

Levantine Arabic transcript:

الأم: بس عم بيزيد الطلب..
العمة: مش عم بيزيد, مجبورين يوخذوا هالتدابير.
الأم: هلا أنتو عند الأرتوذكس عم بتعلى نسبة الطلاق أكثر.
العمة: عند الكل..
الأم: عند الكل, بس أنتو عند الأرتوذكس أسهل.
العمة: أبدا مش أسهل, كلهن عم بيعملوا أشوريين.
الأم: شو أشوريين?
العمة: ما حدن عم بيعمل أرتوذكس.
الأم: شو أشوريين?
العمة: بيعملوا أشوريين وبيخذوا..
الأم: لحتى يقدرُوا يطلقوا.. آه لأنو أسهل شي.
العمة: لأنو عند الأرتوذكس صعب كثير.
الأم: عند الأشوريين أسهل?
العمة: عند الأرتوذكس صعب.
الأب: الأشوريين مجموعهم صغيره كثير.
الأم: بس القانون تبعها أسهل.
العمة: لأن لأنو عم يتفقوا, بس لأنو عند الروم في طلاق بس الشروط كثير صعبه, هاي هي اللي ما عم بيّفهما واحد.
الأم: ما خص إذا في أو ما فيه..
العمة: إذا بدك تتبعي القانون صعب كثير, يا زنا, يا واحد ما..
الأم: يجيب ولاد...
العمة: عرفت كيف.. مش.. بالصد.. عند الكاثوليك وعند الموارنه عم بيلاقوا (Vice du consentement)
هين.. بيتفقوا, انو أنا تزوجت تحت ضغط أو تحت... بيتفقوا مع بعضون بيلاقو Formule بس المهم عم بيلاقوا
Formule بس قديش عم بيختلفوا يللي كانوا يحبوا بعضن وبسرة بيطلقوا بعضن.
الأم: صارت أسهل الطلاق.
العمة: ما بيحملوا..
الأم: ما بيحملوا.. ما بيحملوا آه. نحنا بيني وبينك ثلاث أرباع صفنا لو ما بيتحمل كانوا طلقوا.. إذا بتوخذهن كلهن
بترجعيهن وحدة وحدة.. آياه كانت مثلا فعلا بدى تبقى مع زوجها بتلاقي أقل من النص..
العمة: أكيد ما حدن بيقبل.. كانت وحدة إذا زوجها عمل تنصبيه تسكت, هلا مين..
الأم: ما بتقبل.
زينه: شو تنصبيه?
العمة: يعني إذا عمل إحتيال.
الأم: يعني سرقة fraud.
العمة: تقول هيدا قدرى.. هلا مين بيبقى.
الأم: تقول هيدا جوزي هيك ما فيني بدى أسكت. هلا إذا سبها وبهدلها ومرتين بالجمعة بتركوا. بتروح إدبر شغلة.
العمة: لا مثلا نحنا حضرنا عرس بنت صحبتنا. عملت هيبي.. الأم والبي مطلقين.. عملتلا هي عرس, عرس عشاء,
مش (...). وبعدين بعد جمعيتين عملوا العرس, وعملوا عشا العرس بال Phoenicia.. والأولاد بيحبوا بعضن كثير
كثير, بفرنسا شايفين..
الأم: تعرفوا على بعضن بفرنسا.
العمة: آيه ما إلهن دخل الأهل أبدا. بقى انا بكسبها هي الأم راحت تغدت عندي نهار كان في انتخابات نقابة المحامين
بطرابلس وهي مسجلة بطرابلس. طلعت تغدي عندي كان عندي ناس, مثل ما بيحي الأحد, بيحي كثير هيك. بقى بعد

