

Algerian Arabic transcript:

ف: يقول لك في الدزاير نحن bon آآ نحن لقبائل و خصوصا في بلاد قبايل, في الدزاير يعني آآ يقولك الطفلة من ألي تكون صغيرة يماها تجهز لها تروسو نتاعها, تقولو تروسو بالعربية ألي هي trousseau بالفرنسي. يقول لك تجوز من ألي تكون صغيرة و يماها آآ تحشر لها, هذي جبة, هذي عفسة, هذي خاتم, هذي ذهب, هذي سلسلة هكدايا باش كتولي كبيرة, كتلحق زعمة آآ وقت الزواج, كيحي وقت الزواج, يكون عندها باش تروح لدار راجلها يعني... آآ شغل يحشمو بيعثو نساهم هكدا بلا والو كيما يقولو. ماذا بيهم, النساء راضي تعرفي بنتها شغل كتروح جوز, كتروح لدارها راجلها شغل عندها آآ عندها الغش, عندها اللبس, عندها الذهب, surtout لعفايس هنو هما... و كايين الراجل واش يشري, وايش يشري لمرته؟ يشري هداك الطبق, هذا الطبق هدايا يشريه الراجل فيه آآ طبق و valise ... جابلي ربي طبق و valise. هذا الطبق فيه هدوك الشمع, فيه الحنة يتباع هكداك, يتباع complet في ال في لحوانت... الطبق فيه الحنة و فيه شموع آآ يشعلوهم كيدير الراجل, كدير لمر الحنة... alors, كدير لمر الحنة, يجيلها هديك الحنة و يجبلها هدوك الشموع يشعلوهم و كذا و معاه valise, valise نتاع حوايج... و هدوك لحوايج لمر... في هداك, من ورا الحنة نتاعها تجبد هدوك آآ لعفايس ألي في valise, ألي جابهم راجلها هدوك en général يعطوهم آآ يماط لعروسة... يماط لعروسة تعطيه ل آآ لحبابتها, ختها, ما علي باليش famille نتاعهم. و كايين ألي قول لك ثانك راجل لازم يشريلها la perle نتاع ذهب. هذي ولات عادة في الدزاير, ما علا باليش التاريخ نتاعها, وقتاش بدات و كذا. علي بالي باللي بكري ما كانش ألي يسمع بال perle هذي هي. و لكن طوركا في آآ هدو ليام, لعيمان ألي فاتو, من ألي شفيت انا نحضر لعراس, toujours la perle و كي دير هديك لعروسة الحنة زعمة يجبدوها هدا, زعمة يوروها هكدايا و الراجل جاب ال آآ الراجل جاب لمر هدا la perle هذي هي... و كانش ما جبلها ذهب, كايين ألي عنده, كايين ألي لابس به يزيد يشريلها ذهب كذايا. Si non هذا ما كان و لخرين قاع تشريهم, لحوايج ألي تديهم لمر آآ لدار راجلها هي تشريهم, en général يماها تشريلها من ألي و هي صغيرة.

س: و هو ألي يشري الدار ولا هي؟

ف: الدار؟ لا, الدار ça dépend كل واحد و المقدر, كايين ألي يسكن مع والديه, كايين ألي عنده دار و يسكن وحده. و كايين ألي ما عنده و يكري. كل واحد و كيفاه. الدار ça dépend هي en général لمر في الدزاير ما عندهاش responsabilité في الدار, شغل تجي تسكن هي. الراجل هو ألي يختم يشري دار ولا يكري ولا يسكن عند والديه, هو يدبر راسه, لمر تقولو أنا نجي أديني وين حبيبت. وين تقدر تديني, تديني. هذي هي.

English translation:

F: They tell you that we in Algeria, well—uh—us Kabyles¹—especially in the Galabili region, in Algeria, I mean—uh—they tell you that, from when the girl is small, her mother starts to prepare her trousseau; we say “trousseau” in Arabic which is “trousseau” in French. They tell you that from when she is small her mother—uh—collects for her: a dress from there, something from there, a ring from there, some gold from there and a necklace from there so that when she grows up and reaches—uh—the age of marriage, she has things to take to her husband’s house. I mean—uh—it seems that people are embarrassed to send their daughters just like that, as we say, without anything. If they can, why not—you know, women want their daughters to go—when she goes to her husband’s house, she sort of should have—uh—have things like clothes, gold and all sorts of things like that. And then the man, what does he buy, what does he buy for his bride? He buys this set; this set that the man buys has—uh—a set and suitcase— I think it is a set and a suitcase. The set has candles and henna; it can be bought complete like that from the shops. The set has henna and candles—uh—they light the candles and with it there is a suitcase—a suitcase of things— And these things the woman— So, after the henna day, they take out—uh—the things in the suitcase that the groom brought and these things in general are given—uh— The bride’s mother—the bride’s mother gives them to—uh—her relatives: her sister or, I don’t know, her family members. And there are some people who say that the man also has to buy the bride a piece of gold jewelry. This has become a tradition in Algeria; I don’t know when it started. I know that in the old days people didn’t have it. But now—uh—nowadays—in the past few years when I started to see weddings, the piece of jewelry is always there. And when the bride does the henna and they bring this, they sort of show this is what the man brought—uh—the man brought this jewel for the woman. And some bring her gold as well; there are some people who are well-off and they bring her more golden things. The other things that the woman takes to her husband’s house, she is the one who buys them. In general, her mother collects them from when she [the bride] was small.

S: And is he the one who buys the house or is it her?

F: The house? The house depends on everyone’s ability; some live with their parents and some have their own house and live by themselves. And there are some who don’t have it and rent one. The house depends on each person. But, generally in Algeria, the woman is not responsible for buying a house; she just comes to live. It is the man who needs to think whether to buy a house or rent or live with his parents; he has to figure it out himself. The woman just says, “You take me wherever, where you can find a place.” This is all.

¹ *Kabyle*: From the Arabic word Kaba’il, meaning “tribes.” It refers to a people, one of four different groups in Algeria claiming Berber ethnicity. It also refers to the language spoken by these groups which is one of the Berber, or Tamazight dialects.

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