

**Yemeni Arabic transcript:**

ل: طيب في أي إحتفالات ثانية؟

ج: في ... في لمن مثلًا... فترة إحتفالات الزواج، إحتفالات الزواج عندنا. في خطوبة، الخطوبة دي مش عبارة عن فترة، يعني تعارف بين البنت والولد، ده الإحتفال ممكن يكون في البيت حسب العائلة. في عايلات تسويه بقاعات أو بقاعات الفنادق، وفي عايلات تسويه في البيت بحفلة صغيرة يوزعوا كيك وأكل وكده وتجي يعني العروسة يعني اللي تكون مش عروسه يعني عاده بتتخطب، عند المسرحة والكوفير والثوب وكده يعني الشياكة وده. والبنات برضه يحضرروا الحفل، الخطوبة تكون حفلة أما صغيرة أما كبيرة حسب مقدرة الشخص. في كمان عايلات أنه بالحفلة مثلًا العروس يدخل على العروس برغم أنه دي الحفلة مش رسمية. يعني دينيا يعني بالدين الإسلامي مش رسمية يعني، في عادي يعني بعض العايلات قبل الأمر. يدخل العروس يلبس العروسة الدبلة، هي عبارة عن خاتم. في أنواع دبل بعدن، في دبلة تجي تقليدية يسمونه السادة، من ذهب، في بعضه يجي منقوشة يعني على أشكال. استوت يعني على الموضة.

ل: والدبلة لازم تكون ذهب؟

ج: الدبلة ذهب أيوه.

ل: لازم تكون ذهب؟

ج: لازم تكون ذهب للنساء، أما الرجل لازم فضة لأنه بالدين حرام الرجل يلبس الذهب.

ل: طيب ماحصلتش من قبل أنه وحدة أختطبت على دبلة حديد؟

ج: حديد!

(ضحكات)

ج: المهم فترة الخطوبة تكون يا أما بتكون بيت أو بقاعة بشكل يعني رسمي. وبعدين بعده يجي العقد، هو ده الرسمي. يعقدوا شخص يعني أعتقد أنه شيخ؟ شيخ؟

ل: المأذون.

ج: أيوه يجي موكل من الحكومة من قبل المحكمة، ويعملوا العقد، البنات يكون وكيله أبوها أو أخوها أو يعني حد من عائلته، والرجل هو لوحده يعني يوقعوا الاثنين.

ل: يعني العقد على أساس أنه هذا الولد وهذا البنـت بيكونوا زوج وزوجة أمـام الله ورسوله.

ج: أيوه يعني رسمي، يعني دينيا. ويـسـوـوا حـفـلـة بـرـضـه، وهـنـا يـعـنـي خـلاـص يـصـبـحـوا زـوـجـ وـزـوـجـةـ وـيـعـمـلـوا حـفـلـةـ وـتـرـوـجـ العـرـوـسـةـ بـرـضـهـ لـلـكـوـفـيرـ وـيـعـمـلـواـ فـيـ الزـفـرـةـ العـدـنـيـ. اليـ هـيـ فـيـهـ أغـانـيـ يـعـنـيـ معـيـنةـ وـكـدـهـ وـبـعـدـينـ يـدـخـلـواـ العـرـوـسـ وـالـعـرـوـسـةـ وـالـبـنـاتـ يـزـفـوـهـ وـأـهـلـ الـعـرـوـسـ وـالـعـرـوـسـةـ وـكـدـهـ يـجـسـوـواـ يـسـوـواـ كـرـسـيـنـ معـ بـعـضـ وـشـرـابـ وـكـيـكـ وـأـغـانـيـ طـبـعاـ العـرـوـسـ بـعـدـينـ يـخـرـجـ عـشـانـ الـبـنـاتـ يـاخـذـوـاـ حـرـبـيـتـهـمـ لأنـهـمـ صـدـيقـاتـ العـرـوـسـةـ مـعـزـوـمـيـنـ، الـبـنـاتـ مـاـيـدـخـلـوـشـ بـالـثـيـابـ حـقـ الـحـفـلـةـ، اليـ هـيـ الـثـيـابـ الـلـيـ لـاـبـسـيـنـهـ العـادـيـةـ. يـلـبـسـوـاـ مـثـلـاـ العـبـاـيـةـ وـالـمـقـرـمـةـ وـبعـضـهـمـ بـرـقـعـ عـشـانـ يـشـوـفـوـاـ العـرـوـسـ تـامـ بـعـدـ ماـيـرـوـحـ العـرـوـسـ وـدـهـ يعني يـحـتـلـواـ وـيـرـقـصـوـاـ وـكـلـ شـيـ.

