

Algerian Arabic transcript:

س: شاهو الصداق؟

ف: آآ الصداق نحن كنهذرو هو المهر. يعني في العرس. نحن يعني كيما تعرفي الجزائر بلاد مسلمة يعني, الحمد لله آآ الصداق هو يعني شرط من شروط الزواج في الاسلام. كايين ال آآ كايين ال آآ حضور الزوج و الزوجة عاقلين بالغين و كايين ال آآ والد الزوجة علي ما أظن. Bon الراجل ماشي شرط يكون عنده يعني يحضر الوالد نتاعه ولا ولي امره. و لكن الزوجة لازم يكون ولي أمرها. و كايين الصداق ألي هو آآ مبلغ مالي يعني يعطيه الرجل للمرأة إكراما لها هكذا. Bon, نحن في الجزائر علي حساب ما هدرت مع, يعني علي حساب ما هدرت مع ال آآ الناس من البلدان العربية, نحن الجزائر بسيطين في هذا الامر يعني. و الحمد لله يعني يمدو يعني مبلغ بسيط يعني المرأة إكراما لها. كايين ألي يدي آآ يرفد غير شحال؟ آآ تقريبا آآ ألف دينار جزائرية ألي هي آآ ألي هي شحال؟ 15 دولار أمريكية. و انا سمعت في المشرق العربي و كدا, حتي في الجزائر كايين مناطق كدايا, المهر هذا يكبره يعني. حتي يقولك يمدو مبالغ مادية كبيرة كيف 2000 دولار, 3000 دولار, كايين ألي مد 8000 دولار, كايين ألي... و كل واحد. المهم يعني, تعريف الصداق و المهر هو يعني آآ مبلغ مالي يقدم من طرف الزوج للمرأة إكراما لها يعني.... في الدين هدي هي. و آآ حتي في بكري يعني آآ ال histoire نتاع المهر هدايا, حتي الرسول صلى الله عليه وسلم جا عنده واحد و قال له: ما عنديش واش نعطي لمرتي و كدايا, قال له حبيت نزوج بسح ما عندي والور, ما عندي واش نعطي لمرتي. قال له, علمها زوج أيات ولا ثلاثة أيات من القرآن و هداك هو. ولا أعطيل لها, يعني ماشي شرط يكون حاجة كبيرة كيما نقولو.

English translation:

S: What is *essdak* [the dowry]?

F: Uh— When we speak of *essdak*, we mean the dowry for the wedding. I mean, as you know, Algeria is a Muslim country, *alhamdulillah*¹. Uh— *Essdak* is, I mean, a condition for marriage in Islam. There are—uh—there are—uh—the presence of a responsible and adult bride and groom and there is the—uh—the father of the bride, I think. Well, for the man, the presence of one of his parents or his guardian is not a condition. But the groom should have a guardian present. And there is *essdak* which is—uh—a certain amount of money the man gives the woman as an act of respect to the woman. Well, we in Algeria in comparison with—I mean, in comparison to the people I talked to—uh—from other Arab countries, we in Algerian are very simple in this matter. I mean, *alhamdulillah*, I

¹ *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.

mean they [in Algeria] give a simple amount to the woman out of respect. There are people who give—uh—give, how much? Uh, about—uh—a thousand Algerian Dinar, which is—uh—which is, how much? 15 American dollars. I heard that in the Middle East – and even in Algeria there are regions like that – they require a big dowry. They even give big amounts of money like \$2000, \$3000 and there are some who give \$8000 and there are some who— Everyone is different. The thing is that—the definition of *essdak* or the dowry is, I mean—uh—a certain amount of money that the groom gives the woman as an act of respect. This is what it is in the religion. And—uh—even in the early days, I mean—uh—the history of *essdak*, even the prophet, (peace be upon him) a man came to him and told him: “I don’t have anything to give my wife and I want to get married but I don’t have anything – I don’t have anything to give her.” And he told him: “Teach her two or three verses from the Quran.” It is not required – that it be, as we say, something big.

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.

© 2007-2010 Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and Five Colleges, Incorporated