

Yemeni Arabic transcript:

س: يخطب البنت من أبوها، العريس. يوصي أول يعني يوصوا الحريم يشوفوا البنت. أول يروحوا ثنتين حريم يشوفوا البنت، اللي أمه العروس وأخته ولا خواته. يشوفوا البنت عجبتهم خلاص بعدين يتكلموا يقولوا نحنا أجبنا نخطب فلانة، يعني نشئها لابننا بعدين يخلوا الرجال يتكلموا مع بعض، يقولوا خلاص نحنا موافقين دحين باقي دور الرجال. لازم يكون رجال اللي يطلب، العروس وأبوه ولا العروس وعمه يعني لازم يكون حد من أهله، كبير، كبير العيلة لازم يجي مع العروس. ويخطبوا وبعدين خلاص العروس كان العروس ماكانش يشوفها العروس، كان يشوفها لما تخرج برع مثلا راحت عند الجيران ولا راحت تواتي ولا خرجت عند صديقاتها ولا خرجت برع ولا... يعني يشوفها. إذا شافها يقول أنا أشئي فلانة بنت فلان.

English translation:

S: The groom proposes to the girl through her father. First they [the groom's family] send women to see the girl. Two women go to see the girl, the [groom's] mother and sister, or his sisters. They see the girl, if they like her they say that they came to propose to the girl; I mean that they say that they want her for their son. They [the women] agree and then leave the rest of the job to the men. Then they let the men talk and agree. The man has to be the one who proposes. The groom with his father or with his uncle, I mean he has to be with one of his family elders, the oldest man of the family has to accompany the groom. They get engaged. The groom wouldn't see the bride [before the engagement], he [might have] glimpsed her [in the street] if she went to visit the neighbors or went out with friends. Once he glimpses her [and likes her], he says that he wants this girl [for marriage].

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.