it was present -- I mean something that has a relationship to popular art or popular tradition. Currently, there is a theatrical movement ... how much the theatrical movement supports the culture relating to popular art, or popular arts we have in general. I'm speaking of [the] arts because we are being expressive: embroidery is art, dance is art, story is art, a proverb is art -- the oral and animated, as well.

**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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