Levantine Arabic transcript:

المرأة: خلف الكاميرا! كنيسة المهد مثلاً، لو تمكننا عن كنيسة المهد أو كنيسة القيامة. ليش سميتك كنيسة المهد مثلا؟

الرجل: كنيسة المهد سميتك كنيسة المهد لأنها مهد المسيح عليه السلام، طبعاً كان الو في فلسطين المسار الي بيجو امشوا كمان السواد. في مسار بيجوا بمشود، لكي يمشى لحم. هناك ولد المسيح طبعاً. في كنيسة المهد. في بيت لحم. قبل فترة كان كالمجراهكي بيوش، زار كنيسة المهد وصلت فيها فما كان كنيسة القيامة الالي في القدس موجودة. هي اعتقد ستنا مريم كانت موجودة هون كمان فيها. صلت ستنا مريم. في قصر هشام، نموذج إسلامي بني على الطراز الإسلامي. كان هو أموي.

المرأة: كان ليشام بن عبد الملك.

الرجل: هشام عبد الملك، الضبطر أعمت. هو أموي. الخلافة الأموية كان.

المرأة: عني الصخرة مثلاً. الأقصى.

الرجل: قبة الصخرة الي عرف سيدنا محمد عليه الصلاة و السلام. عرف من مكة. من مكة؟ ولا المدينة؟ عرف من مكة إلى قبة الصخرة. طبعاً بيجيها كثير برضوا سواحة مسلمين. كمان العرب الموجودين هون. ثانياً القليلين.

English translation:

Woman Behind the camera: The Church of the Nativity -- will you tell us about the Church of the Nativity, or the Church of the Holy Sepulcher?

Man: Yes.

Woman behind the camera: Why was that one called the Church of the Nativity, for example?

Man: The Church of the Nativity was called the Church of the Nativity because it was the cradle of Jesus, peace be upon him … ah … of course, he also had in Palestine the path which tourists come to walk; there is a path they walk … ah … to the cradle of Jesus, to Bethlehem. There Jesus was born, of course, in the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. A while ago, the American President Bush visited the Church of the Nativity, and he prayed in it. There is also the Church of the Holy Sepulcher … I think that our mother Mary was also there in it … mother Mary prayed in it. There is Hisham’s Palace, an Islamic structure … was built in the Islamic style … he was Umayyad.

Woman behind the camera: It was built for Hisham Abd Al-Malik …

Man: Hisham Abd Al-Mali, yes, exactly; he is Umayyad; he was of the Umayyad Caliphate.

Woman behind the camera: About the dome for example, the Dome of the Rock?

Man: The Dome of the Rock, from which the Prophet Mohammad, peace and blessing be upon him, ascended … [first] from Mecca to the Dome of the Rock.1 Of course, many Muslim tourists come to it, and also Arabs, who are found here. And [it is] the second direction of prayer.2

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1 In Islamic tradition, the Night Journey, Isra and Mi’raj (Arabic: الإسراء والمعراج, al-‘Isrā’ wal-Mi’rāj), are the two parts of a journey that the Islamic prophet Muhammad took in one night, around the year 621.
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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2 In fact, this was the first direction of prayer, later changed to Mecca.