

CultureTalk Egypt Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Egypt Has a Very Mixed Population

Egyptian Arabic transcript:

هل ممكن نقول أن الفكرة الأمريكيةين بقولوا مثلا المجتمع المصري كده أو كده غلط عشان في ناس مختلفة أوي في المجتمع، حتى في المجتمع المصري في ناس مختلفة؟

المرأ: دا حقيقي، يعني أنا حقولك حاجة، دايمًا الأجنبي إلي معدوش فكرة عن البلد يشوف مثلا واحد ويعمموا، يقول كل الناس كده. إنما دا مش حقيقي، ودا حاصل... بالعكس، يعني لما عندنا مصريين بيتفرجوا على أفلام أمريكياني نتيجة الأفلام الأمريكياني بيفتكروا دا الموديل بتاع العيلة الأمريكياني والستات. نفس الحكاية بالنسبة لمصر، بشوف مثلا فيلم أو بشوفوا اكزامب بيفتكروا أن دا كل الناس دي بتعمل نفس الحكاية، إنما لأ، ممكن تلاقي في المجتمع المصري مثلا ناس متدينة جدا ومتشددة، وناس منفتحة جدا، وناس متوسطة، لا كده ولا كده، يعني بين الإثنين وعادي وبيقعلوا، وكلوا حسب الموقف. وبعدين الغنى بتاع مصر هو الإختلافات الي فيه. يعني مصر معروفة أن فيها حضارة إسلامية قوية، فيها مسيحية قوية، فيها حضارة غربية قوية، لأنها أثرت جامد بالغرب نتيجة إن هي في إقليم البحر المتوسط. كان دا الإنفتاح فكل الناس المتقفين، ال intellectual كلهم تلفاقي عندهم فكر غربي متأثرين في جامد، ودا بيظهر في بعض الأحياء وفي بعض الشوارع بتحسي فيه... فنلاقي أن مصر حتى هي موجوده بين تني قارات آسيا وأفريقيا، وهي موجوده في الزاوية، في ركن كده، فنحس أن فيها إختلاط كثير، وفيها كذا خيار حضاري وثقافي، بيبقوا parallel يعني بيبقوا متواز بين ماشيين جنب بعضوا، إنما يمكن صعب أن هم واحد يخترق الثاني، إنما كلوا موجود بنقابل كل حاجة كل أشكال المجتمع بنقابلها بمصر، بنلاقي الناس إلي عندهم حرية جامدة، والناس المحافظين، والناس المتدينين و... بس الصحيح، الصعب إلي تلاقي بمصر فكرة الإلحاد، أن يبقى حد مش مؤمن بربنا، دي قليل لم تقابلي حد، الناس مؤمنين أوي، مسيحيين أو مسلمين، وبعدين بيبطبقوا الشعائر الدينية جامد أوي، يعني بيروحوا الجامع، بيروحوا الكنيسة، بيحضرُوا الصلوات، بيصوموا، دا بتلاقيه جامد في مصر.

English translation:

Woman voice: Can we say that the idea that Americans say the Egyptian society is like this, or like this, is wrong because there are very different people in society -- even in Egyptian society there are different people?

Woman (Yellow-grey shirt): That is true. I mean ... I will tell you something. The foreigner who has no idea about a country always sees one example and generalizes [from] it, and he says, "Oh, all people are like this." But that is not true. And that happens [in] the opposite way as well. I mean when Egyptians watch American movies, for example. The result of American movies is that they think that is the model of the American family, and of women. It is the same story with regard to Egypt. They see a movie for example, or a case, and they think that all people do the same thing. But no. In the Egyptian society ... for example, you can find some people who are very religious and have very strict principles. And there are very open people. And there are people in the middle, neither too strict nor too open. I mean, they are between both, and it's normal, and they are reasonable, and everything depends on the situation.

Furthermore, the richness of Egypt is the diversity that it is made of. Egypt is famous for having a strong Islamic civilization, a strong Christian civilization. And there is a strong Western civilization, because Egypt was very influenced by the West, to the extent that

you find that all intellectuals have Western thought, and they are very influenced by it, as it was in the Mediterranean Sea region, and there was an opening up of the country. This influence even appears in some districts and in some streets; you can feel it.

So we see that Egypt is even situated between two continents, Asia and Africa. And she is present in the angle, in a kind of corner. So we feel that there is a lot of mixing in it, and there are a lot of civilizations and cultural movements that are parallel, which are next to another. But it is maybe difficult for one to penetrate the other. But everything exists. We meet everything; we meet all forms of society in Egypt. We find people that have very strong freedom, people that are conservative, religious people, and But it is true, [that] what it is difficult to meet in Egypt is the idea of godlessness, the idea that someone does not believe in God. It is very rare to meet someone like that. People are very believing, whether Christians or Muslims. Furthermore, they apply religious principles very strongly; I mean, they go to the mosque, they go to church, they attend prayers, they fast, and that is a very solid aspect of Egypt.

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