

Hassaniya Arabic transcript:

إمرأة: الصحرأويين من الساقية الحمراء و وادي الذهب، لاجئين في أرض الجزائر ... رايقتا العدو... و راعينا هذا ذرك الشراب لاهي نشربه. و قالعين منا أرضنا و هذا راعينا مضيقتنا الجزائر يعمرهم... هذا شي ينقال له الزيت نديره علي كسكس، هذا ذرك لغدى لاهي نديرو له الزيت و لاهي نديرو له السكر و نوكله. و هذا الشراب، هذا الشراب معدل من حليب جاف داعمينا به الدول الاوروبية، الدول يالي يعمرهم مضامنة مع شعب الصحراء من أجل العودة و الاستقلال ... هذا من النهار ألي جينا في اللجؤ و هما يدعمونا ذو الدول بأنواع، ألي يدعم بيودر هذا ألي يعدل به الشراب، حليب جاف كيف لحظة و كيف ما أدراك و ألي يدعم بنيديو، هذي ذرك وحدة من لبوط ألي نندعمو بها ... حق، و رانا شاكرين ذي الدول كاملة ألي تدعنا و ألي يدعم بالدقيق، الدقيق ذا معدل منه كسكس و هو ألي نتغداو به ذريك ... خالق بعض من العابلة ما يبغي يوكل كسكس هذا و منين المجهود ألا ذاك هو. أمنين يعود المجهود خالق، لاهي ينشري شي يندار علي لغدا، و لا عادت ما خالقة الفضة، نتغداو لغدا العادي، غدا عادات أهل الصحراء كسكس و الدهن و لا كسكس و الزيت ... و هذه هي الوجبة لاهي نوكلها يقولو لها كسكس ... بسم الله ... الطفيل ذرك ما هو باغي كسكس الغبة، كسكس الغبة هذا ياسر من الناس زين عنده قاع، زين نشوفه منين يعود فيه الزرع و التركة الصغيرة يبغو معاه ألا اللحم، أبوا اللحم أمنين تعود الفضة ما هي خالقة، اللحم ما يتم مداوم نوبة خالق و نوبة ما هو خالق ... الفضة تجي ألا منين يعود التركة شور الجولة يجيبوها من عند عايلاتهم، عاطينا مولانا العايلات تحتضن تركة الصحرأويين. ياسر من الصحرأويين ألي جابر الفضة لاهي تم يديرها في تغذيته اللحم و منين تعود الفضة ما هي خالقة، كسكس و لخبز و ليدام، و ليدام ألمي ألا ما حد لعدس خالق و لعدس عادلته شي عن عن يجي، أمنين يعود خالق يعدل منه ... هذه وجبة كسكس، زينة و حلو و زين.

English translation:

WOMAN: The Saharawis from Saguia Al-Hamra and Rio de Oro¹ are refugees in Algeria. We were chased by the enemies... and this is the drink that we drink. They forcibly took away our land from us and now Algeria is hosting us, may they be rewarded... This is oil and we will put it on the couscous... This right here is our lunch and we will add oil and sugar to it to eat it. And this is a drink – this drink is made of powdered milk that was given to us from European countries. The countries that support the Saharawi people (may they be rewarded) to return and to gain independence. Since the day we arrived to the refugee camps, these countries have been aiding us with all sorts of things like condensed milk that we make our drink with, and other kinds of condensed milk and baby formula. This right here is one of the cans they aid us with... That is right, and we would like to thank all these countries for their full support. And there are countries that aid us with flour, which we made this couscous with, which is what we will have for lunch. There are members of the family who don't like to eat couscous, but when it is the only thing found and one can't afford something to eat with it and there is no money, we just eat simple food. It is a Saharawi tradition to eat couscous with animal fat or with oil... and this is our meal today – it is couscous... *Bismillah*²... This child here doesn't want to eat simple couscous. Actually some people don't like simple couscous and the children like to have it with some meat. But, when there is no money, there is no meat – meat is not always here. The only time we have some money is when the kids come from their summer vacation³ and they bring some from their host families. It is thanks to these families who host our children – they support us. Many of the Saharawis who have the money, they can afford to buy meat, but if there is no money, it is only couscous or bread, and sometimes soup if there are lentils. We just prepare whatever we get from the aid... This is a couscous meal; it is quite tasty and good.

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.

¹ Saguia Al-Hamra and Rio de Oro is the former name of Western Sahara before the Spanish colonization when the name was changed to Spanish Sahara, before becoming known currently as Western Sahara.

² *Bismillah*: In the Name of Allah: An Arabic expression used before starting something.

³ A summer vacation program organized by many NGOs in Europe, in which some children from the refugee camps spend the summer with a host family, most often in Spain, France and Italy. The host family often develops a relationship with the child's family in the camps and helps the child and his/her family financially.

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.

© 2006-2010 Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and Five Colleges, Incorporated