

Egyptian Arabic transcript :

المرأة: لما بيبقى أنا عندي في الشغل weekend طويل أو اجازات بحب أروح شرم الشيخ لأن هناك الطبيعة جميلة جدان الجبال حلة أوي أوي، البحر مفيش زيوه في أي مكان في العالم لأنو درجات لون البحر من الأزرق الفاتح للغامق دي حاجة رائعة لدرجة الواحد بيبقى يعني على الشط وبشوف السمك بكل الوانه وأشكاله، من غير ما حتى يلبس mask او اي حاجة تانية. خلاف مثلا شرم الشيخ، سينا حلوة جدا، في دير سان كاترين، في منطقة بعد شرم الشيخ اسمها ذهب، في نوبيع، في طابا. طبعا المنطقة دي كلها منطقة جميلة أوي، البحر فيها حلو، ومنظر الجبال في غروب الشمس يعني حلم جميل جدا...

خلاف سينا والبحر مثلا في بقى الأفسر وأصوان، طبعا دي بتحتاج وقت أطول.
المرأة خلف الكاميرا: ودي منطقة تاريخية...

المرأة: دي منطقة بقى أثرية من أيام الفراعنة، طبعا الواحد بيدخل في التاريخ، بشوف الحضارة المصرية كانت آيه، حاجة فعلا يعني الواحد بيبقى مبهور قدام العظمة... وعظمة التاريخ داه نفسه. فيروح دايمًا... بحب أروح الأقصر - أسوان، أو سنبل، لما بيبقى في وقت قصير مثلا بروح الإسكندرية على البحر المتوسط، بس الإسكندرية مدينة، زي مدينة القاهرة، بس زيادة عن هناك في بحر أكثر، بس....

المرأة خلف الكاميرا: وأصغر...

المرأة: وأصغر طبعا، مدينة أصغر من القاهرة.

المرأة خلف الكاميرا: دلوقتي جنب الإسكندرية في الساحل الشمالي..

المرأة: الساحل الشمالي دي مناطق بقى منتجعات ابتدت من حوالي عشر سنين فاتت. منتجعات كتير أوي، زي مثلا... أقدم منتجع كان العجمي، دلوقتي في مارينا، في لهاسيندا، في حاجات كتير اتفتحت...

المرأة خلف الكاميرا: يعني كل منطقة شمال بعد اسكندرية على البحر لغاية تقريبا مرسه متروح اتبنى فيها منتجعات كتير أوي. بس انا يعني مابحش اروح كتير، لكن بيبقى في زحمة في الصيف، فبضل مثلا أروح البحر الأحمر أحلى...

المرأة خلف الكاميرا: دلوقتي إحنا في العين السخنة، العين السخنة آيه بالزبط؟

المرأة: العين السخنة دي على البحر الأحمر، في آخر خليج السويس، طبعا الميه هنا تحفه، ميه نظيفه جدا، ولونها حلو. ومنطقة حلوه، لأن وراك في الجبال. دي أقرب حطة للقاهرة يعني عشان الواحد يقضى مثلا يومين، مش بعيد عن القاهرة، يعني تقريبا 110 كيلو أو 100 كيلو حاجة كده.

المرأة خلف الكاميرا: وإسمها العين السخنة ليه؟

المرأة: إسمها العين السخنة له... لأن في حطة هنا في المكان داه. في عين جاييه من الجبل، بس دي ميه حلوه، والميه بتطلع سخنة وبتنزل في البحر، عشان كده سموها العين السخنة.

المرأة خلف الكاميرا: النهار داه إحنا في العين السخنة، وأهو البيت في العين السخنة. شايفيين في جنينة، جنينة حلة عشان نعمل قعدة كل يوم. وفي BBQ كمان، عشان بنحب ناكل لحمه كتير. ودلوقتي عايزة أوريكوا البحر في العين السخنة شويه، هو بحر جميل... داه البحر. العين السخنة معروفة عشان هي جنب القاهرة، ساعة وربع بالعربية، فقريبة من القاهرة أوي، وناس كتير بيحبو بييجو يقعدوا ال WEEKEND هنا على البحر... قدامنا بالزبط خليج السويس.

English translation:

Woman (pink shirt): When I have a long weekend at work, or holidays, I like to go to Sharm al Sheikh,¹ because nature is very beautiful there; the mountains are very, very beautiful ... the sea has no equal anywhere in the world, because the color degrees of the sea, ranging from clear blue to dark blue, is an extraordinary thing, to the extent that you are seated on the beach and you are able to see the fish in all colors and forms, without even having to wear a mask or anything else. Other than Sharm al Sheikh ... for example, the Sinai is very beautiful; there is the monastery of Saint Catherine,² there is an area past Sharm al-Sheikh which is called Dahab³; there are also Nuweiba⁴ and Taba⁵ -- naturally all of this area is a very beautiful area. The sea there is beautiful, and the view of the mountains at sunset is like a dream. It is very beautiful.

