

CultureTalk Western Sahara Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>  
**Drinking Milk on a Summer Evening**

**Hassaniya Arabic transcript:**

- إمرأة 1:** بسم الله، هذا اللبن لاهي أنفرغه في البوش ألين يطعم... أسكني يا منتي أسكني... ألين يطعم و انعودو أنزرقو به، أمنين يطعم
- إمرأة 2:** أعطيتها أميها تمصمص، أعطيتها أميها تمصمص الجيرة
- إمرأة 1:** إيلاه شوي من الما في أيدك ديرو هون، أشوي لا تكثر... كافي كافي... أمنين أمنين يطعم لاهي أنخلوه الين يطعم و نزرغو به، أنديرو الما و أنديرو اللبن و نحرکه أباش يتخلط، ذاك الي كان أمطمم و ذاك الي جى أدريك... أصلا أماتنا اديروه الا في الشكاوى معدلات من الجلد. أنديروه في الجيرة أعلي الما و لاهي أنعدلو الزريق و نشربه... نحن أدريك في فصل الصيف و فصل الصيف ذا نقعدو برا... أمنين أيعود اعلينا فصل الصيف هاط بينا الحمان، لبيوت حامين و أقواطين حامين، نقعدو برا و نجمعو انعدلو الشراب و نوكلو برا أملي أمنين ايعود الظل، المغرب مثلاً، الليل ذا، وقت الليل نقعدو برا وقت النهار ندخلو في البيوت... و زين عندنا هذا لبرود و هذا الجو ذرك زين عندنا. يغير أمنين نرجعو لارضنا باردة ما نمرقو برا نتمو قاعدين في أخيامنا و أنتمة قاعدين في أديارنا. يالا يعطينا لستقلال راجينها منعد مولانا و نطلب من الامم المتحدة عنهم يعدلونا حل أباش ايجينا استقلالنا و أنعودو حرين و انعودو في أرضنا و أنعودو سعءاء عابشين متمعين. و يمتع الصحراويين كاملين بوطنهم و يمتعهم بصحتهم في أرضهم طالبنها من عند مولانا. ايوا ذرك لاهي نبدأو نشربو... هاكي هاكي شربي
- إمرأة 2:** أعطيه يشرب
- إمرأة 1:** شربي ياتا، أنا أحلفت عنك تشربي
- إمرأة 2:** أبدأي أبدأي
- إمرأة 1:** أمي هاه،
- إمرأة 2:** أعطيه لرجل، ماهي زينة
- إمرأة 1:** هذه ذرك عادتنا، عادة عندنا. هذه أعطيناها تشرب و قالت عنها ماهي لاهي تشرب قدام الرجل و أنا أم العيال ما قادي لي، لاهي تشرب قدامه، يغير هي بما أنها أختي ماهي باقية تشرب قدام الرجل عندنا لمرا ما تشرب سابق الرجل، خص لمرا ما تشرب سابقه... هذه سيطرة مانعة...
- إمرأة 2:** بسم الله
- إمرأة 1:** حامدين مولانا و زين و طعمتو زينة و حلو، لبن لغنم زين.

## English translation:

**Woman 1:** *Bismillah*<sup>1</sup>, this is the milk we just milked. We pour it in the bottle and let it sit for sometime and ... Oh my dear daughter, leave that alone, leave it alone... Then we can mix it with water to make *ezrig*<sup>2</sup> and drink it...

**Woman 2:** Give her some water to rinse the bowl... Give her some water...

**Woman 1:** Pour a bit of water here... Not too much... That is enough, enough... We let the milk sit for sometime and when it is ready we can mix it with water to make *ezrig*... We have some water and then just add some milk... So, we mix it so that the old milk mixes with the freshly milked milk... This is a bottle but originally, our mothers used to have it [milk] in the *eshekwa*<sup>3</sup> – they are made of leather... To make *ezrig*, we add the milk to water and then drink it. Now we are in the summertime and during the summer, we stay outside... when it is summertime, because of the heat; when the mud-brick houses and the tents are too warm, we stay outside to chat, drink and eat together – when there is shade... when it is evening and a bit dark... in the evenings we stay outside and during the day we stay inside the houses. We like it outside because it is cooler and better weather. But when we return to our homeland [Western Sahara], it is much cooler and we do not need to be outside. We can just stay in our houses... We ask God to help us get our independence... And we ask the United Nations to find a solution so that we get our independence and we become free and have our land, become happy once again and live comfortably. May all the Saharawis get to enjoy their land and good health in their land – we ask God to grant us all of that.

And now, we can drink... here, have some to drink.

**Woman 2:** No, no, I cannot, you have to give it to the man to drink first.

**Woman 1:** I insist that you drink...

**Woman 2:** No, no, you should give it to the man first... it is not right!

**Woman 1:** It is our custom that... I gave this to the woman to drink but she refused to drink before the man – it is our custom that the man drinks first. But since I am the mother of the family, it is fine, I can drink before him. And because she is my sister, she does not want to drink before the man. It is a custom that the woman doesn't drink before the man... This is really true controlling... [laughs]

**Woman 2:** *Bismillah!*

**Woman 1:** We thank our Lord for it; it is very delicious, it is sweet and tastes good... Goat milk is very good.

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<sup>1</sup> *Bismillah*: In the Name of Allah: An Arabic expression used before starting something.

<sup>2</sup> *Ezrig*: A drink made from buttermilk mixed with water. Traditionally, the milk was first shaken in an *eshekwa* in the *humara* and then mixed with water.

<sup>3</sup> *Eshekwa*: A container made from camel leather used for conserving camel, goat, or sheep's milk. It hangs in the *humara*, which is made up of three sticks in a triangular shape. The *eshekwa* is shaken back and forth in the *humara* to produce buttermilk.

**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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