

Levantine Arabic transcript:

المرأة: احتفال الخطبة يكون مدعوين إلو الأصدقاء والجيران والأحباب والمعارف كلهم, معارف العاروس, أصدقاء العروس, صديقات العروس. في هذا اليوم.. آه.. يكون رسمي جدا.. آيه.. بتناولو فيه الحلويات, ممكن كيك, ممكن كنافه, ممكن أي نوع من الحلويات, بيعملوا زفه للعرو.. آه.. حفلة غنائيه, بتبقى العروس مرتديه أجمل ملابسها.. وو.. والعريس كذلك.. وو..

المرأة خلف الكاميرا: طيب وهاي التكلفة للزواج وللخطبه وهاي علمين بتكون؟
المرأة: تكلفة الزواج عادة, المعترف فيه, من عادات وتقاليد أنو أهل العريس بيتم كل إشي منهم, وفي عائلات.. آيه.. بتحب.. آه.. انو الضيافة اللي في البيت تكون من أهلها, منهم نفسه, الي هم أهل العروس. وهذا يكون متفق عليه من الأول.

المرأة خلف الكاميرا: طيب..
المرأة: وانواع العصير والحلويات. اللي بتتقدم.

المرأة خلف الكاميرا: طيب ليش..
المرأة: في ناس بحبو كمان يعملوا حفلات. بوفيه مثلا, عبارة عن مثلا معجنات, تبوله, حلويات مختلفة. هذا كل إشي راجع لكل أسرة, حسب ما بدها بتتصرف.

English translation:

Woman: An engagement party includes guests and friends and neighbors and relatives and all acquaintances -- the bride's acquaintances and friends and girlfriends. This day is a very official one ...ah... they have sweets, perhaps cake, perhaps *konaifa*,¹ perhaps any type of sweet. They celebrate the bride...ah... a party where the bride wears the most beautiful clothes; so does the groom.

Woman behind camera: And the expense of marriage and engagement, who pays it?

Woman: The expense of the marriage, usually, as customs and traditions state, that the groom's family pays for everything. And there are families who prefer to offer hospitality, I mean...ah... the bride's family, and this is arranged from the beginning.

Woman behind camera: Fine...ah...

¹ *Konaifa* is a very famous type of sweet in most Arab countries. It has a bottom layer of an angel-hair type of dough, a mid layer of cream and butter, and a top layer of angel-hair dough, decorated with pistachios or other nuts.

Woman: And types of juice and sweets served....

Woman behind camera: Then why...?

Woman: And they also have parties. Buffet for instance: pastries, tabouleh, different sweets.

Woman behind camera: And...ah....

Woman: It depends on each family and what they want to do.

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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