

book. We also had an uncle, and he was the one that... he was the one that beat us in those days. The gravity of your offenses will determine how you will be beaten. If you also... It was an offense to fail when you go to school; when you get home, you will have to give an account of what you went to school to do. Apart from that, if you were rude to your mother or to another person, if you were not aware someone heard you and could report you, and your name would be written in the offense book. Some of the offenses that we might have forgotten, we would be reminded – that “Do you remember what you said to your mother on this particular day? You are entitled to six strokes.” And you would be given six strokes on your buttocks in those days.

Young Girl: If a fight occurs, emm, between the wives, what will happen?

Man: We don't always witness fights among our mothers, and if a fight should occur, it is our father that will settle it among... He is the one that will know how to settle it. But no one else will intervene, and they don't put the children in their fights. Because we the children were always together; we slept together and ate together. So apart from the fact that our mothers deliberately wanted to involve us, we didn't always know when they were having their fights, because of that...

Young Girl: Do you live together?

Man: We all have... emm, when the time came... before it got to... There was a time when the house wasn't big enough; our mothers slept, two of them slept in the same room, but after a while... when our father became richer, each one of them had... everyone... our mothers, our mothers had their rooms to themselves, but we the children slept together in a room; the children's room was spacious.

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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