

**Moroccan Arabic transcript:**

ن: أول ما جيتي للولايات المتحدة، كيف كان؟

ب: أول الايام كانت مزايبة لانها كان، ما حسيتش لان ما كانت عندي الوقت باش نحس بإختلاف ولا. يعني كان خصنا نشوفو بالزاف لبلايص، كان نعرفو بالزاف المعلومات، كان خصنا نقومو بالزاف لحوايج، كترجع ما كانت عندي الوقت باش نفكر، كننفس. يا الله كان ال office كيتكلفو بنا كيدونا من مكان لثاني، كيورونا ال city و كيورونا الكليات و لبلايص ألي خصنا نعرفوهم آآ من بعد جاء رمضان، يعني في رمضان كانت شويآ... كانت شويآ قاصية فيعني رمضان هنا ما كتشوش انه رمضان يعني لا في الطريقة ديال، لا في الاحتفال، لا منين تخرج في الزنقة ما تحس انه رمضان لدرجة اني كنت خايفة أني ننسا و نأكل فديما رادة البال نفكر انه لا انا راني صايمة. حتي في لفطور ما كتحس انك، انه دا راه رمضان و ان دا فطور. كتمشي للمسجد وكتصلي و لكن ماشي بحال الاحتفال في المغرب يعني هنا كايين المسلمين و لكن عاداتهم مختلفين، الطريقة التعامل ديالهم تتختلف، ماشي بحال ذاك نتاع العائلة و معهم كتقطر معهم و ذاك الشيء... فمن بعد كان آآ الحاجة ألي كانت حسيت انها لعبت علي احصابي بالزاف اول الي حدا ما هي ال course ألي خذيت في اللول يعني. في اللول كنت ضايعة في ذاك ال course و ال course كيتكلم علي التعليم في أمريكا و ما عندي حتي فكرة علي التعليم في أمريكا. يعني الطلبة كانوا كيشاركو من التجارب ديالهم و انا كنتنامي لنظام مختلف ألي هو قريب شياء ما، نوعا ما للنظام الفرنسي آآ يعني ثم كحسيت اني راني... لحوايج شويآ معقدين اولاً صعاب ولكن الحمد لله لاني كانو Fulbright ثانيين و كانو ex-Fulbright ان ماشي صعيبة بالزاف، ان راها تقدر ديرها.

**English translation:**

**N:** What was it like for you when you first came to the USA?

**B:** The first few days were great because I did not have time to feel the differences; we had to go and see many places and know a lot of information and do many things, and so I did not even have time to think about sleeping. This is because the office was showing us the city, the different colleges, and other places that we have to know. After that, Ramadan came, which was a bit difficult. Here, I did not feel that it was Ramadan – not in the way people celebrate, nor when walking in the street; it does not feel that it is Ramadan. At times I was afraid that I would eat by mistake; I always had to remind myself that I was fasting. Even during *leftour* [breaking of the fast], you do not feel that it is Ramadan and that this is the time to break the fast. We did go to the mosque and pray, but the celebration is not the same as in Morocco. There are Muslims, but with different

cultures and their way of interacting with people is different; it is not the same as when you break the fast with your family.

The other thing that had an impact on me was the first course I took; I felt lost in that class. It was about education in the USA and I had no idea about the education system in the USA. People used to participate in the class and talk about their personal experiences; I came from a different education system, which is closer to the French education system. It was a difficult and hard experience for me, but there were other current and ex-Fulbright scholars who encouraged me and told me that I can do it.

**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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