

CultureTalk Bosnia and Herzegovina Video Transcripts:
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Slang and Social Categories

Bosnian transcript in Latin:

Sharan: Papci su ljudi koji... To je veoma teško definisati, dakle, pogotovo je teško to definisati ljudima koji ne govore bosanski jezik. To je posebna vrsta mentaliteta čovjeka koji jednostavno uzurpira prostor svojim primitivnim gestama i manirima, a i ova sama definicija od sebe nije takođe potpuna, nije jasna, nije koncizna i definisana. Dakle, papak je osoba koju najlakše rečeno ne želite imati u svom društvu. Nije... Ne mora biti iz kriminalnog miljea, dakle ne govorim o kriminalcima, ubicama, silovateljima i sličnim ljudima, već govorim o ljudima koji mentalno su definitivno ispod nivoa jednog civiliziranog, normalnog, zdravog načina razmišljanja i promišljanja o životu.

Aleksandar: Ko je raja?

Sharan: Raja? A da, u Bosni i Hercegovini do '90. pogotovo u Sarajevu, ljudi su se dijelili na raju i papke, eto to je recimo, onaj, veoma značajno znati – danas se dijelimo po imenima. Kako smo napredovali samo! Dakle, suprotno od papka koji predstavlja nešto što ne valja, raja je zapravo... Su ljudi koji su tu da pomognu i budu tu uz tebe. Međutim, raja također u slengu predstavlja i ljude koji su tu kad je dernek, al' kad dernek prođe, onda nema baš previše od raje, kontaš? Onda recimo, grupa je raja, individua je jaran, al' ponovo recimo, raja te zna napustiti, a jaran nikad neće. Recimo, to je neko šturo objašnjenje tih pojmova, iako kažem da, na pravi način objasniti te pojmove, pogotovo ljudima koji ne govore bosanski jezik, je veoma, veoma teško, tako da najbolje da dođete u Bosnu i Hercegovinu, upoznate raju, upoznate jarane, pa ćete sami na vlastitoj koži osjetiti ko je raja, ko je jaran, a pogotovo ko su papci.

Bosnian transcript in Cyrillic:

Шаран: Папци су људи који... То је веома тешко дефинисати, дакле, поготово је тешко то дефинисати људима који не говоре босански језик. То је посебна врста менталитета човјека који једноставно узурпира простор својим примитивним гестима и манирима, а и ова сама дефиниција од себе није такође потпуна, није јасна, није концизна и дефинисана. Дакле, папак је особа коју најлакше речено не желите имати у свом друштву. Није... Не мора бити из криминалног милјеа, дакле не говорим о криминалцима, убицама, силоватељима и сличним људима, већ говорим о људима који ментално су дефинитивно испод нивоа једног цивилизираног, нормалног, здравог начина размишљања и промишљања о животу.

Александар: Ко је раја?

Шаран: Раја? А да, у Босни и Херцеговини до '90. поготово у Сарајеву, људи су се дијелили на рају и папке, ето то је рецимо, онај, веома значајно знати – данас се дијелимо по именима. Како смо напредовали само! Дакле, супротно од папка који представља нешто што не ваља, раја је заправо... Су људи који су ту да помогну и буду ту уз тебе. Међутим, раја такођер у сленгу представља и људе који су ту кад је дернек, ал' кад дернек прође, онда нема баш превише од раје, конташ? Онда рецимо, група је раја, индивидуа је јаран, ал' поново рецимо, раја те зна напустити, а јаран никад неће. Рецимо, то је неко штуро објашњење тих појмова, иако кажемо да, на прави начин објаснити те појмове, поготово људима који не говоре босански језик, је веома, веома тешко, тако да најбоље да дођете у Босну и Херцеговину, упознате рају, упознате јаране, па ћете сами на властитој кожи осјетити ко је раја, ко је јаран, а поготово ко су папци.

English translation:

Sharan: *Papci*¹ are people who are... This term is very difficult to define, especially for those who don't speak Bosnian. It's a particular type of mentality of a person who simply disturbs everyone with their primitive gestures and manners. This definition is only partial; it's unclear, not to the point and badly defined. Simply put, *papak* is the type of person you don't want to have in your company. They... They don't have to be criminals, so I'm not talking about criminals, murderers, rapists and similar people - I'm talking about people who are mentally definitely below the level of a civilized, normal, healthy way of thinking and acting in life.

Aleksandar: And what is *raja*²?

Sharan: *Raja*? Oh, yes. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, until 1990, people used to be divided into *raja* and *papci*; that's an interesting fact to know. Today we are divided according to our names³. [laughter] Oh, how far we've come! So, in contrast to *papak*, which

¹ *Papak* or *papan* (pl. *papci* or *papani*, lit. trans. “hooves”): a slang term for those whose company is unwanted because they exhibit provincial behavior, act in an obnoxious manner and are considered to be unrestrained in their primitivism or vulgarity. Please note that this does not necessarily mean that the term *papak* is synonymous with the rural population, since this term is used to denote a specific behavior and not the rural origin of the person per se. Although this is not considered a vulgar term, one should nonetheless be discouraged from (or exercise caution when) using the term *papak* to refer to another person.

² *Raja* (Turkish: *râya*, lit. trans. “members of a flock”): originally a term for a member of the tax-paying lower class of Ottoman society, it later became a term for the underprivileged masses. In the mid-20th century, the term *raja* became a slang term of endearment for a group of friends, and it's currently used to describe a close circle of friends.

³ The speaker here refers to the fact that in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region, first names and surnames are often used to identify someone as a member of one of the three ethnic groups (Serbs, Croats, or Bosniaks); so, for instance, Ivan is a typically Croat name, Jovan is a typically Serb name, while Mehmed is a typically Bosniak name. Similarly, Ivanović is a typically Croat surname, Jovanović is usually a Serb surname, while Mehmedović (or Mehmedić) is in most cases a Bosniak surname. There are certain deviations from this rule: for example, there are ethnically neutral names, such as Goran, Nenad, Mia etc. In some areas, such as Eastern Herzegovina and Montenegro, it was common for people of

represents someone bad, *raja* are those people who... Those people who are there to help and be there for you. However, the term *raja* in our slang represents people who are there when there's a party, but when the party is over, they're gone, you know? Also, *raja* represents a group of people, a single person is referred to as *jaran*⁴, but it should be noted that *raja* will eventually leave, but your *jaran* never will. So that would be a basic explanation of those terms, although I have to say that it's very, very difficult to explain these terms to people who don't speak Bosnian, so my suggestion is that you should come to Bosnia and Herzegovina, meet *raja*, meet *jarani*, so you can experience who are *raja*, who's *jaran*, and especially who are *papci* in person.

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one ethnic group to give their child a name that is more common in the other ethnic group. Also, there are surnames which can be found in all three ethnic groups, such as Šarić or Hadžić, for example. However, this practice is not only dangerous as a form of stereotyping, but also often insulting to those who choose not to identify with one of the three major ethnic groups.

⁴ *Jaran* (fem. *jaranica*): A term unique to Bosnian language, used to denote a close and reliable friend.