

Levantine Arabic transcript:

يعني عاداتنا وتقاليدينا خلينا نحكي في المناسبات زي رمضان والأعياد. بالتالي هي عادات تقريبا في منطقة بلاد الشام كلها وحدة. هلا زيارة الأقارب مثلا في رمضان مثلا، الدعوات، الأهل، والعلاقات الإجتماعية والإنسانية بتتوطد أكثر. صلة الرحم إلي بتكون بين الأقارب بتتوطد أكثر في رمضان. العزائم لا تزال موجودة لعلمك. حتى لو الواحد تلاقي مسكين معوش بدين من شان يعزم بنتوا أو يعزم أخوه أو يعزم أخته بـرمضان. وبالتالي هاي هي بتتوطد من الناحية الدينية وصلة الرحم كثير يعني مفروض عليهم بهذا الشهر الفضيل. بالأعياد كمان، زيارة القبور من العادات المتوارثتها الناس. صلة الرحم أول يوم بالعيد، حتى يعني بتلاقيه بنت بنت عمو لازم يزوها بالعيد، لازم يروح يعيدها، لازم يقلها كل عام وإنتي بخير. بالتالي هاي الأعياد الرسمية والمناسبات بتلاقي فيه العلاقات الإجتماعية بتتوطد أكثر. وبالتالي هاي كثير مهم. يعني أنا بقول للأطفال إلي عابشين أو للأسر إلي بالهجرة بره. أنو هاي كثير مهم. نتقول انا والله بحسش فعيد، فش عندي عيد. يعني المفروض حتى لو مكنش في أقارب، كان في أصدقاء كثير لازم تعرفي الأطفال أنو هذه عاداتنا، هذا تراثنا، في إشي إسمو رمضان، شهر كريم، تعلميه الصيام، تعلميه كيف إنو يزور أخوه، يزور أخته، تعلمي الأطفال إنو هذول ولاد عمهم، أنو في عنا إحنا مناسبات وهاي بنهت فيها، بالأعياد قديش بنبسوط لما بزوروا عمو أو خالوا. يعني هاي صلة الرحم كثير مهمه كمان إنو الأطفال ينشوا عليها بهاي المناسبات الرسمية. وتعرفي طقوس رمضان والعزائم والتنوع بالغذاء، الأعياد والحلويات والشكولاتات، والعيدية، إلي لسا الأطفال بنبسوطا عليها، كيف العم بعيد ابن أخوه، كيف الخال بعيد ابن أخته. يعني هي رمز وليس.. بالرغم من الوضع الإقتصادي إلا تلاقي هاي. من وحننا صغار، وأجداد أجدادنا، ولا تزال هاي العادات متوارثة. و إن شاء الله إحنا بنحب إنها كمان نطلنا محافظين عليها، لأنو فعلا هيك عادات.. بتنبسطي إنتي لما بيجو.. كبرت بس بتقولي يي والله عمي ما أجا عندي هذا العيد، بتزعلي، أو خالي ما أجا عندي. يعني وقديش بتحسي حالك إنك أنت.. الأسرة كيف هيك متماسكة، قاعدة، حديث واحد، بعيدوا على بعض.. هذا نوع بعتبروا من العادات وال culture إلي لازم إحنا نحافظ عليه.

English translation:

I mean our norms and traditions ... let us speak of occasions such as Ramadan and celebrations. Thus, traditions in the area of Belaad al-Sham¹ are similar. For example, visiting relatives during Ramadan -- the people, the social and human relations, are more established. Visiting relatives, which takes place among relatives, is more established during Ramadan. Invitations are still made, as you know. Even if one is poor, does not have [a thing], he goes in debt so that he can invite his daughter, or invite his brother, or invite his sister during Ramadan. It is considered from a religious point of view ... and visiting relatives, I mean, is strongly required for people during this virtuous month. Also during celebrations, visiting graves is one of the customs that people have inherited. Visiting relatives occurs on the first day of *Eid*, I mean, you even find him [someone] going to visit the cousin of his cousin; he goes to greet her, to tell her, "May every year find you in good health." Thus, you find that social relations are established in these official holidays and celebrations. Thus, they are very important. I mean, I say, [to] the children living, or the families who immigrated outside, that it is very important. To say, "God, I do not feel there is a celebration, I do not have a celebration." I mean, it is supposed to be [the case] that, even if you do not have relatives, there are many friends whom you should ... the children should know that this is our tradition; this is our

¹ Great Syria.

heritage; there is something called Ramadan, a noble month -- teach him fasting, teach him how to visit his brother, visit his sister, teach the children that there are their cousins, that we have occasions that we care about. How happy is he [the child] when he visits his uncles during celebrations. I mean, visiting relatives is very important. Also, those children grow up on it [visiting relatives] on these occasions ... and know the rituals of Ramadan, the invitations, and the diversity in food, the feasts, and the sweets and the chocolates, and the *eid*² -- which the children feel happy about -- how the uncle gives money to his niece, how the uncle gives money to his nephew. I mean it is a symbol not ... in spite of the economic situation, you will still find that, since we were children and [since] our great grandfathers, these are the inherited traditions. And, God willing, we would like to continue preserving them, because, in fact, such traditions ... you feel happy when they come ... you have gotten old, but you still say "oh God, my uncle did not come to see me this *Eid*." You feel sad ... or my uncle did not come to see me. And how much do you feel that you yourself ... the family is cohesive, sitting, they speak as one, they celebrate with each other. This is the kind of tradition and culture that I think we should preserve.

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² Money given to children during Ramadan.