

## Allowing Your Daughter to Study Abroad

### Persian transcript:

**ناهید:** ببین مثلاً زمانی که من دیپلم گرفتم و پدر من گفت من می خوام تو رو بفرستم آمریکا درس بخونی مثلاً کلی از دوستان و فامیل و اینها (گفتند) "تو چطوری می تونی اجازه بدی به دختری رو بفرستی آمریکا اگر تو دختری رو بفرستی آمریکا دیگه فاتحه اش رو بخون [بخوان] اون دیگه دختر برای تو نمی شه" پدر من می گفت نه من دختر خودم رو می شناسم اگر کُره ی ماه هم بفرستمش می دونم کی هستش.

**محسن:** یعنی به جورایی تو فرهنگ ما یک عدم اعتمادی به دخترا بود به حالت عدم اعتماد که دختر آگه تنها باشه ممکنه به اتفاقی براش بیفته ممکنه ...

**ناهید:** خب بله برا این که آسیب پذیرتره دخترا را آسیب پذیرتر می دونستند.

**محسن:** یعنی چی آسیب پذیرتر می دونستند؟ یعنی از چه جهت؟

**ناهید:** خب خیلی چیزا براشون مهم بود اینی که آگه به موقع این دختر اگر خدایی نکرده با یک پسر دوست بشه و بیرون بره و خدایی نکرده اگر قبل از ازدواج رابطه ای صمیمی تر از فقط یه دوستی باشه اینها خیلی موارد ترس بود برای پدر و مادرها

**محسن:** ولی مثلاً اگر یک پسر می رفت و یک رابطه ی حالا به قول خودشون نامشروع با یه دختر دیگه داشت مثلاً اون بد بود فقط بد بود فاجعه نبود.

**ناهید:** فاجعه نبودش، ولی برای دختر فاجعه بودش.

**محسن:** درسته یعنی آگه دختر دیگه اون به اصطلاح یه همچین رابطه ی نامشروعی اتفاق می افتاد دیگه فاجعه رُخ داده بود. اون دختر دیگه دختر بشو نبود.

### English translation:

**Nahid:** Look, for instance, when I got my high school diploma and my father told me, "I want to send you to America to study," many of our friends and relatives told him, "How can you think of sending one of your daughters to the US? If you send one of your girls to America, that's it. *You will lose her.*"<sup>1</sup> My father was saying, "No, I know my own daughter; if I send her to the moon I know who she is."

**Mohsen:** You mean there was a lack of trust in women, a state of lack of trust that if a girl is alone, it is possible that something would happen to her...

**Nahid:** Well, yeah because she is more vulnerable; they considered women more vulnerable.

**Mohsen:** What does it mean, 'considered them more vulnerable'? In what way?

**Nahid:** Well, there were many things important to them. Whether once this girl, God forbid, makes friends and hangs out with a guy, and God forbid if before marriage they

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<sup>1</sup> Literally: 'she won't be your daughter anymore'. It means when you send your daughter to the US she is going to lose her honor and in this way you are going to lose your daughter.

have a relationship closer than a simple friendship—all these were sources of fear for parents.

**Mohsen:** But, for example if a boy used to go and had a relationship—as you put it, ‘illegitimate’—with another girl, it would be bad but it would not be a disaster.

**Nahid:** It was not a disaster, but for a girl it was.

**Mohsen:** That’s right. I mean if for a girl such a so-called ‘illegitimate’ relationship had happened, a disaster would have occurred. That girl had lost her honor.

**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 every day. 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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