

Arabic Transcript:

لمن جيبوا عائلتكم وتعالو .. رح تجي عائلة اكبر .. هالمرة رح يتقسمون رياجيل ونسوان. الرياجيل رح يكعدون يسولفون سويه وهاي الخطبة الرسمية. والنسوان رح يجون بوحدهم والناس كلها تبدل وتشترى ملابس خطبة .. والبنية تشتري ملابس .. يعني .. مال مال خطبة .. يعني نقوف نسمي بالعراق الي هو (الفستان) مال خطبة .. ف البنية هي الي رح تزوح تقدم الشربت لعائلة الولد .. ف .. الي هيه رح تصير كلها دائما بالغرفة كاعدين رياجيل فهيه رح تدخل وتقدم الشربت لهم وتطلع بعدين ترجع تكعد ويه عائلة .. النسوان .. عائلتها وعائلة الولد. فيبدون يسولفون يناقشون شنو الاشياء .. تقريب ... الاهل .. العائله .. الرياجيل يناقشون ب .. المهر الي هو شرح يجيبون للبنية بالبدايه .. فيما لا سامح الله صارت مشكلة ببيناتهم وصار طلاك .. شنو رح الولد يجيب للبنية ؟ النسوان رح يكعدون يناقشون همين بالمهر .. بس يقسموا بيدون مثلا (نيشان) الي هو المحبس والتراجي وشوف يعني هاي .. هاي .. الذهب الي رح يشتروا للبنية .. الملابس .. لان من البنية تتزوج، العريس يجيبها كلشي، يجهزها من كل الاشياء .. والرياجيل يناقشون بالبيت وشلون رح يبني البيت او مثلا يشتري بيت والاثاث وهاي السوالف. ف ... يحددون موعد ثنيناتهم انه يطلعون بهجي يوم يشترون الغراض .. ف يقرون الفاتحه وهاي يعني انخطبوا. فيروحوون همينه .. هاي يسموها قرابة الفاتحه وهاي الجزء الاول من الخطوبه .. اكو جزء ثاني .. الجزء الثاني لمن يروحوون يشترون الغراض .. يشترون الذهب .. تعتمد على امكانية الولد .. اذا الولد غني رح يشتريها السيت الي هو التراجي والمحبس والسوار والكلادة هاي السوالف .. اذا الولد مو غني اقلها لازم يجيبها محبس وشوف شنو فد شي ثاني وياها تعتمد. ف .. وره ما يجيبون النيشان .. يشترون غراض للبنية يشتروها ملابس واحديه .. ويعني شنو اي شي تفكرين بي يشتروا. يشترون .. يطلعون همين... وراها تبدي طلعات تصير عدهم هوايه .. انه يشترون غراض للبيت .. غرفة نوم اهم شي .. حته لو ماعدهم بيت لازم يشترون غرفة نوم.. غرفة نوم، اثاث للبيت، طباخ، تلاجة .. يعني كلش طويلة. لمن ... وره ما يشترون الذهب، رح تصير عدهم خطوبه ثانية الي هو هالمرة يعزمون بيها الاصدقاء مو بس الاهل .. وهاي لمن الولد يلبس البنية المحبس. واغاني وركص وحفله وشربت واشياء... والاطفال تركض وتلعب... وفرحانين ومن هالسوالف.

English Translation

When they [the young lady's family] ask them [the man's family] to bring their extended family, a bigger family will come. The families will divide into women and men. Men will sit together to discuss the engagement and this is known as the official engagement. Women get together and everyone is wearing engagement costumes and stuff, and the girl goes specifically to buy an engagement outfit which we call in Iraq *nafnoof*. The girl is usually the one who serves the juice for the men, and she only enters the room to serve the juice before returning to sit back with the women.

Afterwards, the two families will start to discuss the *mahar*¹ which is what to present to the girl as wedding gifts. Also, men will discuss what to present to the girl if, God forbid, there is a problem between them in the future and they decided that they'd want a divorce. Women will discuss the same idea of *mahar* but on smaller basis, they'll be discussing what kind of jewelry and clothes they'd buy the girl. When a girl marries in Iraq, the guy has to get her everything new. Men will discuss house issues and furniture. Both families decide on a date when they both go shopping. After this, both families will

¹ dowry

recite a surah² from the Quran known as *Al-Fatiha*³, which means “The Opening” and this is the first part of the engagement.

The second part of the engagement is when they go shopping. The first thing that they have to buy is the golden jewelry. And it depends on how wealthy the guy is. If the guy is wealthy, he’d buy the girl a whole set of jewelry that is: a ring, an engagement ring, a necklace, earrings and a bracelet. If the guy is not that wealthy, he has to at least get the girl the engagement ring and something else with it. After they get her the jewelry, they’d start getting the clothes, then the house supplies such as a fridge, a stove, a bedroom [set] which is very important. Even if the couple won’t buy a new house and they’ll stay with the guy’s family, they have to have at least a bedroom. After they go shopping the engagement party where the guy would put the ring on the girl’s finger will happen. It is a huge celebration where everyone is happy and dressed up and playing music with children running around.

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² chapter

³ The opening chapter of the Quran