

CultureTalk Egypt Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Simple Phrases in Nubian

English transcript :

Man (left): “Tarbatata.”

Woman (middle): Salamu Alaikum.¹

Man (left): In Nubian we say, “Mina” is “how are you,” and we have “Minabu.” It also means how are you. “Mina” is for salutations.

Woman (middle): Ah...“Mina.”

Man (left): “Minabu” is to say, “how are you?” It is related to the word Mina.

Woman (middle): “Mina.”

Man (left): “Minabu” is to say “how are you.” The salutation, and saying how are you? ... “Mina” is a word used in salutation. It comes from King Mina,² but there is also “Mina” the pigeon.

Woman (middle): What? What do you mean?

Man (left): “Mina” also means “pigeons” or “dove.”

Woman (middle): Oh, I see, you mean the peace.

Man (right): The pigeon in our language is called “Minin,” and it symbolizes peace.

Woman (middle): I wonder if the symbol of peace, which is the dove or pigeon, is really of Nubian origin.

Man (left): Yes, it is from Nubian origin. It is like the word door. We have the word door, which is “Ba.”

Woman (middle): The door.

Woman (left): “Batito” is the circle over the door. The door is called “Ba.” There is a circle that is the saddle of the door. The circle under is for the saddle. Over the circle

¹ In Arabic Salamu Alaikum means Hello.

² King Mina or Menes: Menes's reign of Egypt from 3407 to 3346 B.C. was treated as the dawn of Egyptian civilization in many classical histories. He is remembered as the conqueror who first united Egypt under one rule and established the famous capital of Memphis, the seat of Egypt's unparalleled cultural achievements during the time of the Pharaohs.

there are pigeons “Mina”... “Minahu” means that the pigeons are over the saddle. “Batito” is the door. We have the proverb “Minahu Minahu.”

Woman (middle): Salutation.

Woman: What “Mustagna” means?

Man (left): “Maska Agna” ...It means how are you? “Maska Agna” literally means how you are sitting?

Woman (middle): How can somebody start learning the Nubian language, if he likes?

Man (right): Mixing...mixing is the best way. Living in a Nubian environment is the best way.

Man (far right): The best way to learn is to talk. People of Upper Egypt, like Suhag and Minya, came here to live. The children of these people started speaking Nubian better than we do.

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.

© 2007-2010 Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and Five Colleges, Incorporated

