

Becoming a Caterer

Yoruba transcript:

Arábinrin: Isé alásè, àwon tí wón se ońje. Mo lo sí Kaduna Polythenic lo se Catering and Hotel Managment, íbè ni mo ti parí. So ìgbà tí mo parí, mo sisé ìjoba, mo se ońje fún àwon oṃo school ní ilé-ìwé... then mò gba isé... tí àwon èyàn bá se party, à se ońje fún wón, à bá won se àlejò wón so that kò ní mú iníra dání fún àwon tí wón se.

Òdòbinrin: Kí ló dé tí ẹ fí n se isé yẹn?

Arábinrin: Emm láti ibèrè, olórun ló choose isé yẹn fún mi because kò se pé mo mo nkan tí ó wà níbè but Ìgbà tí mo lo sí school mo rí i pé... mo kàn fill form yẹn, mo dè se course yẹn so ìgbà tí mo jáde, mo... mo ní ifé sí... isé yẹn gan an. Mo ma n ní ifé si pé kí se ońje kí àwon èyàn jé, so ó ma n jé... ó ma n jé kí inú mí dùn tí mo bá se ońje tí àwon èyàn jé, tí kò sí pé ońje yíi iyò ò tó, ata pòjù... so mo dè... inú mi ma n dùn tí mo bá fún àwon èniyàn lo n je, so mo ní láti continue pé ah ònà tí olórun là fún mí nì yẹn. So mo rò pé, tí olórun bá lànà fún èyàn, kí èniyàn tèle. So àti ìgbà yẹn ní mo ti n se.

English translation:

Woman: I am a caterer, [one of] those that cater food. I went to Kaduna Polytechnic to study Catering and Hotel Management, which is where I graduated from. So when I graduated, I worked with the government, I cooked for students in the schools... Then I started getting jobs... When people are having parties, we¹ cater their food; we will take care of their guests so that it will not be stressful for those organizing the party.

Young Woman: Why are you in this profession?

Woman: Emm, from the beginning, God chose the profession for me, because it is not that I had a foreknowledge of what it entails, but when I went to school, I noticed that... I just filled out the form and I did the course, so when I graduated, I... I love... that profession a lot. I always enjoy cooking and for people to eat it, so it makes me... It makes me happy when I cook and people eat what I cook, without any complaints like “this food has not enough salt,” “the pepper is too much”... So I also... I am always joyous when I give people food, so I have to continue saying that, ah, this is the God-chosen profession for me. So I saw that, if God opens a door for someone, that person should follow. So I have been cooking since then.

¹ The speaker and her coworkers

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.

© 2013 Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and Five Colleges, Incorporated