

Levantine Arabic transcript:

المرأة خلف الكاميرا: كنيسة المهد مثلا، لو تحكي لنا عن كنيسة المهد، أو كنيسة القيامة. ليش سميت كنيسة المهد مثلا؟
الرجل: كنيسة المهد سميت كنيسة المهد لأنها مهد المسيح عليه السلام، طبعاً كان إلو في فلسطين المسار الي بيجو ايمشوا كمان
السواح، في مسار بيجو ايمشوه، لمهد المسح، لبيت لحم. هناك ولد المسيح طبعاً، في كنيسة المهد، في بيت لحم. قبل فترة كمان
أجى الرئيس الأمريكي بوش، زار كنيسة المهد وصلّى فيها. في كمان كنيسة القيامة الي في القدس موجوده. هي أعتقد سنتنا مريم
كانت موجوده هون كمان فيها، صلت سنتنا مريم. في قصر هشام، نموذج إسلامي بني على الطراز الإسلامي، كان هو أموي.
المرأة: كان لهشام بن عبد الملك..
الرجل: هشام عبد الملك الضبط، آه، هو أموي، الخلافة الأموية كان.
المرأة: عن الصخرة مثلا.. الأقصى.
الرجل: قبة الصخرة الي عرج سيدنا محمد عليه الصلاة والسلام، عرج من مكة.. من مكة؟ ولا المدينة؟.. عرج من مكة إلى قبة
الصخرة. طبعاً بيحبها كثير برضوا سواح مسلمين، وكمان العرب الموجودين هون، وثاني القبليتين.

English translation:

Woman Behind the camera: The Church of the Nativity -- will you tell us about the Church of the Nativity, or the Church of the Holy Sepulcher?

Man: Yes.

Woman behind the camera: Why was that one called the Church of the Nativity, for example?

Man: The Church of the Nativity was called the Church of the Nativity because it was the cradle of Jesus, peace be upon him ... ah ... of course, he also had in Palestine the path which tourists come to walk; there is a path they walk ... ah ... to the cradle of Jesus, to Bethlehem. There Jesus was born, of course, in the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. A while ago, the American President Bush visited the Church of the Nativity, and he prayed in it. There is also the Church of the Holy Sepulcher ... I think that our mother Mary was also there in it ... mother Mary prayed in it. There is Hisham's Palace, an Islamic structure ... was built in the Islamic style ... he was Umayyad.

Woman behind the camera: It was build for Hisham Abd Al-Malik

Man: Hisham Abd Al-Mali, yes, exactly; he is Umayyad; he was of the Umayyad Caliphate.

Woman behind the camera: About the dome for example, the Dome of the Rock?

Man: The Dome of the Rock, from which the Prophet Mohammad, peace and blessing be upon him, ascended ... [first] from Mecca to the Dome of the Rock.¹ Of course, many Muslim tourists come to it, and also Arabs, who are found here. And [it is] the second direction of prayer.²

¹ In Islamic tradition, the Night Journey, *Isra* and *Mi'raj* (Arabic: الإسراء والمعراج, al-'Isrā' wal-Mi'rāj), are the two parts of a journey that the Islamic prophet Muhammad took in one night, around the year 621.

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.

© 2003-2010 Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and Five Colleges, Incorporated

² In fact, this was the first direction of prayer, later changed to Mecca.