

CultureTalk Senegal Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Shaving the Baby

Wolof transcript:

Woman: Kou fi am dom bou nek mane ma key wat. Waw di ñan Yallah mou diarr feu morom mom yi dom diarr. Dom bi, seu meu turondo moy njëkké. Ñu tuddée ko Khoudia di seu meu rak. Wa ñu tuddou beuss bi tey, beuss bi maaga. Ngeu xamne dom bala ngeu key wat...bala ngey tudda turr, ndeu guey wat dom. Ndeun key wat, bo keu wate beu pare, sogg ko sakkeul turr.

Ah, sou niou xol sedd neu gouye ci turr bi. Niouye ñan turr bi Yallah wouyou borom te mou ndoudou beu di ko mourr moun seyi. Contane neñ, sou ñu khol sedd deu neu gouye, dax rek beugg seu ndeye wessou woul li Ousmane deff. Kounek mome ley ñan Yallah seu dom deffeul leu ko: yobbou leu Mecca, takk jaabar, tuddee leu dom. Ah contaneu niou, mey cër bi neuk seu meu turondo.

English translation:

Woman: I'm the one who always shave the babies' hair in this family. Yes and I'm praying God for this baby to be just like the ones that preceded her. Her godmother is also my namesake. She was named after Khoudia, my little sister. Today is a very important day. Before you shave the baby...before you name the baby, she has to be shaved. After the shaving, you give her a name. We are very happy about the name. May she gives thanks to Allah. May she live long and get married. We are very happy. There is nothing better than what Ousmane did for his mother. Any mother wishes her son to do the same for her: take her to Mecca, marry a wonderful woman, name her after his child. Ah, we are very happy, and I also give respect to my namesake.

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.