

Egyptian Arabic transcript :

الرجل: وبس بعد كده بقى بندرس بقى العصر الحديث بقى، بندرس شوقي، وقبل شوقي بندرس شعراء زي أبو تمام، أبو تمام بندرسه قصائد جميله جداً. يعني في قصة خدناها لأبي تمام جميله جدا إنو هو كان أيام الدولة الغسلانية كان في وحدة في بلاد الروم... الروم يعني آيه أذوها، قامت قايله آيه "وامعتصماه" فجيته راجل يعني من المسلمين شاف الحكاياه دييه قام واخذ رحاله وسمافر لأيه للمعتصم بالله، فسافر للمعتصم بالله. المعتصم بالله كان قايل للحاجب بتاعه هتله كوباية ميه، كوب من الماء، فالرجل جايب كوب من الماء، إلي هو الحاجب، في دخلت آيه، الرجل، فقالوا إن الروم عملوا كذا كذا كذا بالمسلمة، لم يشرب كوب الماء، مشربش كوباية الميه، حطه بجنبو وقام قايل آيه، بعث لملك الروم قله من أمير المؤمنين المعتصم بالله إلي كلب الروم إن لم تتركها لأرسلن لك جيشاً أوله عندك وآخره عندي. فلم يهتم بكلامه، فقرر آيه، المعتصم بالله، أن يخرج في الجيش، وكعادة الملوك في هذا العصر... وكعادة الملوك في العصر داه سأل العرافين والمنجمين فأجمعوا أنه سيهزم في هذه المعركة، فماذا يفعل والمسلمون يهانون، فقرر الخروج ولم يأبه بكلام العرافين، فقال فيه أبو تمام شعر من أجمل الشعر، قال فيه قصيدة مطلعها:
السيف أصدقاء إنباء من الكتب... في حدن جلاء الشك والريب
وفعلا بعد هذه الحرب كان فتح عموريه، البلد الإسلامي. وبعدين بقى بندرس بقى شوقي وحافظ ابراهيم، بندرس شعر حديث في السنة الرابعة، بندرس قصائد زي قصيدة الأطلال، وبندرس قصائد زي ثورة الشك:
أكاد أشك في نفسي لأني أكاد أشك فيك وأنت مني.
وبندرس قصيدة الأطلال زي مطلعها:
يا فؤادي لا تسال أين الهوى كان صرحا من خيالي فهوى
اسقتني واشرب على اطلاله... واروي عني طالما الدمع روى

داه نبذه سريعه عن دار العلوم، الكلية العريقه، وبنعمل فيها أبحاث، وبندرس فيها فلسفة وأخلاق وشريعة.

English translation:

Man: And that's it. And after that, we study the Modern Era. We study Shawki,¹ and before Shawki, we study poets such as Abu Tammam. For Abu Tammam, we study very beautiful poems by him. I mean, there is a story we studied by Abu Tammam that's very beautiful. It's that he was, during the days of the Islamic nation ... there was ... ah ... a woman in the land of the Romanians. Romanians ... ah ... Romanians did what? They hurt her. So, what did she say? *Wa mutasamah.*² A man came, I mean from the Muslims, and saw this thing. He packed his stuff and traveled to where? To al-Mutasem Bellah. So he traveled to al-Mutasem Bellah. Al-Mutasem Bellah had told his servant, "Bring me a cup of water" ... a cup of water. The man who's the servant brought the cup of water while the [other] man was entering. So ... ah ... he told him, "What's wrong with you?" He told him that the issue is ... ah ... that the Romanians did such and such to the, to the Muslim woman.

¹ Ahmed Shawki (1868-1932) was one of the greatest Egyptian poets. He wrote poems on different subjects, including criticism of his government.

² A calling word for a person named Mutasem, who was the Muslim ruler.

He didn't drink the cup of water; he didn't drink the cup of water. He put it aside, and said what? He sent to the ... to, to the King of the Romanians. He told him, "From the Ruler of the Believers, Al-Mutasem Bellah, to the dog of the Romanians. If you don't release her I will send to you an army that starts at your country and ends at mine."

He [the Romanian leader] didn't pay attention to his words; he didn't pay attention to his words. So he [Mutasem] decided what? Al-Mutasem Bellah left with the army. And it was the habit of kings in that era ... he asked the sorcerers. He asked the sor....

And [as] it was the habit of kings in that era, he asked the sorcerers and soothsayer, and they agreed that he will be defeated in this battle, in this battle, so what should he do when Muslims are humiliated? He decided to go, and didn't care about the sorcerers' words. Abu Tammam said about him some poetry that's one of the most beautiful poems. He told him ... he wrote a poem about him that starts with

The sword tells the truth more than books do
In their blades, doubt and fear disappear

And truly, after this war, it was the conquest, conquest of Amureyah, the Muslim country.

And after that, we study Shawki and Hafez Ibrahim³, and we study ... ah ... modern poetry during the senior year. We study poems, such as the poem *The Ruins*. And we study ... ah ... revolution ... poems such as *The Revolution of Doubt*:

I am about to doubt you because I am about to doubt myself
Because I am about to doubt you and you are from me

And we study the poem of *The Ruins*, as it starts with

My heart, don't ask where love is,
It used to be a monument of my imagination, so it collapsed.

Water me and drink on its ruins,
And talk for me as tears have watered me.

This is, I mean, a quick summary about the College of Sciences, the historical college ... and we do research in it, and we study philosophy in it, and ethics, and Shari'a and ... ah

³ Hafez Ibrahim (1872-1932) was a great Egyptian poet, who was a friend of Shawki.

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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