

Yemeni Arabic transcript:

ل: مثلا الأعياد يعني في أعياد مختلفة يعني مش من الدين..
ج: أبوة، في عيد الأم، أبوة صح عيد الأم ده، في عايلات برضه يعني أنه تقدمي حاجة لأمك بعيد الأم يعني هدية بسيطة، نحننا مثلا نسوي هدية نتشارك أني وخواتي، ونقدم له هدية. وفي عايلات ما يحتفلوش بسبب أنه مش ديني ... ودي المناسبة يعني مناسبة عالمية. وفي كمان عيد العمال، واحد مايو، وبرضه مناسبة عالمية بس مافيش نشاطات برضه، يمكن بالنقابات العمالية في أني ماعنديش أي فكرة. وكمان في احتفال برضه... باليمن صح أنه دولة مسلمة وما أدريش أيش كده، فالنتاين، سانت فالنتاين. يعني ممكن تقولي ده اليوم كله الشارع كله لابس أحمر واللي شنطة حمراء وورد أحمر وبالكليات، يعني لما تجي تقارنيه بإحتفال ديني يعني زي واحد محرم تقولي يعني ليش الفرق كده؟ نحننا ما نحتفلش بحاجة يعني بالنسبة لديننا ونحتفل بحاجة ثانية و نحننا يعني بنفس الشكل نسوي دي الحاجات. فده إحتفالات جديدة يعني واجبة من الغرب.

English translation:

L: For example the special days, I mean are there special days that are not religious...

G: Yes, there is Mother's Day, yes true, Mother's Day. There are families; I mean you give something to your mother, a simple gift. Us for example, my sisters and I buy her a gift and split the cost. There are some families that don't celebrate because it's not religious, though this occasion is international. There is also Labor Day, May 1st; it's also an international event. But there are no activities, maybe the labor unions make something but I have no idea. There is also an event... it's true that Yemen is a Muslim country and I don't know, but [there's] Valentine, Saint Valentine. I mean you can say in this day, the whole street [people in the street] is wearing red, [women] with red purses and red roses and in colleges... I mean when you compare it to a religious event like the First of Moharam, you would ask why [is there] this difference? We don't celebrate something of our religion and celebrate something else, and in the same way. I mean these are new events that came from the West.

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.