

Levantine Arabic transcript:

أرام: بدل السي في تيعولي.
زينه: آيه شي هيك.

أرام: أوكي. أنا تعلمت بعنجر لخامس ابتدائي. يعني..للخامس الابتدائي..بسموها elementary.
Secondary تعلمت بزحله بعيده 12 او 15 كيلومتر من عنجر.
زينه: مش كثير بعيده.

أرام: وكفيت للسيلون أخذت الفلسفه بسموها هم..يعني college.
زينه: فلسفه يعني باك (bachelor) لبناني.

أرام: باك لبناني..وخلصتها بزحله. وبعدين كفيت ب (LIU) Lebanese International
University.

زينه: ببيروت ولا بفرع ثاني؟

أرام: في ثلاث فروع: مسيطبه, بيروت, بقاع. أنا بتعلم ببقاع صرلي سنتي بيها وبتعلم
اختصاصين ماليه بنوك يعني banking and Finance و Accounting
..Double major..Management.

زينه: يعني ما عملت Archaeology؟

أرام: ما عملت archaeology لأنو عملت دوره بوزارة السياحة, أنا local guide ما بطلع برات
عنجر. أوقات فراغي بس, in my holiday time only ..in my holiday time only
time. يعني مش ثابت هون.

زينه: وأنتا ما طالع على بالك مثلا تعمل..
أرام: archaeology.. لأ.

زينه: وبيجوا طلاب archaeology هون؟

أرام: بيجوا طلاب archaeology اللي بيتعلموا بالجامعة اللبنانية, بالمعهد اللبناني بالدقوينه, لأنو
المسجلين بالأيوبيه أو LIU..American system..ما بيتسجلوا archaeology.

زينه: ما عندن فرع archaeology بال AUB؟

أرام: عندن, قليل اللي بيتسجلوا فيه archaeology..اللي بدو يعمل archaeology بروح على
الجامعة اللبنانية..أرخص.. archaeology مش هاي الإختصاص ال perfect..لأنو اللي بدوا يروح
على ال AUB بيعمل medicine بيعمل nurse بيعمل marketing..accounting..هاي
الإختصاصات يعني..واللي بيسجل بالجامعة اللبنانية ما بيطلعوا من المناطق الأثرية يعملوا project
ولا يعملوا شي من هاي النوع.

زينه: عند جد ما بيطلعوا بيشتغوا؟

أرام: قليل بيطلعوا, اللي مسجل سياحة بمعهد ببيروت..هني لمسجل سياحة المعهد بيطلعوهم مثلا كل
شهر منطقه أثرية, عنجر, بعلبك, بيت التين.

زينه: وبيبدوا مثلا يعملوا tour guide.

أرام: وبيشرحوا كيف الأدلاء الأساسيين, الأدلاء الكبار, اللي بيعلموا بالمعاهد..أنو صرلن ثلاثين
أربعين سنة بالسياحة بيحبون هون, بيشرحولهم كيف بدهن يشرحوا للسواح بعد ما يتخرجوا.

زينه: يعني عم بيشتغلوا مثل ما أنتا عم بتعمل؟
أرام: مثل ما بعمل وعلى أحسن ممكن لأنو هني الأساتذه بيعرفوا شو الغلط وشو الصح..شي من هاي النوع.واللي عم بيعمل سياحة لازم يعرف ثلاث-أربع لغات على القليله ومن هون ورايح النقابه اللي عم بتعطي أهميه أكثر للغات الصعبة منها الروسي, التركي..
زينه: عنجد.
أرام: بلبنان قليل اللي عندهن هاي اللغات..من الأدلاء.
زينه: آيه أكيد.
أرام: مثل التركي, الروسي, الأرمني.
زينه: بس مطلوبه؟
أرام: أكيد مطلوبه.
زينه: يعني بيجوا ناس.
أرام: بيجوا أتراك, بيجوا روس, في سواح من هود البلاد.
زينه: أوكي مرسي.

English translation:

“Studying Tourism”/ “Historic Anjar-2”

Aram: You want my c.v.?

Zeina: Yeah, something like that.

Aram: Okay. I went to school in Anjar, up to fifth grade, elementary (they call it “elementary”). I went to Zahleh for secondary school, about 12-15 kilometers from Anjar.

Zeina: Not very far.

Aram: And I finished with a philosophy concentration in secondary school. “College.”

Zeina: Philosophy meaning a Lebanese Bac¹?

Aram: Lebanese Bac. So I finished in Zahleh. And then I started at LIU – Lebanese International University.

Zeina: In Beirut --or at another branch?

Aram: There are three branches. Saida, Beirut, Bekaa. I went to Bekaa. I’ve been there for two years and I’m learning two specialties: bank and finance, and accounting management double major.

¹ Baccalaureat – Fr. French high school system terminating in exams in different subjects. Students must pass the exams in order to receive their diplomas.

Zeina: So you didn't study archaeology.

Aram: I didn't study archaeology because I took a course at the Ministry of Tourism. I'm a local guide, I don't leave Anjar. Free time only. In my holiday time only.

Zeina: So you don't –

Aram: Summer job and holiday time. I don't do this all the time.

Zeina: And you don't want to do....

Aram: Archaeology? No.

Zeina: No. And do archaeology students come here from AUB or...

Aram: Archaeology students from the Lebanese University or from the Lebanese Institute...Dikwani, come here. Because the ones who are enrolled at AUB or LIU or in the American system don't enroll in archaeology programs.

Zeina: They don't have archaeology departments at AUB?

Aram: They have them but very few people register in them. People who want to study archaeology go to the Lebanese University. It's cheaper. Archaeology isn't a ... specialization. People do medicine, nursing, marketing, accounting...these specializations. And people who enroll at the Lebanese University don't go to archeological sites to do projects or things like that.

Zeina: Really? They don't go out and...

Aram: Very few do. If you're enrolled in tourism (at Dikwani or the Beirut Institute) they...the Institute makes them go out. For example every month an archeological site: Anjar, Baalbeck, Beit ittteen...

Zeina: And they study to be tour guides?

Aram: They explain how...the main guides that teach at the institutes, who've been in tourism for 30, 40 years – They bring them here and they explain how to explain [things] to tourists after they've graduated.

Zeina: Work like you're doing.

Aram: Like I'm doing, and better, maybe. Because their professors know what's right and what's wrong. Something like that. And people doing tourism have to know three to four languages, at least. And the people in charge of these programs are placing emphasis on hard languages like Russian, Turkish

Zeina: Really?

Aram: In Lebanon few people speak these languages. Few guides.

Zeina: Of course.

Aram: Like Turkish, Russian, Armenian ...

Zeina: But are they in demand?

Aram: Yes, of course.

Zeina: People come from –

Aram: Turks come, Russians come. There are tourists from those countries.

Zeina: Okay, thanks.

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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