

Levantine Arabic transcript:

المرأة: بدو يراعي الواحد عدد الأشخاص اللي بدو يعزمهم. بي دعوات على الغدا, أما بدها تكون دعوات رسميه او دعوات لأهل الأسرة, للجيران, للأصدقاء.. للكل مناسبه وإلها انواع معينه من الأكل بذك تحضرها. مثلا اذا كانت الدعوة موجوده على الغدا وانا عازمه عشر أشخاص, مفروض اني لما بدي أعمل إني ما اعمل بس فقط لعشر أشخاص, مفروض أعمل حسابي انو تغدي هاي.. ال.. من خمسطاش لعشرين شخص. اولا ممكن انو اتفاجأ بأعداد ثانيه تزورني, ممكن أكالات معينه ما بحبهاش الضيف بدو يعوض عنها بأكلات معينه ثانيه. وعشان هيك لازم يتوفر أكل يقضي خمسطاش لعشرين شخص. عادة عنا الوجبه الرئيسييه لما تكون العزومه بتكون عبارة عن المنسف اللي هو عبارة عن رز, وخبز بسموه خبز شراك, هذا الخبز بنمد بصواني كبيره, بتسقى بمرقة.. اللبن.. بعدين بيضع الرز, بعدين بيضع فوق الرز اللبن, المكسرات من لوز وصنوبر وقطع من اللحمه على أن تكون القطع كبيره جدا. مثلا كل ثمن أشخاص يكون أمامهم صنيه, صحون, معالق, في طرق معينه, في ناس بحبو الطرق التقليديه اللي هي أنو عن طرق ايديهم يتناولوا المنسف, وفي ناس بتناولوا المنسف بالمعلقة والشوكة والصحن. في عادة أنو عزائم البيت اذا ما كانتش رسميه واعداد كبيره كثيره مثلهنا عشر أشخاص أو ثمن أشخاص أو خمسطاش أشخاص, يكون أكل منوع, ممكن أطبخ انا مثلا منسف, ممكن أطبخ مسخن, ممكن أطبخ مقلوبه, ممكن أطبخ صواني لحمه, ممكن أعمل صواني دجاج.. ممكن أعمل عنا أكله مشهوره كوسا ورق مثلا, وهاي متعبه جدا وبدها وقت أكثر, فأنا لما بدي أكرم بيتي.. ضيفي.. بحاول إني أطبخلوا هاي الطبخه مثلا مع انواع ثانيه ممكن اعمل معجنات, ممكن اعمل مثلا انواع من الخضار. عادة يكون الأكل منوع وأكثر من صنف على الصفره.

English translation:

Woman: One must consider the number of people one invites. For lunch invitations, they are either official invitations or invitations for family, for neighbors, for friends. Each occasion has its own types of dishes to be served. For example, if it's a luncheon and I have invited 10 persons, when I prepare food, I'm not supposed to cook for only 10 persons. I'm supposed to prepare enough for 15 or 20 people. First, I may be surprised by extra visitors, or perhaps a guest doesn't like a certain dish so he goes for another one, and that's why there must be enough food for 15 to 20 persons. Usually if there is a feast, the main dish is *el-Mansaf* which consists of rice and a bread called *Shraa* bread. This bread is spread widely on big trays, soaked with meat broth ... with yoghurt, then rice is added; after rice, yoghurt is added, nuts such as almond and pine seeds, and pieces of meat -- provided that the pieces are very big.

For example, every eight persons would share a tray, plates, and spoons. There are certain methods [to eating this dish]. Some people like the traditional way, which is using hands to eat *el-Mansaf*; and there are other people who would eat *el-Mansaf* by using a spoon and fork and a plate.

Usually, if feasts are not official or don't have many, many people -- for instance 10 persons or eight persons or 15 persons -- then the food is diverse. I might cook, for example, *el-Mansaf*; I might cook *musakhan*; I might cook *maklube*; I might cook meat dishes; I might make chicken dishes, or I might cook a famous dish called stuffed zucchini which is a very tiring dish and requires a long time to be prepared. So if I want to welcome a guest in my house, I would cook, for instance, this dish, or other kinds of dishes. I might make pastries; I might make ... ah ... for instance, types of vegetables. Usually the food is diverse and there is more than one type on the table.

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