

English Translation:

Woman behind camera: If this is the situation of the society, in that it didn't allow the man in the previous time, I mean, in the previous periods to see his wife, then how is, what will the situation of the society be regarding divorce in case they didn't get along.

Man: Who gets divorced; divorce for the, the Iraqi society is considered shameful; shameful and a bad thing. So ...aa... people try always I mean, even if there are big problems...

Woman behind camera: True.

Man: ...try to support their daughters and [say] that "It's shameful to get divorced. What shall we tell people? Our daughter got divorced?" People would ask what's wrong with her¹. This might be a defect in her chastity. Perhaps her husband saw a defect in her chastity. The divorced woman originally is rejected in the society.

Woman behind camera: True.

Man: So people try always, when they wish to get married or try to find brides for, brides for their sons, they try not to go to divorced women, because the divorced woman is considered as a woman who went through an experience² and she knows more things than a single woman does.

Woman behind camera: Right.

Man: And she might be bad.

Woman behind camera: You mean to say that the society blames the woman in divorce situations more than it blames the man even if the fault comes from the man.

Man: Generally, generally. Even in the, the past people didn't understand that, for example, the husband could be, for instance, unable to have children.

Woman behind camera: True.

Man: So...aaa... people, I mean, when they see that the wife doesn't conceive, they encourage the, the, the, the husband to choose another woman.

Woman behind camera: True.

¹ As a wife.

² He means a sexual relationship.

Man: So, it could be, I mean; there wasn't in the past tests and medical development that would examine...

Woman behind camera: Add to that the shame that...

Man: This used to be a social problem. I mean, I mean, I mean he marries another woman, another woman and does not have children.

Woman behind camera: Right.

Man: Not to have children...

Woman behind camera: Correct.

Man: What, what is his fault, I mean, I mean, to imprison two women. Besides, I mean logically, I mean, and this is science; a person cannot love two. A person's heart is a selfish heart that's unable to...aa... I mean...aa... love two women simultaneously, together; or a woman cannot love two men at the same time. So one hundred percent you find the husband favors one of his wives and...aaa... is, is [acting] in a mechanical way or he's unkind with the other woman, the other wife.

Woman behind camera: Right, right.

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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