

### Egyptian Arabic transcript:

المرأة: شهر رمضان دا أهدي شهر، هو ديني بحت، لأن هو صيام. ودا شهر واحد بالسنة، الناس بتصوم من شروق الشمس لغروبها. المسلمين طبعاً، هم إلي بيصوموا بس. بيصوموا من شروق الشمس لغروبها، وبيصوموا عن المياه، وعن جميع أنواع الأكل. مش بس عن الأكل، المفروض عن أي حاجة وحشة، يعني مش لازم يشتم صاحبه، مش لازم يآزي حد لا بلسانه ولا بيده، مش لازم يتمتع بمتع الدنيا خالص، يعني هو بيصوم عن كل حاجة. وساعة الفطار بيضرب مدفع، وطبعاً المدفع دا إلي بيضرب ملوش أي علاقة بالناحية الدينية. دا هو كل الحكاية أيام الدولة الفاطمية حصل أنو ضرب مدفع ساعة غروب الشمس وساعتها الناس افتكرت انو دا عشان ياكله، وبقت من يومها عادة، لقوا أن هي عادة حلوة، يفكروا بيها الناس إن دا ميعاد الأكل، وبقي من هنا ورايح بقي في مدفعه يضرط ساعة الفطار ومدفع يضرط ساعة الفجر عشان يقول للناس توقفوا أكل. ولغاية دلوقتي في مصر بتحصل الحكاية دي، يعني بيضرب مدفع ساعة الفطار وبتيجي صورتوه بالتلفزيون وكده...  
المرأة خلف الكاميرا: بالقاهرة بس...؟

المرأة: في القاهرة وفي المحافظات وفي كل حطة يعني. وبعدين الناس. هي فكرة شهر رمضان، الناحية الدينية، أن كل مسلمين العالم بياكلوا بنفس التوقيت مع بعض، وبيشكروا ربنا على الوجبة دي. وعشان الهدف من صيام رمضان بتبع الدين إن هو يحسس الغني بجوع الفقير، فيحن عليه، فعشان كده، في شهر رمضان بيحصل حاجة إسمها مواند الرحمان. يعني الأغنياء بيعملوا طريبات في الشارع للفقراء يجوا يفطروا. وبتبقى أعداد معلومة في كل حطة تلاقي مواد رحمان، كل حي. وبعدين، طبعاً الناس لأنها صايمه كل النهار بتحتاج تاكل حاجات مسكرة، ويشربوا فيه كثير، فيشربوا قمر الدين. قمر الدين دا عبارة عن مشمش مطحون ومعمول وراق زي القماش، وفي شهر رمضان الناس بتشتري رقائق قمر الدين دي وبتقطعها وبتغليها في المياه وبتعملها عصير، والناس بتشربها على الفطار لأنها تاني يوم ماتحسش الواحد بالعطش، وكمان فيها نسبة سكر عشان السكر إلي بيقتدوا طول النهار. طبعاً الحاجات دي وحشة جدا على الصحة لأنها بتخن، والناس كلها بتتخن بشهر رمضان لأنهم بياكلوا حلويات كثير وأكل كثير وكده.

### English translation:

Woman (Yellow Shirt): The month of Ramadan is a religious month, because it is a fast, and it is one month in the year. People fast from sunrise to sunset. Muslims, naturally, they are the only ones who fast for Ramadan. They fast from sunrise to sunset. And they fast [abstain] from water, and all foods, and not only from food -- it is supposed to be a fast from anything bad. I mean he shouldn't insult his friend, he should not bother anyone, neither with his tongue, nor with his hand. He should completely refrain from enjoying the pleasure of life. He fasts from everything. And at the time of the breaking of the fast, the cannon is fired, and, of course, the cannon fire does not have anything to do with the religious aspect. The story is that, at the time of the Fatimide state, the cannon was fired at the time of sunset, and at that time people thought that it was to remind them to eat. From that day onward, it became a custom. It is a beautiful custom to remind people that it is time for food. From that time onward, there has been a cannon fired at the time of the breaking of the fast, and a cannon fired at dawn to tell people to stop eating. And, until today, this thing happens in Egypt: the cannon is fired at the time of the breaking of the fast, and its sound also comes on television and such. And people eat.

Woman voice: Does this only happen in Cairo?

Woman (yellow shirt): In Cairo and in the governorates as well, everywhere I mean. And after that the people...the idea of the month of Ramadan, its religious aspect is that all Muslims of the world eat at the same time, together. And they thank God at that time, for this meal, because the goal of the fast of Ramadan, religion-wise, is to make the rich feel the hunger of the poor so it makes the rich feel compassion for the poor. That is why, during the month of Ramadan, something called the “mawaed al rahman”<sup>1</sup> happens. It means that the rich install tables in the street for the poor to come and break their fast. And there are several of these “mawaed al rahman” everywhere, in every district. And after that... Of course because people fast the whole day, they need to eat sweet things and drink a lot of water. So they drink “qamar el din.”<sup>2</sup> The “Qamar el din” is made of crushed apricots, and it is made like a very thin layer of paste, like fabric. And during the month of Ramadan, people buy the layers of “Qamar al din” and they cut it and they boil it in water, and they turn it into a juice, and people drink it at the break of the fast because it does not make one feel thirsty the next day. And also, there is a percentage of sugar to compensate the sugar he loses during the day. Of course, these things are very bad for the health because they are fattening, and everyone gains weight during the month of Ramadan, because they eat a lot of sweets, and a lot of food and such.

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<sup>1</sup> “Mawaed Al rahman” is the name given to free street meals offered by the wealthy in the streets during Ramadan.

<sup>2</sup> Literally means the moon of religion. It is a drink made of apricot paste popular during the month of Ramadan.