Levantine Arabic transcript:

Sarah: عانا بمنطقة بيروت اسم سباق الخيل، مركز لسباق الخيل، كثير يعني مشهور هونيك. بس لا مررت حضرت سباق لخيل هونيك. بس على طول بصيرفي عنا هيك أشياء ونشاطات. والخيل، الحصان العربي الأصيل يعني من الأحصنة اللي كثير عندها صبر وما يستعملوها كيف من كان، يمكن يستعملوها. هي الخيول الملكية، مزبوط. والحصان العربي بيرقص على كلن إذا ما عقد خبير، بيرقص على المزمار، شفتني شي مرّ حصن عم بيبرقص؟

Wafa: لا.

Sarah: انا مرّ كنت بالسعودية، وكانوا عم بيعملوا بالمزمار الحصن عم بيرقص باجربيعه، كثير كتير حلو كان. هبدا حصان عربي أصيل مثلا. عندو زوق...

English translation:

“Horses”

Sarah: We have a place in Beirut that is called the horse race. It’s a famous place, but I have never been there. But there are always horse races going on at that place. The Arabian horse is one of the better horses that is known to be patient and is not used for any practical purpose. The Arabian horses are the royal ones. Also, Arabian horses dance to the music of the mezmar [nay – a flute]. Did you ever see a horse dancing?

Wafa: No.

Sarah: One time I was in Saudi Arabia and I saw a horse dancing with his legs while someone played the mezmar. It was really nice. This is the tradition of the Arabian horse.

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 everyday. 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.

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