CultureTalk North Africa Video Transcripts: http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu Passing the Bac Exam

Algerian Arabic transcript:

ع: و هذا لمتحان نتاع الباكلوريا، شخل الواحد منين يفوته أأا متشي غير هو ألي فوته، الفاملية قاع تفوته. خطر فيها الله أأأ شخل الستراس بزاف... و كان الباك، الامتحان نتاع الباك تلات ايام و في نفس الوقت يعني في أأأ في كل انحاء يعني لبلاد، قاع يفوته في نفس اليوم على كل حال... أأأ وووو و النتائج يبانو من بعد، من بعد شهر. هي نور مال مو في جوان يبانو النتائج، ايه هذاك الوقت، و حتى لدروك. و مي ي أأأ النتائج تروح، نحن كنا نروحو لاخر لثانوية باش نشوفو لسماوات نتاوعنا. و كنا نرجفو، كنا خايفين. و مي ي أأأ النتائج تروح، نحن كنا نروحو لاخر لثانوية باش نشوفو لسماوات نتاوعنا. و كنا نرجفو، كنا خايفين. التاني. و أأأووو و الحمد لله، فوتنا الباك و أأأ و فرحنا والدينا على كل حال. فرحنا والدينا و العايلة نتاعنا و كل شي و الزغاريد نتاع الوالد، نتاع الشيبانية تاعي. ماشي غير ل أأأ الربح نتاعنا، حتى الربح نتاع الجوارين تانيك، ولاد الجوارين و كلش. و العادة أأأ منين الدراري يربحو الباك أأأ في الدار يوجدو الطعام و يصدقو، يصدقو على الناس. الموارين حتى ل أأأ خطرات رحت حتى أأأ الجامع و يديرو الطعام و يديرو عرضة و ووو يعرضو الفقراء و الناس عل أأأ عل العموم.

English translation:

A: When someone passes the Bac¹ exam, it's not just about him passing but the entire family. It is because it [the Bac exam] involves a lot of stress. The Bac exam is three days; all parts of the country sit for it on the same day and same time, and they finish it on the same day. The results come out after a month, and they usually come out in June. At least that was the case at that time but I think it's still the same nowadays. I remember we had to go to the high school to see our names. We used to get very scared; in fact, we would be shaking. When someone doesn't see his name on the first day, he would come back on the second day. *Alhamdulillah*², I passed the Bac and I made my parents and family members proud. And of course, my mother's ululation fills the house. It is not just about me passing but also about the passing of the neighbors' children. The tradition is that when the students pass the Bac, the family at home would prepare couscous and they would give charity to people. At times, some people would even go to the mosque and take a big meal of couscous there, and they invite the poor and other people in general.

¹ Bac is short for Baccalauréat, which is the French word for baccalaureate. This is a standardized national exam that students take at the end of high school, which also qualifies them to pursue university studies.

² Alhamdulillah: Thank God (literally: "Praise Allah"): An Arabic expression used in a variety of contexts, but most often to express thankfulness for or an awareness of grace in any good thing.

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.

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