

Tunisian Proverbs

Part 2

Tunisian Arabic transcript:

مثل وحد اخر يقول لك ما تحاولش تغطي عين الشمس بالغربال. يعني كان ليك حاجة غالطة، حاولش باش تلقى اسباب، حاولش باش تلقى اعدار، غلطة غلطة. يعني ما تغضش عليها النظر و تقول لا، مش هاك و ما تتخيلش هاك. حاجة واضحة و متأكد انها واضحة، ça y est ما كان باش تتصرف على اساسك هناك. مثل وحد اخور يقول لك، الي قصدت، اقصد دار كبيرة. يعني كان حايب باش تطلب خدمة، مشي لعبد تعرفه كبير، تعرفه من الخصال تاغه انه كريم و يساعد لعباد و فاهم، ما تقصدش واحد بخيل باش تطلب منه مساعدة يعني مساعدة مادية او معنوية. مثل وحد اخر يقول لك: المجراب تحك له مرافقه. يعني مثلا انت تبدا تحكي و ماكش تقصد يعني ماك متوجه بحديثك لعبد او شخص معين اما يعني الشخص الي يخصه حديثك او تعليق سلبي او اجابي باش هو في الحالة هذه هي، حالة المسألة هذه هي غالبا سلبي. فمثلا انت تحكي على عبد مقصر في الواجبات تاغه، ماكش تقول له انت مقصر، ماكش انت تواجه بالحديث له هو دير اكنمو اما باش يقول لك آه تقصدني أنا، رغم الي انت ما قصدتس ما قلت لئس انت بالذات اما يقول لك: المجراب تحك له مرافقه. الي هو من الداخل عارف، الي هو الي مقصر في الحاجة هذيك. فمثل وحد اخر يقول لك... كف و كعبة حلوة. يعني آآ تبدا انت في وسط حديث و تقول حاجة باهية و من بعد تقول حاجة سلبية معناها على الشخص ولا مع الشخص الي انت تحكي معه و من بعد ترضيه بكلمة حلوة، كف و كعبة حلوة. هاك و هاك، مرة هاك و مرة هاك الي هو سيستم باهي ف آمم كيما قلنا يعني الامثال تهو ما نجمش نستحضر برشة امثال على خاطر آآ يجيو في وقتهم، يجيو في الكونتاكس تاغهم في لحظتهم، ينطبقو على حالة معينة.

English Transcript:

Another proverb tells you: Do not try to cover the eye of the sun with the *ghorbal*¹. It means that if you noticed that something is wrong, do not keep on doing it. Do not try to find reasons and do not try to find excuses; wrong is wrong. It means don't try to ignore it and say: No...it's not like that... I don't think that it is like that... If the thing is clearly wrong and you are sure that it is wrong, ça y est², you have to act on the basis that it is wrong.

Another proverb tells you: If you are knocking on a house door, choose a big house to knock on its door. Once you decide to ask for help, look for a generous person first. A person of whom you are quite sure that among his virtues is generosity, helpfulness and understanding. Don't ask for help from a stingy person. I mean any kind of help – financial or mental help. Another proverb tells you: The scabby person always has itching elbows. It means... For instance, you are saying something but you are not addressing a specific person by your speech. But the person who felt concerned by your speech or positive or negative comment (in this proverb or case it is always negative)... For example, you are talking about someone who is not doing his job as he should be doing it. You will not tell this person directly that he is slacking on doing his duties. But he will feel aimed at and will tell you: Ah! Are you talking about me? Even though you did not mention it clearly that you are targeting him with your words. The proverb tells you: The

¹ *Ghorbal*: A pan with holes used mainly to cook couscous.

² Ça y est: that's it

scabby person always has itching elbows. It means that from inside he knew that he is the guilty one.

Another proverb tells you: One slap and one sweet. It means that while you are talking to someone, you say something bad that he did, which is hurtful, and then you mention something good that he did also just to comfort him. One slap and one sweet is a good system... So... like we said, the proverbs are... Now I cannot remember a lot of them since they come in a specific context and moment; they can be valid for specific situations.

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