

CultureTalk North Africa Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Moroccan Folk Beliefs
Part 1

Moroccan Arabic transcript:

ب: الحاجة ألي هي كتضحك ان مثلا الدراري اولا البنت كتنقولو، مثلا منين كنيبو، كنيبو في القميلة، pot فكتنقولو لا ما تأكلش من ال pot آآ ما تأكلش من ال pot من هذيك القميلة directement، خصها تحط في الطبصيل عاد تاكل. كنفول يعني منين كنفول شي حد كتياكل فيها كنفول يجي عرسك في الشتا، نهار العرس. يعني هذو هم الحاجات ألي هي غير الناس ألي... غير مأمنين بها و صافي. يقول لك لا ما تأكلش من القميلة راه العرس ديالك، نهار العرس ديالك راه تصب الشتا. اولا كتيقول لك لا ما تضربش شي حد بالمغرب، المغرفة لانه ما غاديش يتزوج اولا بالشطابة، الحاجة ألي كان تنسفو بها، يقول لك ما تضربوش هذا راه غادي، ما غاديش يتزوج اولا آمم كاين ثاني الى بغيت مثلا دخلتي ل toilette فما تقدرش تدوي في ال toilette، واخا تعيطلي بشري، بشري ما غادي نجوابكش... لان آآ لبلاصة ديال نحن كنفولو كنيكونو اصلا ما يخصكش تتكلمي لان في الدين ما خصكش تتكلم، لانها بلاصة موسخة و الملائكة ديالك كيكونو معاك يعني الملائكة ما يدخلو معاك ل toilette فالي تكلمتي يكونو obligés انهم يدخلو... فما خصك حرصا على، ما خصك تتكلم في ال toilette آآ كاين ثاني الحاجة ألي غير متعارف، غير مأمنين بها غير في الثقافة ديالنا انك الى دخلت مثلا toilette بغيت تدوش، بغيت تعوم، خصك تحطي ملححة هي اللولة... كيقول لك كيكونو الجنون ثم يعني منين كدير الملححة كيحيدهم لان الجنون قالك ما كيبغوش الملححة، ما كيبغوهاش... آآ مثلا الى كنت كتغسل في آآ في لماعل اولا كطيب شي حاجة ألي هي سخونة، مثلا كطبختي سبقيطي اولا... نحن كتنقول ما تخويش الما سخون في آآ sink، lavabo لان كتكونو، لان متعارف ان الجنون كيبغو بلاصة ألي هي شوي مسخة، زورك الجعاب ديال الما كيكونو فيهم. كيقولو لك ما تخويش آمم الماكلة، ما تخليهاش عريانة، خصك تغطيها. نحن كنفولو راه، نقولو ان هذه اصلا تقدر توسخ بأي حاجة و كتنقولو ان الماكلة غادي تنمس و كاين هذه في الدين، لان الماكلة منين كتبقى كتتمس بالشيطان. فكتقول دائما خصكها تتغطي. هذه عندنا نحن، ما يمكنش تخلي الماكلة عريانة واخا في الثلجة. غادي دخلها الثلجة، غطيها عاد باش حطها لان غاد تنمس بالشيطان.

English translation:

N: The funny thing is that, when we cook, we cook in a pot and we say that you are not supposed to eat from the pot directly; you have to put the food on the plate first and then eat it. This is because, if you eat directly from the pot, your wedding will be on a rainy day. These are some of the things that people just believe in like that. They also say that you are not supposed to hit someone with the serving spoon because he/she will not get married. If you also hit someone with a broom, he/she will not get married. Also, when you are using the toilet, you cannot talk. If you call me when I am in the bathroom, I

would not answer you because, in our religion, you are not supposed to speak because it is an unclean place and your angels do not enter with you. So, if you speak, they would be obliged to enter and because of that you are not supposed to speak in the bathroom. The other thing that we just believe in as part of our culture is that, when you enter the bathroom to take a shower, you have to throw salt first. We believe that there are *jinn(s)*¹ and, when you put salt, they run away because they do not like it. Similarly, if you are washing the dishes or cooking with hot water, you cannot pour the hot water in the sink because people believe that *jinn(s)* live in unclean places like the pipes. The food is not supposed to be left exposed; you have to cover it. First, it is not healthy because it can get germs, but we also believe that it will be “touched²”. This is also common in our religion; we believe that if the food is left exposed, it will be “touched” by the devil. So the food always has to be covered, even when putting it in the refrigerator.

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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¹ *Jinn* are invisible creatures that live in a world parallel to that of mankind. They were mentioned in the Quran and there are good and bad *jinn(s)*. In some cultures, they are believed to have the ability to invade or possess a person’s soul. The closest English translation is the word “genie,” which is not exactly accurate in this context.

² “Touched” here refers to being “touched” by the *jinn(s)*.