Other than the Sinai and the sea, for example, there are Luxor⁶ and Aswan.⁷ Naturally, these require more time.

Woman voice: And this is an historical area.

Woman (pink shirt): Now this is an area of antiquity; you enter into history ... you see what Egyptian civilization was. It is something ... you are really dazzled in front of the greatness ... the greatness of this history itself. So I always go ... I like to go to Luxor, Aswan, Abu Simbel. When I just have a little time, for example, I go to Alexandria, on the Mediterranean Sea, but Alexandria is a city, like the city of Cairo. The difference is that there is the sea. That is all.

Woman voice: And it is smaller.

Woman (pink shirt): It is smaller, of course; it is a smaller city than Cairo.

Woman voice: Now, next to Alexandria you have the north coast area.

Woman (pink shirt): The north coast is an area of resorts that were built in the past 10 years. A lot of resorts, like, for example, the oldest resort was Agami.⁸ Now there is

¹ Sharm el Sheikh is a very popular Egyptian city and tourist destination for both Egyptians and foreigners. It is situated in the Sinai Peninsula, on the Red Sea. It is also a well-known diving and clubbing destination.

² The Saint Catherine Monastery is located in the Sinai Peninsula, and it is one of the oldest continuously functioning Christian monasteries in the world. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

³ Dahab is a small town situated on the southeast coast of the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt. It is approximately 80 km from Sharm el-Sheikh, and it is considered to be one of Egypt's most famous diving destinations.

⁴ Nuweiba is a city and resort on the eastern coast of the Sinai Peninsula.

⁵ Taba is a town situated in the northern part of the Gulf of Aqaba. It is a small town, but it has a few famous and luxurious hotels.

⁶ Luxor is a city situated in the south of Egypt, and it is the capital of the Luxor governorate. It is situated in the same site as the ancient pharaonic city of Thebes, and it is well-known for its pharaonic heritage.

⁷ Aswan is a city in the south of Egypt known for its pharaonic heritage. It is also the capital of the Aswan governorate.

⁸ Agami is an exclusive resort where the elite of Cairo and Alexandria typically go for vacations.

Marina ... there is the La Hacienda resort; there are a lot of things that have opened. A lot of resorts have been built in all of the area in the north, after Alexandria on the sea, up to about Marsa Matrouh.⁹ But I don't like to go there a lot; there is overcrowding in the summer. I prefer going to the Red Sea; it is more beautiful.

Woman voice: Now we are in Al-Ain Al Sukhna.¹⁰ What is Al-Ain Al Sukhna, exactly?

Woman (pink shirt): Al-Ain Al Sukhna ... It is on the Red Sea, at the end of the Suez Canal. Naturally, the water here is wonderful, its color The water is very clean and its color is beautiful. And the area is beautiful, because there are mountains behind you, and this is the closest place to Cairo -- if you want to spend two days, for example, it's not far from Cairo, approximately 110kms, or 100kms, something like that.

Woman voice: And why is it called Al-Ain al Sukhna?

Woman (pink shirt): Why is it called Al-Ain al Sukhna? Because there is a place here in this area, there is a source¹¹ coming from the mountains, but it is fresh water and the water comes out warm, and it falls in the sea. That is why they named it Al-Ain al Sukhna.

Woman voice: Today we are in Al-Ain Al Sukhna, and here is the house in Al Ain al Sukhna; you can see there is a garden, a beautiful garden, so we can have a get-together every day, and there is a barbecue as well, because we like to eat meat a lot. And now, I want to show you the sea in Al-Ain al Sukhna a little. It is a beautiful sea. That is the sea; Al-Ain Al Sukhna is famous because it is next to Cairo, an hour and a quarter by car, so it is very close to Cairo. And a lot of people like to come spend the weekend here on the sea. We have the Suez Canal right in front of us.

⁹ Marsa Matrouh is a port city about 240 km (149 miles) west of Alexandria, along the shore of the Mediterranean Sea, on the main highway from the Delta to the Libyan border. It is a popular resort city for Cairenes.

¹⁰ Literally translated from Arabic, Al-Ain Al Sukhna means "the warm eye." It is a popular resort with residencies and hotels for people living in Cairo, as it is only an hour away by car.

¹¹ The word for source, well, in Arabic is Al-Ain. And the water is warm, which explains why this name was given to the city.

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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