

### **Malay Transcript:**

Saya seorang Kristian Katolik. Saya memeluk agama Kristian sejak saya berada di Tingkatan Tiga<sup>1</sup> iaitu ketika saya berumur lima belas tahun. Ibu bapa dan abang saya juga merupakan penganut agama Katolik. Walaupun agama rasmi Malaysia ialah agama Islam, saya rasa bahawa berbanding dengan banyak negara di dunia, toleransi terhadap agama yang lain atau bukan Islam di Malaysia juga sangat boleh tahan. Hari Krismas dan *Good Friday* merupakan cuti umum di seluruh negara. Tambahan pula, perempuan bukan Muslim tidak diwajibkan memakai tudung dan menyelubungi tubuh badan mereka. Bukan seperti negara Saudi Arabia yang mengharamkan kaum wanita mereka, tak kira Muslim atau bukan Muslim, memandu kereta sendiri, Malaysia mengizinkan kaum wanita membuat perkara secara berdikari. Uhh.. Saya fikir bahawa Malaysia uh.. mempunyai sistem perundangan yang sangat unik. Uhh Kita.. Kami mempunyai um.. dua sistem perundangan atau sistem perundangan yang selari iaitu um.. mahkamah sivil dan mahkamah syariah<sup>2</sup>. Mahkamah sivil um.. menjaga kes-kes perundangan yang berkaitan dengan perkara bukan Islam manakala mahkamah syariah menjaga kes-kes yang berkaitan dengan agama Islam. Oleh sebab perlembagaan Malaysia menyatakan bahawa undang-undang negara mesti menurut prinsip yang sekular, rakyat bukan Muslim secara automtaik dikecualikan daripada undang-undang Islam. Namun, saya rasa bahawa rakyat Muslim um mereka.. mereka mesti mematuhi sistem syariah seperti tidak minum arak, tidak makan babi, dan tidak memakai pakaian yang ketat untuk orang wanita dan lain-lain.

### **English Translation:**

I am a Christian-Catholic. I have been a Christian since I was in secondary three<sup>3</sup>, when I was fifteen years old. My parents and my brother are also Catholic. Even though the official religion of Malaysia is Islam, I feel that compared with other Islamic nations, Malaysia's tolerance of other religions is quite commendable. Christmas Day and Good Friday are public holidays in Malaysia. In addition, non-Muslim women are not compelled to wear the headscarf or to cover up their whole body. Unlike countries like Saudi Arabia, both Muslim and non-Muslim women in Malaysia are given the independence of driving vehicles by themselves. Uhh.. I think that Malaysia uh.. has a very unique judicial system. Uhh We.. We have um.. a dual judicial system or a parallel judicial system that is um.. the civil court and the *syaria*<sup>4</sup> court. The civil court um.. takes care of non-Islam related cases while the *syaria* court takes care of cases related to Islamic religious affairs. As a result of the Malaysian constitution which states that the laws of the country must be secular in nature, non-Muslim citizens are automatically

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<sup>1</sup> Sama seperti darjah sembilan dalam sistem sekolah menengah Amerika.

<sup>2</sup> Undang-undang syariah merupakan sebuah sistem perundangan Islam.

<sup>3</sup> The equivalent of ninth grade in the American high school system.

<sup>4</sup> *Syariah* law is a set of Islamic laws and punishments.

exempted from observing Islamic law. However, Muslim citizens must observe *syaria* law such as abstaining from alcohol and pork, and not wearing skin-tight clothing for women.

**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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