

CultureTalk Ahiska Turks Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>  
**Making *Lagman* during Ramadan**

**English translation:**

- I am cooking for the Qur'an.<sup>1</sup> Today is \_\_\_'s Qur'an.<sup>2</sup> There is a banquet in the mosque, umm... to break the Ramadan fast. For this... umm....

- This is for Ramadan, huh?

- Yeah it's for Ramadan. For the evening meal... umm... I am cooking, umm... *lagman* soup.

- How are you cooking *lagman*?

- Umm... how... you chop the meat very tiny... then... you chop the potatoes very tiny as well. You chop everything very tiny ... the carrots.... umm.... It is an Uzbek dish.

- Yeah, Uzbek dish.

- *Lagman*. It is an Uzbek dish... Carrots, onion, pepper. You chop everything very tiny. Everything is here.... You see... and then you fry them... and then... you cook the pasta, and the rest separately. Umm... umm...pasta is separate, [and] sauce is separate.

- Now you are chopping the meat, right?

- Yeah.

- Will you first start with the meat?

- Yes, the meat is first.

- You will sauté the meat?

- I will sauté the meat. And then, I will actually burn<sup>3</sup> the onions first, then the meat.

- You will burn it in the oil.

- Right, the meat, then potatoes, carrots. You see, I chop them all tiny, very tiny... for sixty men.

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<sup>1</sup> By saying “cooking for Qur'an” she means cooking for the special event in which people get together and read the parts of or the complete Qur'an.

<sup>2</sup> Someone's Qur'an means that the Qur'an is read in honor of that person at a particular event. The Qur'an is read in certain gatherings where you intend to remember a lost one, or gather for an initiation and wish good luck for someone. Here we have omitted the name of the honoree.

<sup>3</sup> By burning she means cook it very well.

- This is for sixty men, huh?
- Hm hm.
- Now you are chopping the onions, huh?
- Hm hm.
- The oil and the meat are boiling here... the water is boiling.
- Is this the water of the meat.
- I will also sauté the meat separately.
- This is where the fried onions and the oil are.
- I will sauté it here and then dump<sup>4</sup> one to the other.... I add the peppers, and then I remove them.
- What is this doing? Is it adding a flavor?
- Yeah.
- You will take it back out.
- I will take them out; it's going to add flavor.
- You are adding the potatoes now, huh?
- Aha.
- You are chopping the potatoes very tiny.
- Yeah, you chop these very tiny as well.
- This is a characteristic of *lagman*, that you chop everything very tiny, right?
- Hm hm. I chop every thing very little.
- We cover our heads when we are cooking, right?
- Yes.
- Always.

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<sup>4</sup> They always say “dump” to indicate that they “add” or “put in” some ingredient

- Yeah, not to drop anything in the food. Even though we do not cover our heads in daily life, we do cover our heads when we are cooking... [so as] not to drop anything in the food.

**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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