

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

**Moroccan Arabic transcript:**

ب: كتبغي تأكل قول بسم الله، و كل باليمنية لان الى ما قلت بسم الله غادي ياكل معك الشيطان. فنحن كنعولو مثلا الدرري الصغير راه مغادي، كيقول مثلا: اه كليت و ما شبعتش لانك ما قلتش بسم الله. فهذه من الناحية الثقافة ديالنا. مثلا منين كيبيغي واحد مثلا يعرض عليك الماكلة، لغدا اولاً لعشاء، كيكون حاط الماكلة و هو لابدا من يقول لك: يا الله، بسم الله. ألي كيقولها هو كيقولها يعني لكل شي كيفكرك، في نفس الوقت كغادي تتفكر خصك تقول بسم الله. يعني كواحد يعرض عليك يقول لك: يا الله كول و كيقول لك: يا الله، بسم الله. يعني آآ هذه من لحوايج ألي هي كندار حاجات ألي هي صغيرة و كندار يومياً. كايين عندها آآ جذور من ال آآ الدين ديالنا و كايين ألي ما آآ الثقافة ديالنا و مزال متعارف عليها...

ن: {سؤال غير واضح}

ب: كايينة هذه انك تدخل برجلك ليمن... مكان جديد... منين يكون واحد عنده مثلا آآ داخل انك البيت الجديد كت، دار جديدة واحد كتدخل برجلك ليمن. كنعول: تبارك الله، منين تشوف حاجة زوينة. فأن باش مكتعين يقول لك لا، المهم كنعول تبارك الله آآ الله يحفظك من العين، مثلا منين كيكون شي دراري صغيور و زويون و آآ و عجبك بالزاف، كنعول مثلا: تبارك الله و كنعول: الله يحفظه لك. يعني كيان ذاك دائماً كتبغ ربي، دائماً كتذكر الله. يعني دائماً كنعول سبحان الله اولاً كنعول الله يحفظه لك، راك دائماً تذكر الله يعني دائماً... آمم شنهو لخر ثاني؟ كيقول لك الماكلة ما تاكولوش ماكلة مسوسة لان الى كليت ماكلة مسوسة، الجنون ألي كياكلو ماكلة مسوسة. هذه عندنا ندير فيها الملح.

**English translation:**

**B:** When you are about to eat, you have to say *bismillah*<sup>1</sup> and eat with your right hand. If you do not do so, the devil will eat with you. For instance, when a small child says: “Oh, I ate but I don’t feel full!” We say: “That is because you didn’t say *bismillah*.” This is also a big part of our culture. Similarly, if someone invited you for a meal, he would say: “Here you go, *bismillah*.” It is a polite way of reminding you to say *bismillah* when eating. These are few of the basics of the daily life; some have roots from our religion and some from our culture.

**N:** [Inaudible question]

**B:** Yeah, we also have the belief that you have to enter with your right foot. So, when you are entering a new house, you enter with your right foot. Also, if you see something desirable and nice, you say *tabarak Allah* to protect the person against the evil eye.

<sup>1</sup> *Bismillah*: In the Name of Allah: An Arabic expression used before starting something.

Similarly, when you see a beautiful small child you say: “*Tabarak Allah*, may Allah protect him from the evil eye.” You always remember God; for instance, when you say: “*Subhan’Allah*” and “May Allah protect him.” The other thing, we believe that you cannot eat food without salt because it is the *jinn(s)*<sup>2</sup> who eat food without salt. So we always have to add salt to food.

**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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<sup>2</sup> *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.