

CultureTalk North Africa Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Getting Engaged in Morocco

Moroccan Arabic transcript:

ن: تحبي تتكلمي عن الزواج في المغرب... تكلمي لي مراحل الزواج بالمغرب؟ الخطبة...؟

ب: الزواج دابا بدا يتغير... قبل كان تقليدي 100 ب 100...

ن: شو يعني تقليدي؟

ب: تقليدي لان مثلا البنت ما تشوفش زوجها حتى ليلة العرس عاد كتشوفه, الشي ألي كان قبل اولاً كيجي الولد كيخطب البنت من عند اهلها, صافي هي ما عندها حتى شي, لا ايه اولاً لا, مثلاً واليدها قبلو صافي هي ثاني تقبل. دابا لا, دابا باقي و تختلف. كاينين العائلات مزال فيهم الزواج التقليدي و كاينين مناطق ألي مزال الزواج فيهم تقليدي. أما في المدن لكبار عامة, الاشيء كتبدا تختلف, يعني الولد كيتعرف علي البنت و يعرفو بعضياتهم...
ن: في الجامعة؟

ب: اولاً في الشغل اولاً في... كيعرفو بعضياتهم و كيخرجو مع بعضياتهم, كل واحد يحاول و يتعرف علي الشخصية دياله و يعرف الثاني علي الشخصية دياله قبل ما يكون شي حاجة رسمية. من بعد الي بغاوا شي حاجة رسمية كيمشي هو عند العائلة ديالها كيجيبو العايلة دياله و كيطلبو يديها للزواج و الخطبة بعدا يهي اللولة آآ من بعد, حتي الخطبة كتكون شي حاجة, خصو يجيب شي حوايج يعني مثلاً bouquet de fleurs, يجيب الورد مثلاً يجيب والديه, يجيب الناس ألي هما عندهم وزن في العائلة باش انهم يخطبو ذيك البنت آآ كتكون حفلة صغيرة بالنسبة للخطبة و من بعد كيبداو يوجدو للعرس.

English translation:

N: Can you talk about marriage in Morocco? What are the stages of a traditional Moroccan marriage?

B: In our society, the marriage ceremony has changed. It used to be 100% traditional.

N: What does “traditional” mean?

B: Traditional means that the girl cannot see the husband-to-be until the day of their marriage. Also, the man can ask the girl’s hand from her family and she does not have a say in it; if her parents accept, she will too have to accept it. Nowadays, there are families who still practice the traditional marriage and—even certain regions in Morocco. However, in big cities, things are changing. This is to say that the man gets to meet the girl and they know each other.

N: For instance, they can meet in university.

B: Yes. They also could meet at work. Once they meet, they go out together and get to know each other’s personality before there are any formal ceremonies. After that, the man would go to the girl’s family and ask for her hand – engagement is the first step. Even in engagement, the man has to bring gifts for the girl’s family like flowers and most

importantly, he brings his parents and the most influential family members. Engagement is usually a small celebration at the girl's house. After that, the preparation for the wedding starts.

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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