

CultureTalk Egypt Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>  
Comparing Familial and Social Relations

**Egyptian Arabic transcript:**

المرأة خلف الكاميرا: ممكن تقولينا أيه هو الفرق بين النظام في الغرب والنظام في مصر؟  
الرجل: اجتماعيا يعني.

المرأة: آه.

الرجل: آه طبعاً فرق كبير جداً. مصر حاجة وأي دولة في العالم حاجة تانية خالص. طبعاً كلوكوا عارفين إن النظام بره إن الأب والأم يفضلوا يرعوا الإبن أو الإبنه وبعد السن المعين داه بقي... الإبن أو الإبنه بيروحوا يعتمدوا على نفسهم. يروحوا بقي ياخدوا شقة لنفسهم، يروحوا يتعلموا بره، يصرفوا على نفسهم والكلام داه كلوا. مفيش روح العائلة إلي عندنا في القاهرة. هنا عندنا حتة العائلة في القاهرة هنا والصحة والروح الموجوده هنا أنا مشفتهاش في أي حتة في الدنيا. أنا رحت عشت في المانيا... يعني شهر، ورحت سافرت يعني معظم أوروبا، رحت فرنسا، رحت كل أوروبا، مفيش الروح الموجوده هنا خالص، مفيش خالص الروح الي هي family، يعني إحنا عندنا هنا في القاهرة تلاقى نفسك أيه... الأسبوع سبعة أيام، تلاقى نفسك يوم عند الجده، تلاقى العيلة كلها متلميه عند الجده دي (not clear) اليوم إلي بعديه عند الجده التانية، اليوم إلي بعد عند العم مين، اليوم عند خال مين، في الأعياد كلنا بنتلم في حتة واحدة في بيت واحد، محتضنين بعض، بنحتفل مع بعض. الروح الموجوده دي، روح ال family والإجتماعات الموجوده في مصر مش موجوده في أي حتة في العالم.

المرأة خلف الكاميرا: بنحب نقعد مع بعض.

الرجل: آه طبعاً، في كلمة مش عارف أقولها لك أيه، الصحة والعزوة. أنا زي ما قلت تاني أنا دلوقتي متجوز و عندي بنت صغيرة لسه عمرها سنتين معتقدش أنها بس تتم 16 سنه أنا حسيبها تعيش لوحدها... مفيش... معندناش الكلام داه. يعني إحنا عندنا كمصريين البنات أو الإبن ميطلعش من بيت أهلو إلا بيتجوز، وحتى لما يتجوز ويطلع بيتهو إلي حيثجوز فيه بيفضل وسط أهله وأهله معاه حتى ببساعدوا لحد ما يتوفوه بعيد الشر. فبيفضلوا يساعده... الكلام داه مش موجود بره، دا مفيش بره، وداه بيدي حتة ال... المصريين كلهم يحبوا بعض، في شهامة عالية جداً، على كل إلي إحنا فيه، إنتي لما بتسافري لو حدا وقع في الشارع ممكن ماحدث يساعدها يقوم، لكن هنا في مصر لو حد وقع ولا حد يحصلوا أي حاجة تلاقى خمسمية واحد تلموا عليه (...). بزيادة شوية كمان عشان يساعده، أنتا فين، ونعملك، وندخل... الناس كلها بتحب بعض ويتساعد بعض، فبصي أنا بحب بلدي جداً، جدا جدا جداً، وأي حاجة في الدنيا بلدي بتعلمها بره مصر بشجعها بقلب، وبضايق جداً إن إحنا خسرنا في حاجه، أنا مش قصدي الكوره، في مصر هنا الكورة أهم حاجة، بس أنا أي حاجة غير الكورة... الكورة وكل حاجة تانية يعني... بس أكثر حاجة بحبها هنا الصحة في الناس، الزاي الناس بتحب بعض، بتخاف على بعض، الزاي أنتي تعرفي لما تخرجي لما تنزلي بالليل تخرجي أو تروحي تتغدي الناس زحمة حواليك وفي صحبة، أنتي أي حتة بره تروحي ممكن تنزلي لوحدك مع نفسك، مش حد يعني يقعد معاك أو يخرج معاك، فدي أحلى حاجة حتة الصحة دي والروح إلي هنا، حتى من النوع من الناس إلي مش معترف خالص بحتة الهجرة، أو إنني أنا أسافر واشتغل بره مصر، لأنني أنا مش حستحمل أقعد بره مصر...

