

CultureTalk North Africa Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Marrying and Having Children in Tunisia

Tunisian Arabic transcript:

الحياة الاجتماعية في تونس... يعني آلا تونس آلا فترة الزواج، الفترة ألي يخمن فيها الشاب او الصبية باش يتجوز، الشاب عادة يكون عمره ثمنية وعشرين فترة متأخرة الى نقارنها بالاعمار في بلدان اخرى يعني شاب تونسي يعتبر آلا يعني العمر ألي هو يقرر فيه الزواج غيره في مصر ولا في آلا في سوريا يكون معرس و بصغاره... ووو و لبنات يعني آلا ساعات خمسة وعشرين، ثمنية وعشرين تبقها مزاللت ما عرستش. اذا قررو انهم يتتجوزو... ما عندناش حكاية انها لمرا تعرس، الطفلة تعرس وتعيش مع حماتها في الدار يعني لحكاية هذه ملغية تماما من تفكير ل لمرا او حتى الرجال التونسي يعني. الى قادر يتتجوز و يحل دار، يتتجوز الى مش قادر ياجلها الفكرة... آلا... كيما تعرف السكنة ثم لحما ومرة ولدها تعمل برشا مشاكل. قبل كانت تصير لحكاية، كانوا قبل يعني ناس قبل دار عربي كبيرة و سط دار كلها بيوت بيوت يعني الطفل كيurus ياخذ بيت من بيوت هذه هي ويعيش مع امه و بوه آلا فهو ما عادش لحكاية هذه هي كيما قلت لك، يعني يعيشو في دار لوحدهم صغيرة، كبيرة ألي عطوه لهم ربي، ألي متوفرون عندهم يعيشو به آلمم مستوى العيشة في تونس اغلى آلا على هذاك تلقى العائلات يعني ما ما يكتروش كيجي، كتونصل لحكاية للصغار و جيبان الصغار يخمو ثالث مرة قبل ما يجيبو الصغير اللول و الثاني و الثالث، ماكسم يعني في ال الاسرة تلقى ثلاثة صغار. كلقيت اربعة حالة يعني استثنائية اما عادة ثلاثة صغار، لبنات و لولاد ألي جابو ربي مبروك ما يزيدوش على ثلاثة صغار.

English Transcript:

Now, we shall talk about social life in Tunisia. The time that a young man or woman thinks of getting married in Tunisia is usually 28 years old for men, which is late timing in comparison to the age in other countries. The age at which a young Tunisian man decides to get married, a person of his age in Egypt or Syria has already married and has children. For young women, at times you find them 25 to 28 years old and they are still not married. If they decided to get married, we don't have the idea that if the girl gets married, she has to live with her in-laws. This idea is completely outside of the thinking of any Tunisian man or woman. If they can get married and have a house, they can do that and if they are not able, they postpone the idea. As you know, living with in-laws can generate a lot of problems. Earlier, it was possible; you would find an old house with rooms for each of the boys who got married and lived with his mother and father. Of course, this is no longer true; they [the married couple] live in a small house by themselves and live with whatever they can afford.

Living standards in Tunisia have gotten higher for this: you find families don't give birth to too many children; they think about it a lot before they have the first, second and third child. In a family, you find a maximum of three children; if you find four, it is an exceptional case – usually only three and it doesn't matter if they are girls or boys, but they never exceed three children.

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 every day. 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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