

CultureTalk North Africa Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>  
**A Libyan Wedding**

**English translation of Libyan Arabic:**

**Woman behind camera:** How are the weddings in Libya?

**Abed:** Of course, weddings, I mean, vary from one region to region, I mean. The region where I live, I mean, the wedding, I mean, starts on Monday and finishes on Thursday. On Monday, of course, people start to, for example, gather and there is what we call the Preparation. The Preparation, of course, is the baggage, which consists of vegetables and fruits and ...aaa... and ... aa... tomatoes and oil and flour. Of course, everything is loaded into a procession of cars; we call it procession of cars that heads to the bride's house and ... they give them things, I mean, they place things in the house. Of course, this ...aaa... procession is, of course, I mean, accompanied by women and wedding chants and ululations..... [Laughs] ... and of course, after that, they return. Then, I mean, on Tuesday, there is what we call the marriage dowry... the marriage dowry is, I mean, I mean, which includes the things, I mean, that the groom bought for the bride. They display it, I mean; women display these things in the wedding tent... I mean, it includes golden pieces...aaa... ornaments, makeup... aaa...

**Woman behind camera:** You mean it's a fashion show?

**Abed:** No, of course, it's not about clothes, I mean, I mean, they are place in ...aa... for example, there are boxes, brand new, I mean, they are not used, I mean. And they are, of course, showed to the women.... [Laughing]

**Woman behind camera:** Alright, what do you do on Wednesday?

**Abed:** aaa... on Wednesday, which is the Henna [process]; the Henna [process], of course...

**Woman behind camera:** What is the Henna [process]?

**Abed:** The Henna [process] is, of course, when women go from, I mean, the groom's house, I mean the groom's family goes to the bride's house to put the Henna on her hands.

Of course, Henna is the, of course is.... I mean...

**Woman behind camera:** What do you mean by putting Henna on her hands?

**Abed:** Putting the Henna on her hands, of course, means, they draw some decorations on, for instance, her hands and her feet... and by using the Khumra, for instance, Khumra is, I mean, braid. I mean, they braid her hair and ...aa... the Khumra is, of course, a mixture of incense and perfumes and ...

**Woman behind camera:** Alright, and do you put Henna on the bride alone or also her friends?

**Abed:** Her friends, of course, come on...aaa... that night and of course, at night, there is the Henna ceremony. And clapping starts, as we say, we have clapping. I mean, for example, I mean women, I mean, start forming a circle and clapping starts and ululations and they start to sing, I mean, traditional songs and chants.

**Woman behind camera:** Alright, what about young men? Do they do anything?

**Abed:** aaa... men, of course, gather around the groom and...aaa... and of course, there is a dinner on that day; on Wednesday. They gather with him, and of course, they ...aa... they... we say, they chat with him, I mean.

**Woman behind camera:** What do you mean by chat?

**Abed:** Chat, means they, I mean, talk with him about, for example different subjects, for example aaa...

**Woman behind camera:** And, is there the Henna or something like this for him? The groom's bath?

**Abed:** Of course, there is the groom bath but it's...aaa...

**Woman behind camera:** What is the groom's bath?

**Abed:** The groom's bath is, of course, when a group of young men walk with him to the ...aa... the steam bath ... and...aa... of course, they bring him a barber... [Laughing]... aaa... of course, they ...aa...they prepare him.

**Woman behind camera:** do you mean that they give him a complete bath or they only clean his hair?

**Abed:** O course, he take a complete bath [Laughing]. He takes a steam bath for example ... so that he appears clean and appears ...aa... elegant, I mean [Laughing] ...

**Woman behind camera:** And what happens on Thursday?

**Abed:** Thursday is, of course, the last day and we call it 'the consummation night,' I mean, when the groom goes to the bride and some people, of course, decide to have, I mean, lunch or dinner, I mean. I mean, on Thursday. And there are, of course, some people who have dinner, for example, after the groom consummates with the bride and they serve him, for instance, dinner and people gather to congratulate him, and it is necessary that, of course, as we say, they congratulate him, they congratulate the groom,

for instance, and say “May you have a happy life and healthy children” and, of course, he responds: “May you be next” and ...aa...nice, I mean, nice words, I mean.

**Woman behind camera:** Alright; and where is the place of the ceremony? In a hotel, a club, or at the house?

**Abed:** hmmm, it depends. I mean, some people, I mean, have it in hotels but the majority prefers the house, I mean or the tent.

**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 every day. 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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