الرجل: بالزبط.

**English translation:**

**Woman voice:** Can you tell us what the difference is between the system in the West and the system in Egypt, in your opinion?

**Man (white shirt):** Socially speaking, you mean?

**Woman voice:** Yes.

**Man** (white shirt): No, of course, there is a very big difference. Egypt is one thing and any other country in the world is something completely different. Naturally, you all know that in the system outside, that the father and mother continue taking care of the son or the daughter until a certain age, and, after a certain age, the son and the father ... sorry, the son or the daughter go and depend on themselves. They go take a flat for themselves, they go learn abroad, they spend their own money, and all this talk .... There isn't the familial spirit that we have here in Cairo. Here we have the family part, in Cairo here, and friendship ... and the spirit that is present here, I have not seen it anywhere else in the world. I went to live in Germany, I mean, sure, and I traveled to most of Europe, France ... I went to all of Europe. This spirit is not present at all. There isn't the family spirit at all. Here in Cairo we have .... The week is seven days: you find yourself once for a day at this grandmother's house,<sup>1</sup> and you will find all the family gathered at this grandmother's, the next day at the other grandmother's house, the next day at who knows which paternal uncle's house, the [next] day at who knows which maternal uncle's house.

During celebrations, we all gather in one place, in one house; we celebrate together. This spirit that is present, this spirit of family and gatherings that is present in Egypt, is not present anywhere else in the world.

**Woman voice:** We like to stay together.

**Man** (white shirt): Yes, of course! No, no, no -- here, there is ... I don't know which word to tell you ... friendship, and gathering. As I said already, I am married, and I have a daughter who is just two years old. I don't believe that when she will reach sixteen years old, I will let her live by herself and such ... we don't have this kind of talk. We have, as Egyptians ... the daughter or the son does not leave his parents' house except if he is getting married, and even if he gets married and he goes to the house that he will be married in, he remains among his relatives, and his relatives are with him; they even help him until they pass away, God forbid, so they keep helping him as if he is not outside of the house. There isn't outside. And this is the advantage of Egyptians: the fact that Egyptians love one another, and there is a very high respectability with regards to everything we are in.

If you travel abroad, if someone falls in the street, it is possible that no one will help him to get up. Here in Egypt, if someone falls or anything happens to anyone, you will find five hundred people gathered around him to help him, and, "where are you? We will do this for you," and they get involved, and the people love one another and help one another.

Look, I love my country very, very, very, very, very much. And I support anything that my country does outside of Egypt with my heart, and I get very hurt if we lose in something. Not precisely with regards to soccer -- you know that in Egypt the most important thing is soccer -- but I am talking about anything other than soccer ... I mean soccer and everything else. But the thing I most like here is the friendship in people, how people love one another and care about each other ... how you are able to go out, when you go out at night or you go have dinner, and there is an overcrowding of people around you, and there is comradeship. If you go anywhere else abroad, you just go out alone;

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<sup>1</sup> House is implied here.

there isn't anyone to come sit with you, or go out with you. This is the most beautiful part, this friendship part, and the spirit that is here, to the extent that I am one of the people that does not approve of the idea of immigration, or that I [should] go and work outside of Egypt, because I won't bear staying outside of Egypt.

**Woman voice:** You need to stay among your relatives.

**Man (white shirt):** Exactly.

**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.

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