

CultureTalk North Africa Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Moroccan Proverbs
Part 2

Moroccan Arabic transcript:

ب: ثاني الى كان آآ كنشوفو مثلا وحدة ألي مزال هي التعامل ديالها خايب و آآ كلشي فيها خايب و كتزيد مثلا لسانها مكتعرفش تتعامل مع الناس. اللسان ديالها يعني لسان ديالها بعوض تقول كلمة طيبة، تقول يعني تقول شي حاجة حتى واحد ما خصو يسمعها. فالإضافة الى ذلك يعني باش تزيد الطين بلة، كت حتى هي شريرة مثلا فغير تقول: ” لالة زينة و زارها نور الحمام.“

ن: اعدى...

ب: ” لالة... زينة... و زارها نور الحمام.“ فوحد كتشوفها مثلا هي... هو هذا الميثال كتشوف الكلمات راهم ما يكونوا واضحين و زوينين عندهم معني ألي هو آآ ماشي سلبي، ايجابي و لكن منين يتلاقوا كاملين نحن كنستعملها في المعنى السلبي. فوحدة منين تكون زينة، كتمشي للحمام و كيزيدها نور ديال الحمام. فنحن كنستعملها لوحدة ألي التعامل ديالها خايب، خايبة من جميع النواحي و تقول لك: ” لالة زينة و زارها نور الحمام.“ آآ ثاني كقولو آمم كاين واحد ألي باحل دابا انا مثلا جيت شريت لك حاجة و تقول لك اه زينة هذه الحاجة. ما ستيتكش انت تقول لي هذاك اللبسة زينة يعني انا شكرتها، انا شكرت لبستي براسي اولا شكرت راسي مثلا نقول: اه، جاتني فنة هذه اللبسة. يعني من المفروض كان نستنى وحد اخر حتى يشكر لك اللبسة. فنحن كقولو: ” شكون يشكرك يا لعروس؟ امي و خالتي و الحزرات جارتى“... شكون كتشكرك يا لعروسة؟ شكون كيشكر لعروس عادة؟ امها و خالتها و الي كانت شي جارتهم الحزارة، ألي كتحزر غير آآ يعني ما كتكونش شي، ما كتكونش تعنى هذاك ال آآ قالت لك هذاك ال آآ عطائك ذاك ال complimente غير باش تحزر. كاين ثاني من المرات... يعني بالزاف ديال الامثال و سبحان الله كلها بعض المرات في المجتمع ديالنا كتلقى ان ال آآ لمرأ هي ألي شادة كل شي، هي ألي هزة الاسرة. كتلقى، كتخدم في الدار و كتخدم على برة. فهنا كقول مثلا: ” فران و غاد بحومة.“ فران يعني فرن. نحن كاين فران ألي هم آآ ديال ألي طيب الخبز publique يعني عمومي. فران و غاد بحومة، حومة كاملة و حومة هي الحارة. فهي ماشي غير بالنسبة لمرأ يعني تقدر تقولها لأي واحد. كتلقى شخص واحد و تبارك الله عليه يعني فين ما حطيته، كيقضي يعني كيهتم بكل شي و تبارك الله عليه كيكون آآ أي مشكل كان، كيقدر يلقي ليه حل، أي وضعية كان فيها كيلقى و لبدا ما يلقي الحل ألي مسألة. فكقول لك: ” فران و غاد بحومة.“ يعني رانا آآ نقدر على ذيك المسائل كاملة، انني نحل المشاكل، انني نعاون الناس، انني نهز مسؤولية يعني فران و غاد بالحومة يعني غاد على ذيك المسؤولية ألي هو آآ على كتافه.

English translation:

B: Say we have a girl who has bad manners – everything about her is just wrong and she does not know how to talk to people. For instance, instead of saying something good, she says something that no one would want to hear. In addition to all of these, she is an evil person. So we say: “Lalla is beautiful and the light of the *hamam*¹ just made her even more beautiful.”

N: Can you repeat it?

B: “Lalla is beautiful and the light of the *hamam* just made her even more beautiful.” If you look at the words of the proverb, they are clear and have a positive meaning but we use them for a negative meaning. When the girl is really pretty and she goes to the *hamam*, it just makes her even prettier. We use this proverb for someone who is corrupt in all senses and so we ironically say: “Lalla is beautiful and the light of the *hamam* just made her even more beautiful.”

The other saying that we have is when I, for instance, buy you a dress and I see you wearing it and I tell you: “Oh, this dress is really nice on you” without waiting for you to ask me how it looks on me. In this case, I complimented myself since I was the one who actually bought the dress. Ideally, you are supposed to wait for someone else to compliment you on the dress, not the person who actually bought it for you. And so we say: ““Oh you, the bride, who gives you, compliments?” ‘It is my mother, my aunt and my hypocrite neighbor who do.’” When you think about it, who usually compliments the bride? It is her mother, her aunt, and if they have a hypocrite neighbor who does it just for the sake of showing off. She really gives the compliments just because she wants to win over her neighbors. There are many other proverbs like that.

The other thing is that in our society, the woman is the one who is responsible for everything; she works at home and outside [the house]. In this case, we say: “It is an oven and it goes around the neighborhood.” So... it is an oven – we have ovens just for baking bread for the public - it is an oven and it goes around the entire neighborhood. This saying is not just for a woman; it can be said about anyone. It is said about people who can multitask: It does not matter where you put them, they always take good care of everything and are able to find a solution for any problem or situation. And so we say: “It is an oven and it goes around the neighborhood.” This means that the person is capable of doing all sorts of things: solve his problems, help people, and he is able to take on responsibility. So when we say: “It goes around the neighborhood,” the person is able to take on the responsibility he has on his shoulders.

¹ A *hamam* is steam bath that people, especially women, go to on weekly basis to beautify themselves.

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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