

Yemeni Arabic transcript:

ل: في مشاكل ثانية يواجه... غير التعليم والقات؟ مثلا مشاكل ماحد يدري فيها مثلا في مشاكل صغيرة بس ماحد يشوفها لكن هي؟

ف: الكبت عندنا كثير يعني التكتم، الانغلاق كثير يعني ولد وبنت وكذا..

ل: كيف يعني؟

ف: هوذا من أكثر المشاكل اللي تواجه... يعني ضروري أصلا بيبنوا، يعني أوكيه في دين عندنا في عادات وتقاليد بس في نحننا أطورنا و الناس أطوروا، نحننا في عصر السرعة. أنه ما ينفعش أنه كل شي: لا بنت دي ما ينفعش دي، ده وليد ده بنت أتعاملي مع ناس كده بس بإحترام بالأخير. فعندنا من أهم المشاكل أنه من صدق هذي اللي تواجه الشعب اليمني هوذه الكبت والانغلاق الكبير.

ل: أيش يعني الكبت والانغلاق؟

ف: ال.. كل شي يفصلونه عن ده، يمكن المكان الوحيد اللي يجتمعوا، الأولاد والبنات، المكان...

ل: يعني يفصلوا بين الولد و البنت.

ف: هذا غلط، بس يقولك يعني المكان الوحيد اللي نتجمع فيه هو الكلية. فهناك يحصل مشاكل كمان ويحصل هناك حاجات و إنحرافات وكده.

ل: طيب أيش هو هذا الكبت اللي تتكلمي عليه؟

ف: أنه يعطوا البنات بداية البنات والولد ببداية مشوار حياتهم في الدراسة أنه يكون من الصف الأول لغاية الثانوية وهم منفصلين. فالمكان الوحيد اللي يجتمعوا فيه هو الكلية. فهي تدخل الكلية تقول لا بارسب وباسوي ومش عارفة أيش، فهذا يؤدي لكثير مشاكل وخراب بيوت وكده.

ل: طيب كيف تعتقدي أنه يمكن يعالجوا مشكلة الكبت عند الشباب؟

ف: أنه يخلوا من بداية العام الدراسي أنه هاذا ولد أخوك وهذي بنت يعني ما ينفعش أنه... أوكيه ألبسي حجاب و اكبري وكده بس ضروري يعاملوهم نفس المعاملة الي يعاملونه يعني يخلوهم يجلسوا كلهم مع بعض.

ل: يعني قصدك أنه مافيش مساواة بين الولد والبنات ولا

ف: أكيد، مافيش مساواة وفي إنفصال و الولد ياخذ أكثر حقا في ... حقوقة أكثر من البنات البنات مش واخدة حقوقه عندنا.

ل: زي أيش مثلا؟

ف: فرص الأعمال أول حاجة أكثر عند الأولاد من البنات، آه، تكميل الدراسات العليا، البنات ماتختص فيه، يقولك زوجي و مش عارفة أيش وكذا، وهو له الحق لكن البنات ماليش الحق. كمان ال...

ل: يعني كيف قصدك ماليش الحق لأنه هي بنت متشتيش تكمل ولا...

ف: لأنه بنت، يعني خلاص كفاية تدرسي جامعة وكفايتك لها كفاية، نادرا ما تلاقى بنات يدسوا ويكملوا دراستهم. يعني هو أهله كمان يخافوا أنه بنتهم تسافر لا برع، تخرج لا مكان برع.

ل: يعني عشان كده أهله ما يخلوهاش تكمل الجامعة.

ف: أبوه، ويقولك ولد هادا، مايعيبوش. لكن هي لو حصل الغلط ولا شي فهي بتجيلهم العار وكده.

English translation:

L: Are there other problems besides education and *qat*¹? Like for example small problems that no one sees or knows about?

F: The suppression, we have a lot of secrecy and close-mindedness. I mean a guy and a girl...

L: What do you mean?

F: This is one of the biggest problems, I mean they have to show, I mean I agree we have religion and traditions but we are improving and the world is improving and this is the age of speed. It doesn't work that everything you say is, "No, this can't work because this is a girl or

¹ Qat: the leaves of a tree that is considered a drug in many places; Yemeni people chew it to pass their free time.

this is a boy.” We should treat people respectfully, after all. So one of the serious problems that face the people of Yemen is suppression.

L: What do you mean by suppression and close-mindedness?

F: The... they segregate everything; maybe the only place where girls and guys get together is the...

L: You mean they segregate girls and guys?

F: This is wrong, but I tell you the only place where they get together is college. So many troubles and bad things happen there.

L: What is this suppression you are talking about?

F: This is that the boy and the girl are segregated at the very beginning of the lives, from the first grade till high school. So the only place where they get together is college. So the girl goes to college and she is thinking of doing so many [inappropriate] things and failing and I don't know what. This causes a lot of problems and the destruction of households and things like this.

L: How do you think they can solve this problem for the youth?

F: By putting them [girls and boys] together from the beginning of the academic year and tell them that they should treat each other like brother and sister. I mean it doesn't work that... It's okay to wear *hijab*² and grow up [for girls], but they have treat them the same way they treat [boys]: I mean they should all be together.

L: You mean there is no equality between girls and boys?

F: Of course, there is no equality and separation. The boy has more rights than the girl; girls don't possess their [full] rights here.

L: Like what for example?

F: Job opportunities, first of all, are more for men than for women. Ah, completing higher education, a woman has nothing to do with it. She says [I should take care of] my husband, and I don't know what. He has the right to complete his studies but the woman doesn't.

L: What do you mean she doesn't have the right? Is it because the girl doesn't want to complete...

F: Because she is a woman, I mean it's more than enough to finish college. It's so rare to find women who complete their studies. I mean her parents too are too scared of sending her abroad, anywhere outside.

L: So for this reason her parents don't let her finish college?

F: Yes, they think: “This is a man, nothing can hurt him.” But if she does something she might make them ashamed.

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.

² Hijab: the Islamic headscarf that Muslim women wear.

