

English translation:

Speech 1 Man in Blue Suit:

Our tradition is a good tradition. And it is because of this tradition that you are all here. And the people that we are talking about, even more so. They've gotten to know each other well, because marriage is no light matter. It's not a contract that we sign today and tear down tomorrow. Since we feel as though they have been guided well and have gone through the whole process, this is why, after he gave his permission, that's why we, too, give our permission. It is the people that we are talking about who know the full details of the situation, and they are the ones who will live with the consequences of the decision, isn't that so? All these things have happened, they've met...

[Interrupted when food is served.]

Speech 2 Priest:

In any case, this is good because of the approval of the parents, and because discussion is necessary. Since I attend many of these meetings, because I know the process and advise people on it, parental approval is a must. For example, the parents have the right to ask how the couple plans to support themselves in the future. And you took care of this earlier; you have discussed this with him. In this day, the boy can't be sent for without their studying each other and without the girl's full consent. The two of them have studied each other. What's more, I've met with both of them one day, and we spoke openly; we discussed how they could please their families and ask for their permission without being afraid, and how we as elders, could give them the expected answer without any reservations.

The bigger circumstance, now, is the children's character, because now marriage doesn't happen by letter and through elders as it did in the old days. Now the couples know each other, study each other. They've judged what their future circumstances will be – from the money that they'll earn to their faiths, and even their temperaments. And it is only after they've gotten to know and consider all these factors that we have arrived at this stage. And, our child Yigredu is a churchgoer. And our brother, as I've said, explained to me and convinced me more than she did. She's truly very educated and smart

It's already been said that one of the hardest things to do today is to maintain yourself and your family. It is not only a question of being educated or of having money. There are many who are lucky enough to have these things, whose families hang their heads in shame. But we know that this girl is able because she took care of herself, attended and finished school, got very good results – and now respecting herself and her family,

wishes to go through these proceedings. This is a life we can take joy in, both for me as a priest and you as her family.

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 everyday. 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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