

Arabic Transcript:

ا: ايش هي المدن الكبرى الي في هاي المناطق؟

ب: مدينة الموصل مدينة جبيرة بشمال العراق، بغداد بوسط العراق ... سامراء تقريبا ساعه او ساعه ونص شمال بغداد. بابل جنوب بغداد، النجف و كربلاء بالجنوب همينه محافظتين يعني يزورها العالم هواية، وعدنه همينه البصرة بالجنوب، همينه محافظه كلش جبيرة ... ثاني اكبر محافظه بالعراق.

ا: وكلتي بالشمال، في اكثر شي الاكراد؟

ب: اي الاكراد.

ا: وبالمحافظات الثانيه؟

ب: بالمحافظات الثانيه، تقريبا بجنوب العراق ... اغلبية الناس شيعه، وبوسط العراق الناس تقريبا سنة، شيعه، يكونون ..مختلطه يعني. بسسس سنة العراق تعيش... اغلبيتهم يعيشون بمدينة، بمحافظة تكريت بشمال العراق... يعني محافظة صلاح الدين الي مدينتها تكريت، الي صدام حسين من عدها. او محافظة الانبار الي هي على الغرب مال بغداد. محافظة ديالى همين بيها سنة ... بس تقريبا كل جنوب العراق شيعه. لانه همه تقريبا 60 بالمية من الشعب العراقي همه الشيعه.

ا: فذكرتي انه في نهرين في العراق، شو همه؟

ب: النهرين مال العراق، نهر دجلة و الفرات ... ثنيناتهم من تركيا ينبعون. دجلة ينبع من تركيا ويمر بالعراق على طول العراق، من الشمال للجنوب، والفرات ينبع من تركيا بس يمر بسوريا بعدين يدخل للعراق من محافظه الانبار. فدائماً لانه احنه عدنه هاي النهرين بالعراق الكبار، الناس يعني العراقيين يفتخرون بيهم والشعراء والكتاب دائماً يتغزلون بالنهرين مال العراق ويسمون العراق بلاد الرافدين، يسمون البنات بنات الرافدين مثلاً هسه اني بنت الرافدين. ال ... مثلاً اللاعبين مال الطوبه (كرة القدم) يسموهم، مثلاً من يفوزون بلعبة يسموهم اسود الرافدين ... فهواية اشياء على الرافدين.

ا: يعني تفتخرون بيهم؟

ب: اي نعم نفتخر بيهم.

English Translation

Girl behind the camera: What are the biggest cities in these areas?

Zahraa: Mosel is a big city in northern Iraq, Baghdad in the middle, Samara about an hour or an hour and half north of Baghdad, Najaf and Karbala in the south – also two major cities and visited a lot, Basra in the south- a large city, second biggest city in Iraq.

Girl behind the camera: Did you say Kurds live in the north?

Zahraa: Yes, Kurds.

Girl behind the camera: And in other cities?

Zahraa: In other cities, mostly in southern Iraq, most of the people are Shiite, and in central Iraq they're mostly Sunnis and Shiites ... kind of a mix. But...the Iraqi Sunnis live ... most of them in the city of ... Tikrit, this is the major city in the governorate of Salah Al-Din, where Saddam Hussein is from. Also, the governorate of Anbar which is to the west of Iraq and the governorate of Diyala has Sunnis too. Mostly in southern Iraq there are Shiites, because 60% of the Iraqis are Shiites.

Girl behind the camera: You mentioned two rivers in Iraq, what are they?

Zahraa: The two rivers are Tigris and Euphrates, both stem from Turkey. Tigris stems from Turkey and passes through Iraq from the north to the south. The Euphrates stems from Turkey but goes through Syria before entering Iraq in Anbar. We are always proud of having those two rivers in Iraq, many poets, and writers fantasize about the rivers and they call Iraq "the land of the two branches/rivers". They call the girls, for example, the "daughters of the two branches/rivers" ... so I'm the daughter of the two branches for example. The soccer players are called "the lions of the two branches" when they win a match ... so there are many things about the two branches/rivers.

Girl behind the camera: Are you proud of them?

Zahraa: Yes, we are!

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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