

Arabic Transcript:

ا: احنه عدنه بيوتته بيها سطح ... فجنه بالصيف لان جونه حار نصعد بالسطح ننام ..

ب: شنو السطح؟

ا: السطح يعني بناء اعلى من الغرف

ب: روف

بناء اعلى من الغرف نصعدله عن طريق الدرج لان كل ... يعني احنه بيوت عدنه، ماعدنه شقق ... فهاي البيوت بيها الطابق الاول غرف نوم، هول، مطبخ، وبالطابق الثاني يصير السطح... ف أغلبية البيوت العراقيه جانت يأما من طابقين او طابق واحد وبعدين يجي السطح وراه. وطبعا بي سياج يحده سياج طبعا لان شلون يعني ... فمن نصعد بالسطح لكون ان الدنيا حاره يعني وماكو تبريد... يعني ماكو مكيفات ... هاي جانو يكعدون عالمهفات يهفون. فجو العراق حار بشهر السادس والسابع والثامن .. فتصعد بنت العائله تغسل السطح او ترشه بالمى علمود ببرد، بعدين تفرش الفراش ... تقريبا من المغرب... حتى من يجون ينامون بالليل يعني فد بالتسعه بالليل ينامون ... الفراش بارد ينامون . وجان دائما العائله العراقيه يعني بالصيف، متصعد تنام فوك اذا متاخذ صينييه بيها ركي وسجينه يكعدون ياكلون ... وخبز ومي ... لازم ..يعني بالليل قبل ما ينامون ياكلون... يمكن حتى اخاف بنص الليل يكعدون يفزون من النوم، ياكلون. ... ما ادري شنو الفكره منها. المهم، فجانت هاي يعني يصورولنه اياها يعني شلون يعني بهاي الغرفه عساس هو سطح وشون هو الزوج نايم على المندر مالتة والزوجه ...زوجته يمه نايمه على المندر ...طبعا منفصلين يعني ميناومون سويه، واولادهم مهم، والصينييه وبيها الركي ...

English Translation:

A: Our houses have flat roofs...therefore in the summers, and because the weather is really hot... we used to go sleep up on the roof.

B: What's the "flat roof?"

A: The roof is the highest part of the building...

B: Okay, roof

A: The roof is the highest part of the building; we reach it by going up the stairs...because we have houses, and we don't have apartments...so the first floor is bedrooms, living room, kitchen, and the second floor is the roof. Most Iraqi houses are either two floors or one floor and the roof and of course it is surrounded by fences...so we go up the roof when the weather is hot and there's no air conditioner...I mean ACs...they used hand fans to generate air...the weather in Iraq is really hot in June, July and August...so the girl of the house goes upstairs to wash the roof or spray it with water to get cool air...then she would bring the bedding [up to the roof] around the sunset so that when they come to sleep around 9:00 PM...the bed is cool ... and the Iraqi family used to always, in the summers, refuse to go upstairs without a tray with watermelon and a knife so that they'd eat...or bread and water...it's necessary...I mean at night, before going to bed, they have to eat...and even if they wake up in the middle of the night, they'd eat...I don't

know what's the idea behind it... anyway, so this is what they depict for us... in this room¹, it's a roof and the husband is sleeping on the mattress and his wife is sleeping next to him... in a separate mattress... they don't sleep together... and their children are sleeping next to them ... and the tray with the watermelon...

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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¹ She is referring to this scene of daily life being depicted in a room at a museum.