

Levantine Arabic transcript:

المرأة: بحكي عن نفسي أنو كثير أنعرض علي أنو أشتغل مع مؤسسات اجنبية مثلا أو مؤسسات بتعطي مثلا كثير أعلى، لكن أنا بصراحة حبيت هاي الفئة، وحببت التعامل معهم، حبيت اساعدهم، حسيت انهم هم متعلقين فيني وانا كمان تعلقت فيهم. الواحد لما بيشتغل بهذا المديان ما بيطلع. مع الفترة يمكن وإذا حب عملوا وحب الناس إلي بشتغل معهم. ما بيصير يفكر بالدخل المادي بشكل كبير. انا بحكي عن نفسي بفكرش في الوقت الحالي بالدخل المادي بشكل كبير. بفكر فيهم هم، كيف أني اساعدهم، بنبسط كثير لما كل واحد فيهم ينجح بالصف اللي هو فيه، بيترفع للصف الثاني، بنبسط كثير منهم لما بتخرجوا من التوجيهي. أجوا عنا وولاد صغار، صاروا صبايا وشباب، وتخرجوا توجيهي وهلا دخلوا الجامعات، بنبسط كثير ما بعزموني على حفلات التخرج تبعثهم، بحس بنجاح كبير لما الأهالي يتصلوا علي يقولولي إنو إبننا الحمد لله قدّم مليح، شكراً كثير انكم وفرتولوا هيك، شكرا كثير إنكم ساعدتونا، إحنا مزبوط في البداية كنا خايفين على إبننا بس حسينا إنو إبننا هلاً صار بين أيدين أمينه. ما بحكي عن إشي مثالي، ولا بحكي عن إشي إنو ما تحقق، انا بحكي عن إشيأ فعلاً موجوده عنا بأرض الواقع، بحكي عن أشياء مش غريبة عن مجتمعا إحنا، وحلو كثير انو تكون موجوده بكل المجتمعات.

English translation:

Woman: I can speak for myself. I was offered many times [opportunities] to work for foreign agencies, for example, or organizations that give, for instance, a higher salary, but honestly I liked this group and liked dealing with them. I like to help them. I felt that they became attached to me, and I also became attached to them. ... ah ... when one works in this field, he won't look at ... if he likes his job and the people he works with, he won't think mainly about the income. Now, I speak for myself. I don't think about the income, basically. I think about them and how to help them. I feel very pleased when each one of them succeeds and moves to the next grade. I felt very happy when they finished high schools. Many students came when they were small, and now they finished high schools and became young men and women and entered universities. I feel very glad when they invite me to their graduation parties. Ummm ... I feel great success when parents call me and say, "Our son has progressed so much. Thank you very much for providing for him. Thanks a lot for helping us. It's true that we were concerned about our son, but we feel now that our son was in good hands."

I am not talking about an idealistic concept, or about something that hasn't happened; I am talking about things that really happened; I'm talking about things that are not foreign to our society ...ah ... and it's very nice to see this in all societies.

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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