

Egyptian Arabic transcript:

الرجل: مصر بتبقى زي الحته الحلوة إلي هي في البلاد العربية. لأننا إحنا مثلا لو نقول مصر في السينما، هي مصر الأولى، أو أحسن بلد بتعمل أفلام عربي، أو أول بلد... عاملين زي هوليوود، مصر زي هوليوود الشرق. ويمكن نقول برضوا أن كل العرب بيحبوا يجوا مصر، عندنا مصايف كثير، عندنا مصايف زي شرم الشيخ، الإسكندرية، عندنا دهب ونوبيع، عندنا الغردقة، عندنا الساحل الشمالي برضوا منطقه حلوه وجميله وجوها حلوه. فبالتالي عندنا أماكن كتيره للمصايف، غير كده عندنا برضوا أماكن سياحية كتير جميله الأثار بتاعتنا، عندنا القصور وأسوان، عندنا الهرم. فالحته دي كلها منطقة جرب، للعرب للأجانب. فيتلاقي مصر تعتبر بلد رئيسية في الوطن العربي، وبرضوا تعتبر رخيصة لأننا إحنا عندنا العملة المصرية الحاجة رخيصة عندنا في البلد بالمقارنة بالعملة العربية أو الدولار واليورو. وجونا ما يعتبرش حار برضوا زي الدول العربية، يعني عندنا أقصى حرارة بالصيف بتوصل لتسعه وثلاثين درجة. اربعين مباحصلش كثير. بالتالي بتلاقي في البلاد العربية بتوصل لخمس وأربعين وكذا. طبعا إحنا عندنا الجو المصري طول السنة عندنا جميل. عندنا يمكن الأربع فصول، ومعندناش خريف أصلا، يعني إحنا عندنا صيف وشوية مثلا ربيع، إنما شتاء معندناش، يعني يعتبر الجو عندنا تقريبا SPRING على طول السنة. فدي حاجة بتخلي الناس... يشد أي حد. وتناي حاجة البلد عندنا رخيصة، يعني أي حد حيجي بفلوس قليلة حينبسط جدا، حيبقى...

المرأة: لأ وحضارتنا كمان. حضارتنا قديمة جدا وعريقة جدا. وعندنا واحد من عجائب الدنيا السبعة، وعندنا حجات كتير تتشاف. يعني إلي حيجي مصر ميكفهوش اسبوع. إلي بيحي سايح، بيحي اسبوع، يادوب يشوف خط كده ويمشي. لكن مصر يمكن تزورها على مدى شهر وماتز هقيش، يعني في حجات كتير يعني فعلا فعلا تتشاف من حضارة، من مناظر. لأ، بلد تعتبر سياحية جامده جدا.

English translation:

Man: Egypt is like ... the beautiful part of the Arab countries. If we talk about Egypt in the cinema, for example, Egypt is the first one, or the best country that makes Arab movies, and the first country ... like Hollywood, I mean. Egypt is like the Hollywood of the East.

And we can also say that all Arabs like to come to Egypt, because we have a lot of summer resorts, such as Sharm el-Sheikh,¹ Alexandria...² we have Dahab³ and Nuweiba,⁴

¹ Sharm el-Sheikh is a city situated in the south of the Sinai Peninsula. It is very popular with foreign and Egyptian tourists, and it is well-known as one of the best diving spots in the world.

² Alexandria is the second largest city in Egypt, situated on the North Mediterranean Coast of Egypt. It is a big seaport for trade, but it is also a city famous for its history and tourism, attracting both foreign and Egyptian tourists.

³ Dahab is a town situated in the south of the Sinai Peninsula, about an hour from Sharm el-Sheikh by car. Just like Sharm, it is very famous as a diving spot and is considered a more natural, less touristic -- more [of a] backpacker's version of Sharm.

⁴ Nuweiba is a small town situated in the Eastern part of the Sinai Peninsula. It is known as a relaxing spot with a few famous international hotels.

we have Hurghada,⁵ and we also have the North Coast, a beautiful area which has wonderful weather. So we have a lot of summer resorts. Apart from this, we also have a lot of beautiful tourist sites, our antiquities: we have Luxor⁶ and Aswan⁷ ... we have the Pyramids, and these places are all areas of attraction to Arabs and foreigners. As a result, Egypt is considered a principal country in the Arab region.

And it is also considered to be a cheap [inexpensive] country, because the Egyptian currency ... things are cheap here in the country, in comparison to Arab currencies, or the dollar and the Euro.

Also, our weather is not considered as hot as the weather in the Arab countries; I mean the maximum temperature in the summer reaches 39.⁸ 40 degrees does not happen a lot ... when you see that in the Arab countries the temperature can reach 45 degrees and such. Naturally, the Egyptian weather is nice all year long. We have the four seasons ... or, actually, we don't even have the fall season. I mean we have the summer, and a bit of something like the spring, but we don't really have a winter season; the weather appears to be more like spring all year long here in our country. So the weather here attracts people. And again, secondly, our country is cheap; I mean anyone who comes here with a little money will enjoy himself very much.

Woman: And our civilization too! Our civilization is centuries old, and very ancient, and we have one of the world's seven wonders, and we have a lot of things that are a must-see -- I mean a week will not be long enough for someone who comes to see Egypt. The tourist who comes for a week has time to see just a little and leave, but you can visit Egypt for a month and not get bored of it, because there really are a lot of things to see, civilizations, sceneries No, it really is a very impressive tourist country.

⁵ Hurghada is a city situated in the Egyptian Port Said governorate, on the Red Sea. It is very famous with both Egyptian and foreign tourists, and is famous for its offering of water sports. More and more foreigners have started settling there in the past ten years.

⁶ Luxor is a city situated in the south of Egypt, and it is the capital of the Luxor governorate. It is situated on the same site that the ancient pharaonic city of Thebes used to be in, and it is well-known for its pharaonic heritage.

⁷ Aswan is a city in the south of Egypt known for its pharaonic heritage. It is also the capital of the Aswan governorate.

⁸ This temperature is in Celsius since it is the scale of measure used in the Middle East. This equals 103 degrees Fahrenheit.

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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