

English translation:

N: Nafkote M: Woman on the left

N: *Meskel*¹.

M: Yes, there is *Meskel*.

N: *Meskel, Meskel*. Often, I wish I was *Gurage*² so that I could eat *kitfo*.³ We could all make *kitfo* at home.

M: It won't taste like that, though.

N: They're the ones that can make it taste really special. *Meskel* is great. Have you ever gone to watch?

M: No, I haven't.

N: It's great.

M: Could you describe it, please?

N: Uhh...well, you know how large the square is. There in the very middle are the main leaders of the churches, both Catholic and Orthodox, the patriarchs. So imagine; it's huge. And near the middle, there are high-ranking people as well as tourists from all over the world – there is a space cleared for them, because those of us on the edges are lively. There– the people are very crowded there could be a problem, there's lots of jostling. And then the excitement, which way is the cross going to fall? To the east? To the west?

M: The direction itself has its own meaning, doesn't it?

N: Yes, it does have an interpretation.

M: What is it, usually? Sometimes, when it falls to the west, they say there will be hunger, and if it falls to the north, they say it will be a plentiful year. It doesn't always come true but, oh well.

N: Yeah, it's great.

¹ Ethiopian holiday celebrating the finding of the true cross.

² An ethnic group in Ethiopia.

³ Traditional Ethiopian dish.

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