

CultureTalk Arab Levant Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
A Restaurant Owner in Tripoli

Levantine Arabic transcript:

زينه: أنا شو إسمك إستاذ؟
مصطفى: مصطفى عبد الحي.
زينه: آيه، وهذا المحل مطعم؟
مصطفى: مطعم.
زينه: بالسوق.. وشو إسمو؟
مصطفى: سوق الحراج.
زينه: سوق الحراج، شو يعني حراج؟
مصطفى: حراج هدول مثل الدلاله القديمه اللي كانوا يبيعوا.. يعيطوا.. على العده العتيقه.. أونه، دويه، تريه، وهالمشاكل هاي هي.. المزادت العلنيه اللي تصير على..
زينه: المطعم هون شو إسمو؟
مصطفى: مطعم الحراج.
زينه: مطعم الحراج.. وتعملوا أكل لبناني..
مصطفى: في أكل طبعاً!
زينه: قديش صرلوا هون.
مصطفى: هلاً هوي المحل عمروا تسعين سنه.
زينه: المطعم؟
مصطفى: مش المطعم.
زينه: المحل آه.
مصطفى: المطعم سننتين.
مصطفى: إحنا بالأول كنا تجارة جلود.
زينه: آه.
مصطفى: نشغل بالجلود يعني.
زينه: آيه.
مصطفى: وبعدين وقت اللي هالمهنه وقفت ما عاد في انتاج لإلها لانو صار في تيجي البضاعة كلها تيجي من بره بأسعار رخيصه كثير هالكندرجي بطلوا يقدروا يشتغلوا ينافسوا البضاعة الأجنبيه يعني. فإضطرينا قلبنا هالمحل هادا، مع إنو سوق قديم يعني، قلبنا لشي كمان قديم يعني، مطعم. بأسواق داخلية وقديم.
زينه: وتعملوا هون أكل لبناني؟
مصطفى: آيه طبعاً!
زينه: أكل لبناني، وبيجوا الناس يسهروا من بيروت من كل المناطق.
مصطفى: في كثير.. آيه نعم.. آيه.. آيه.
زينه: مرسي كثير.
مصطفى: يا هلا شرفتي أهلاً وسهلاً.

English translation:

Zeina: And, sir, your name is?

Mustafa: Mustafa Abd al-Hay.

Zeina: Okay. And this is a restaurant.

Mustafa: A restaurant.

Zeina: In the market. And what is this market called?

Mustafa: The Haraj Market

Zeina: Haraj market. What does Haraj mean?

Mustafa: Haraj means ... it's like the old guides who used to sell things "one, two three" ... that business, auctions. Like that.

Zeina: And what is this restaurant called?

Mustafa: Haraj Restaurant.

Zeina: Haraj Restaurant. And you make Lebanese food?

Mustafa: Yes, of course.

Zeina: How long has it been here?

Mustafa: Now, the place is 90 years old.

Zeina: The restaurant.

Mustafa: Not the restaurant.

Zeina: The place.

Mustafa: The restaurant is two years old. At the beginning, we were a leather goods store. I worked with leather. And then when that trade stopped ... when there started to be imported goods from much cheaper producers, [we] couldn't compete with their prices. So we turned the place around, and because the market, it is old, we turned the place into something old, too. A restaurant, with interior seats, and it's old.

Zeina: And you make Lebanese food here?

Mustafa: Yes, of course.

Zeina: Lebanese food ... do people come from Beirut, from everywhere?

Mustafa: A lot do, yes.

Zeina: Thanks a lot.

Mustafa: Welcome, it was a pleasure to meet you.

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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