الغدا قعدنا قتلها كيف العرسان, قال أمانح. كانت بنهارها حطت صورهن برستيچ. تاري قدام الناس ما إليها عين
قالتلي, ونحن را يحيين قالتلي (...). بتعرفي قد ما..ز.
الأم: البننت عندها بالبيت أختلفت هي وزوجها, صرلها شهرين مجوزه. آيه هم بيختلفوا بالأول. تركتوا?
العمة: بعدنا عم بسألها انا كيف أحوالهن.
الأب: كيف أحوالهن.
العمة: يعني انا عم بقول ما بقا لازم.
الأم: مانوا عاملين جواز وكل شي وحفله..حفلتين..
العمة: آيه, وكل مره أسمعني, (...).
الأم: بيعملوا الحفلة والفستان والترلالا والهيدا وبعدين وبكفوا أهلن بلاوي..
العمة: لأ هديك المرة ست صاحبتني انعزمتنا على عرس وحده ثاني مرة, عم بتقلي الست عملنا أول مرة هدية بنعمل
مرة ثانية. قتلها ما غير عريس شو إلة دخل, هداك راح.
الأم: عا عرسين, عرسين بكم سنه هيدي.
العمة: أربع سنين

English translation:

Mom: Divorce is increasing.

Aunt: It's not increasing –

Mom: Is divorce going up in the Orthodox Church?

Aunt: It's going up everywhere.

Mom: Everywhere, but it's easier in the Orthodox Church

Aunt: It's not easier. They're all doing Assyrian.

Mom: What's Assyrian?

Aunt: No one's doing Orthodox weddings.

Mom: What's Assyrian?

Aunt: They're getting Assyrian weddings because –

Mom: To get divorced? Because it's easier?

Aunt: Yeah, because it's really hard in the Orthodox Church.

Mom: It's easier with the Assyrians?

Aunt: With the Orthodox it's really hard. Yes it is.

Dad: Assyrians are a really small group.

Mom: The rules are easier.

Aunt: Because they're agreeing. For the Romans [Roman Catholics] there is divorce but the rules are really strict. If you want to follow the rules, it's really hard. Adultery, infertility, you know. Not just like that. But with the Catholics and Maronites they come to an agreement¹ (I got married under pressure or ...), and they come up with a formula.² The important thing is that they are coming up with a formula. But how much they aren't getting along! The ones that used to love each other ... and they get divorced quickly.

Mom: They can't stand anything. Between you and me, if three quarters of our class couldn't stand anything they would've been divorced by now. If you take all of them and ask which ones really wanted to stay with their spouse, it would be less than half.

Aunt: And our families. It used to be that if a woman's husband committed fraud she would go down with him. Now she wouldn't stand it.

Zeina: What's *tanseebeh*?

Mom: Stealing. Fraud.

Aunt: Who would stay now?

Mom: She used to say, this is my husband -- what can I do? I fall with him. Now if he curses and yells at her twice on Friday she leaves him. She'll work something out.

Aunt: We went to our friend's grandmother's daughter's wedding. Her mother and father are divorced. The mother had a wedding dinner for them. Then two weeks later they had the wedding. They had the wedding dinner at the Phoenicia. The kids really liked each other in France.

Mom: They met in France.

Aunt: Her family had nothing to do with it. I ... Her mother won ... She came to have lunch with me one morning. We had lawyer's council elections in Tripoli and she's registered in Tripoli. She came up to have lunch with me. I had visitors like every Sunday -- a lot of visitors come. After lunch I asked her how the newlyweds were doing. She told me they were okay up to now. Then she told me her daughter couldn't save face in front of people. She told me her daughter wasn't getting along with her husband. Do you know how shocking that was?

Mom: Oh, her daughter had a fight with her husband?

¹ Vice du consentement – Fr.

² Formule – Fr.

Aunt: Two months.³

Mom: She's been married for two months. Yeah, they don't get along at the beginning. Did she leave him? Ooh Were they friends –

Aunt: And I'm asking her how it's going. I mean –

Mom: They had already had the wedding and everything, a party –

Aunt: Two!⁴

Mom: Two parties.

Aunt: Yes! And every time – listen. They're showing the couple off, and then the couple goes off and causes this kind of drama.

Mom: A little marriage.⁵ They have the party and the dress and the tra la la and all that, and then ... and they cost their parents a fortune.

Aunt: And what do they do with the presents? One time my friend's friend invited me to another wedding. My friend said – We went the first time and brought a present. And I told her it's a different groom! He has nothing to do with it.

Mom: Two weddings? Two weddings in how many years?

Aunt: Four years.

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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³ Deux mois – Fr.

⁴ Deux – Fr.

⁵ Un petit mariage – Fr.