

CultureTalk Egypt Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Henna Night for Nubian Weddings

Egyptian Arabic transcript:

- نجله: طبعا بعد مراحل الخطوبة بتبدأ الحنا، ليلة الحنا.
الرجل1: الحنا، ليلة الحنا.
الرجل2: قبل الحنا بفترة، يمكن من أسبوع أو اسبوعين، قبل ليلة الفرح والحنا، العروس بتطلع يعني بتدعي في القرى المجاورة، أسبوع واسبوعين
نجله: تدعي الناس.
الرجل2: تدعي العروسة، والعريس كذلك، يدعو الناس.
المرأة خلف الكاميرا: بس العروسة بتروح بزي...
الرجل2: بتكون مميزة بشويه بتاع فساتين بتاع....
نجله: هي بتنزّل تدعي نفسها.
الرجل2: هي ومجموعة من البنات.
نجله: وبتدعي صاحبها...
الرجل2: قرايبها واصحابها مش بس بالقريبة نفسها لأ بالقرى المجاورة كمان.
نجله: وبتبقى لابسه لبس يعني خاص...
الرجل1: لبس مميز يعني...
الرجل2: دي العروسة.
نجله: دي العروسة. ونفس الحكاية مع العريس.
الرجل2: العريس بطلع مع شلة من صحابه برضوا بيدعي الناس.
نجله: طب والحنا آيه علي بيحصل فيها، ليلة الحنا؟
الرجل2: ليلة الحنا إلي بيحصل فيه...
الرجل1: المولد النبوي يجيبوا فيها جماعة مغنية يجيبوا كتاب المولد وإذا كان في فرقة برضوا يعني في ناس بقلك بدل الزحمة ليلة الفرح وبتاع يعملوا آيه ليلة الحنا الزفة الفرقة بتتعمل.
الرجل2: الفرح يعني ليلتين، الحنا والفرح. ليلة الدخلة.
نجله: يعني الفرح بيدي تحديدا يعني.
الرجل2: تحديدا اسبوع عشر ايام يعملوا الحريم يتجمعوا على بيت العريس والعروس الإنتين يعملوا العيش والبسكويت ويعني حاجات كتيره بتتعمل وبتاع وبعدين في تبادل بيحصل أهل العروس يودوا وأهل العريس يجيبوا.
نجله: في فترة الاسبوع داه.
الرجل2: في فترة الأسبوع داه أيوه.

English translation:

Naglaa: Of course, after they made the engagement, the henna starts, the night of the henna.

Man1: The henna, the night of henna.

Man2: Some time before the henna, maybe a week or two, before the night of the wedding and the henna, the bride invites people from the neighboring villages, a week or two before

Naglaa: She invites the people.

Man2: And the groom too, he invites people.

Woman: But the bride goes wearing her custom

Man1: It's somewhat distinguished.

Man2: She is distinguished by some gold and some dresses and the like.

Naglaa: Does she invite the people?

Man1: She and a group of her friends.

Man2: She does [this] with a group of girlfriends.

Naglaa: Does she invite her friends or ... ?

Man2: Her friends, and relatives

Man1: Her relatives and friends.

Man2: Since they live in the same village ... and the adjacent villages also.

Man1: The adjacent villages.

Naglaa: Would she be wearing a special garment ... ?

Man2: Special

Man1: A special [one] distinguished from the others.

Man2: People would know that this is the bride.

Naglaa: This is the bride, yes Is it the same story with the groom? Does he also ... ?

Man1: The groom also

Man2: The groom goes out with a group of his friends, and he also invites people.

Naglaa: Okay, what happens during the henna? The night of the henna?

Man2: On the night of the henna, what happens is

Man1: *El-mowled*¹ of the prophet, where they bring a group to sing, and if there is a band, there are some people who would say that instead of the crowdedness of the wedding, they bring the band on the henna night.

Man2: He means that the ceremony is a two-day one, the henna and the wedding.

Naglaa: You mean the wedding starts specifically, the celebration is

Man2: A week or 10 days earlier. They do ... women gather at the groom's and the bride's house, both of them. They bake the bread and biscuits, and many other things are done. Then an exchange happens. The bride's family takes [stuff] and the groom's family brings [stuff].

Naglaa: During the period of this week.

Man2: Yes.

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¹ **El-mowled*: an occasion in commemoration of the birth of prophet Muhammad (pbuh).