

Levantine Arabic transcript:

المرأة: احترام الكبار وارد. الام من اول ما يبدا اولادها يوعوا, ويصير الولد عمروا خمس سنوات بيقدر يميز بين الملح ومش مليح, بتعرفوا انو في دايمنا انو في شخص اكبر منك, هذا الشخص اللي اكبر منك يجب انك انتا تحترموا. يسمي احتراموا على طريقة اثناء الحديث انو الصوت يكون واطي, لما بدي احكي انا مع هذا الشخص احكي بأدب, أحكي بطريقه مرتبه ومميزه. اذا هذا الشخص كان كبير بالسن واحتاج مني شئ أنو كيف اتعامل معو كيف اساعدوا كيف اعاونو. اذا كان شخص مثلا اعمى كيف امسك ايده (...)أخليه فاقد البصر انو كيف يقدر يوصل للمكان اللي هو فيني اساعدوا. اذا كانت ستي كبيره وبدها تطلع بره او تروح لاي مكان ثاني كيف امسك ايدها كيف اساعدها, اذا دخل علي ضيوف و كبار بالسن وأنا قاعدة كيف افسح لهم المجال حتى ان هم يقعدوا, فهذا بيرجع للام انو تعود اولادها من الصغر على احترام مين اكبر منهم سنا وببدا مين اكبر منهم سنا اللي هو اخوانه اللي اكبر منه امه ابوه في البيت جديه جده, الاعمام الاخوال, كلو هاي, بعدين بالشخص اللي هو بيكون بعيد عني وأجا. ممكن جار ممكن صديق..ممكن.. أي شخص زارني في بيتو كيف اتعامل معاه, وكيف البيلو حاجياتو. نفس الشئ الجار لو طلب مني اجبلوا غرض, اناولو شئ, كيف اني انا اناولو, لو كان هوي مريض او تعبان كيف اني اساعدوا. فهذا بينشأ من تربية الام لا اولادها.

English translation:

Woman: Respecting adults is a must. For a mother, once her children start to understand and a child is five years old -- he is able to distinguish between right and wrong -- she teaches him that there is a person older than you are. You must respect this older person. He learns to respect others. When speaking, he talks softly. When I speak to a person, I speak politely; I speak in a civilized and nice way. If a senior person needs something from me, I learn how to deal with, help, and support him. If a person is, for instance, blind, I learn how to hold his hand and how to help him reach his destination. If a senior lady wishes to go outside or go somewhere, I learn how to hold her hand and help her. If senior guests come, I offer my spot for them to sit. This is up to the mother, who teaches her children early to respect those older than they, such as older brothers, mother, father at home; grandfather, grandmother, uncles [father's side], uncles [mother's side], all of those people; then the people more distant -- perhaps a neighbor, perhaps a friend, perhaps any visitor in my home -- and how to deal with him and how to please him.

The same thing goes for a neighbor; if he asks me to bring him something, how to bring it? If he's ill and tired, how I should help him? This comes from a mother's education of her children.

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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