ل: يـتـحـلـلـواـ

ج: أيوه هـاـ، عـشـانـ يـرـقـصـوـاـ مـعـ العـرـوـسـةـ وـيـتـصـورـوـاـ وـكـدـهـ.

**English translation:**

L: Well, are there any other celebrations?

G: There are, for example, weddings, the wedding celebrations here. There is the engagement, this is not... it's a period where the man and the woman get to know each other. This party can be in the house, depending on the family. There are families that have it in halls in hotels, and there are other families that make a small party at the house and serve cakes and food. Then the bride comes, she is still not a bride, I mean she is getting engaged. She comes from the coiffeur wearing a dress and dressing elegantly. Girls also attend the party; the engagement is a party that's either small or large according to the person's [financial] ability. In some families the groom sees the bride [in the engagement party] despite the fact that this party is not official. I

mean in the Islamic religion it's not official, but still some families accept it. The groom comes in to put the wedding ring on the bride's finger. There are [different] types of wedding rings in Aden. There are the traditional wedding rings that come plain, made of gold, and there are the decorated ones, they come in shapes. I mean it's about fashion now.

L: And the wedding ring has to be made of gold?

G: Yes, made of gold.

L: It must be made of gold?

G: It must be, but it has to be silver for the man, because it's taboo for the man to wear gold.

L: Okay, did it ever happen that a woman got engaged with a metal ring?

G: Metal?!

(Laughter)

G: The engagement can be either in a house or in a hall in an official way I mean. After this comes the wedding contract, which is the official [event]. Someone makes it, I think a sheikh?  
Sheikh?

L: The *ma'thun*<sup>1</sup>.

G: Yes, he comes authorized from the government by the court of law, and they make the contract, the woman's representative is her father or her brother or someone of her family, and the man is by himself, and they both sign.

L: You mean the contract according to which the man and the woman become husband and wife before Allah and the Prophet.

G: Yes, I mean official, religious. They also have a party, and here they become husband and wife. The bride goes to the coiffeur and they have an *Adeni zaffa*<sup>2</sup>, which has certain songs and things like that. Then the bride and groom come in through the *zaffa* and their families with them. They put two chairs together [for the couple] to sit; [they serve] cake and drinks and play music too. Then the groom goes out [of the hall] so that the girls can sit comfortably. Because the bride's friends are invited too, girls don't stay with the party dresses, which are the normal party dresses, they wear *abbayas*<sup>3</sup> and headscarves and some of them cover their faces with a burqa<sup>4</sup>. They do this so they can see the groom; once he leaves they start partying and dancing.

L: They take off [the abbayas and headscarves].

G: Yes, so they can dance with the bride and take pictures and things like that.

---

<sup>1</sup> Ma'thun: an official authorized by the court of law who verifies that the couple is legally and religiously related through marriage.

<sup>2</sup> Adeni zaffa: the way people invited to a wedding receive the couple once they get to the wedding hall; Adeni zaffa is usually composed of Adeni specialized songs for this situation and ululations.

<sup>3</sup> Abbaya: a long black dress that women wear in Yemen when they go out.

<sup>4</sup> Burqa: the piece of cloth that covers the face that Muslim women sometimes wear.

**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.

© 2009-2010 Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and Five Colleges, Incorporated