

Nubian Houses in Upper Egypt

Egyptian Arabic transcript:

نجله: في المنازل، شكل البيت يعني، شكل البيت مختلف عن شكل البيت...
الرجل1: آه عندنا البيت النوبي كان بيتكون من حوش صغير... فناء سماوي... وقباوي. وداه كان أصلا قبل السد العالي كان بيجي كميات من الطمر فيه تترسب على الجنوب، كان بيثيلوا الطمر ديه ويعملوا منه طوب... دلوقتي مفيش طبعاً القباوي... يعني نادر تلاقين واحد في الميه يعمل قباوي. مع إنه القباوي بتناسب البيئه هنا في الحرارة، لأن الطوب اللين، المقوس، الشمس متتركز على السطح بحتة واحده، لكن الصبح مثلا من الناحية الشرقيتين بتغرب، وهكذا يعني... فقدناه... البيوت القديمة كلها موجوده...
نجله: دلوقتي البيت بقى شكله مودرن.. حديد كده ومسلح.
الرجل1: بنستخدم الدبش إلي عندنا... بنبني فيه... وبعد كده بنصب خرسانه عاديه يعني..
الرجل2: و صاج يعني في ناس برضوا عاملين صاج.
نجله: بحس إن في بيوت على سفح يعني مدرجات كده...
الرجل1: على الجبل.
نجله: على الجبل. البيوت صعبة دبه إنها تتبني ولا يعني عاديه.
الرجل1: لأ عاديه عاديه بس الوصول لها صعب من تحت.
نجله: آه تسلق يعني. بس شكلها حلو حتى بتجيب هوى وكده...
الرجل2: عارفه البيوت دي في كم بيت هنا في سفح الجبل عندنا أتبنوا الزبي. كانوا ياخذوا الستات والبنات يملوا ميه من النيل ويطلعوا بيه الجبل عشان يشعلع البناءه يعني الحنفيات والميه دي حاجات حديثه لسا خالص تماما.

English translation:

Naglaa: The houses ... the shape of the house. We have a shape for the house as [that is] different from ... ummm.

Person1: We have the Nubian house, which consists of a front that is sky-like ... or dome-like

Naglaa: It is like a dome.

Person1: Yes, and this is due to ... originally what ... before the high dam, there was an amount of mud ... on the banks of the Nile. This mud was used to make bricks ... and make houses in dome-like [shape]. Nowadays, there is no such a thing.

Naglaa: That is to mean

Person: The dome-like [structure] is very rare ... it is about 1% ... even though the dome-like houses are suitable for the environment here

Person 2: It cools down the heat

Person 1: Yes, it cools down the heat ... so that the sun does not concentrate on the upper floor, for example ... in one place, for example. No, in the morning it is on eastern side; in the evening, the sun is on the western side ... and so on

Naglaa: That is true.

Person 1: We lost this ... the old houses are all dome-like, and they are still there

Naglaa: Now, the houses are in a modern shape, as they say [laughs], with ... metal and iron.

Person 1: We use bricks ... in the mountain ... in building the house, and then we have the metal in the top floor.

Person: Sometimes, copper is used

Naglaa: I have noticed that there are houses on the surface [sides, top] of the mountain. Are these houses easy to build or is it something normal

Person1: It is normal ... but the access to it is very difficult

Naglaa: It is like climbing ... but it has a wonderful shape; it brings in air.

Person 2: Do you know that these houses on the mountain ... how many ... how were they built? They take women and girls from here to bring water from the Nile to the top of the mountain, instead of using drainage or pipes.

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