

**Levantine Arabic transcript:**

**المرأة بالحجاب الأبيض:** إحنا عايشين أول إشي في مُحَيِّم الأَمْعَرِي. مُكْتَبِظ بالسَّكَّان أول إشي، بَعْدِين إحنا يَعْنِي حَيَاتِنَا بِدَكْ نَقُولِي مُعْدَمِين، لَأَثُو غَلَا كَثِير وَمَقْشَ أَشْعَالٍ لِلنَّاسِ. عِنَّا مَشَاكِلٌ لِلأَوْلَادِ، يَعْنِي أَوْلَادِنَا دَائِمًا فِي مَشَاكِلٍ. مِنَ الدَّرَاسَةِ، إِشِي بَدُو يَدْرُسُ إِشِي بَدُو ش يَدْرُسُ.

**المرأة بالحجاب الأسود:** مَهُو مَضْعُوطِين عَشَان. مَضْعُوطِين. هَلَقِيَّتِ الأَوْلَادِ مِنْ كَثْرِ الضَّغْطِ إِلَي هُمْ فِي. يَعْنِي لَا فِي زِيَارَةِ يَطْلَعُوا يَشْتَوْفُوا حَبَابِيهِمْ، قَرَابِيهِمْ، مَحْسُومٌ مَسْكِرٌ، الْجَيْشِ هَجَمُوا عَلَى المُخَيِّمِ، مَشَ عَارِفِهِ إِيش. إِشِي زِي هِيكِ فَالأَوْلَادِ بَطَلٌ عِنْدَهُمْ تَرْكِيْزٌ، حَتَّى أَوْلَادِنَا يَعْنِي إِنْعَدَمُوا بِالدَّرَاسَةِ نِهَائِي. بِالنِّسْبَةِ لِلأَوْلَادِ يَعْنِي. لِلطَّلَابِ وَهِيكِ. مَشَ حَابِيْبِين يَدْرُسُوا بِالْمَرَّةِ، إِضَائِقُوا.

**المرأة خلف الكاميرا:** كَيْفِ الحَيَاةِ. كَيْفِ الحَيَاةِ. كَيْفِ عَائِشِين إِنْتَوَا؟

**المرأة بالحجاب الأسود:** الحَيَاةِ يَعْنِي الحَمْدُ لَللَّهِ مَارَهْ بِصُعُوبَةٍ. يَعْنِي بِصُعُوبَةٍ كَثِيرٍ جَدًّا يَعْنِي. بِصُعُوبَةٍ. بِتَنْصَوْرِيْشِ يَعْنِي. كَلِّ الشَّعْبِ إِلَي بَرَهْ يَعْنِي عَائِشِ مَرْتَا حِ مَبْسُوطٌ، مِنْ عَدَا هِيْنَ عِنَّا، فِلَسْطِينِ إِجْمَالًا. يَعْنِي بَعْرِفْشِ لِيْشِ، كَلِّ إِشِي فِيهَا مَعْدُومٌ، مَنَهِي، الْعَيْشَةِ عِنَّا فِي المُخَيِّمِ صَعْبَةٌ بِالذَّاتِ، أَكْثَرُ مَنْ غَيْرَهَا. زِي مَا بِحِكْيَلِكِ يَعْنِي. إِذَا هَدَيْتِي فِي الدَّارِ إِلَي تَعْرِفِي تَعِيْشِي مَعَ الأَوْلَادِ، أَوْ تِسْأَلِيهِمْ شَو مَالَهُمْ، أَوْ تَنْفَاهَمِي مَعَهُمْ، بِفُلْكَ مَشَ عَارَفِ أَدْرُسُ، مَشَ عَارَفِ أَطْلَعِ. لِيْشِ؟ الْجَيْشِ هَاجَمُوا المُخَيِّمِ، لِيْشِ؟ بَدِي أَلِيْسِ، مَشَ قَادِرَةٌ تَلْتَبِسِي، الْعَيْشَةُ صَعْبَةٌ، غَالِيَةٌ. بَدِي أَسْوِي زِي بَقِيَّةِ إِلَي بَشَوْفُوا، الطَّلَابِ، أَوْ الأَوْلَادِ، أَوْ إِشِي. بَدِي مَصْرُوفٌ كَذَا مَبْلَغٌ. مَشَ مَكْفِي، شَو يَعْنِي، الأَبُو مُوظَّفٌ مَثَلًا، لَطْنَعَاشِرُ نَفَرٌ، نِسْبَهُ. يَعْنِي إِحْنَا وَغَيْرِنَا كَثِيرٌ هِيكِ، فِي نَاسِ أَحْسَنِ، فِي نَاسِ مِنْ مَرَهْ مَعْدُومَةٌ، إِحْنَا وَسَطِ الحَالِ يَعْنِي.

**English translation:**

**Life at Al-Amari Camp**

Woman (white scarf): First, we live at Al-Amari Camp. First, there are so many people. Second, you can say that we live a very poor life, because it's very expensive and there are no jobs for people, and we have our children's problems. I mean our kids always have troubles regarding studying. Some want to study, others don't.

Woman (black scarf): Because they are under pressure. They are pressured; because they are under so much pressure. I mean they cannot visit their friends or relatives. They are trapped; the army [she means Israeli army] attacked the camp, I don't know what, -- because of things like these children cannot focus. Our children are failing [in] their study completely -- regarding children, I mean students. They don't like to study at all -- why?

Woman behind camera: how is life, I mean how do you live?

Woman (black scarf): Life, thank God, is hard. It's very, very hard, I mean. You can't imagine it. Everyone abroad is comfortable, except for the people in Palestine in general. I don't know why, but everything is dead. Life, especially in our camp, is harder than others ... ah ... just like I'm telling you, I mean. If you sit at home and talk to the children and ask them what the matter is, they will tell you that they can't study, they can't go out. The reason is because the army attacks the camp. Why [don't you study]? "I want to wear nice clothes." You can't dress them decently - life is hard and expensive. "I want to be like the other students that I see; I want this amount of pocket-money." It's not enough. The father is an employee, for instance, supporting 12 people. I mean there are so many people in the same situation. There are people who do better and others who are very poor, I mean. We belong to the middle class, I mean.

**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 everyday. 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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