

Levantine Arabic transcript:

سارة: طيب حكيتلنا عن الاكل بحلب و قلتي انو الاكل بحلب كثير طيب، شو أشهر الاكلات اللي ممكن تذكرها؟

نجاح: كبة

سارة

: كبة اههه؟

نجاح: جميع أنواع الكيب عندن

سارة: الكبة عبارة عن برغل و لحمة، لا لا لا، هي برغل و بصل اول الشوي، بيعملون مع بعضن، في الة عنها

نجاح: الكبة عبارة عن برغل و لحمة، لا لا لا، هي برغل و بصل اول الشوي، بيعملون مع بعضن، في الة عنها
مكنة اسمها مكنة الكبة ، و بعدين اغلب الاوقات بقلب الكبة مثلا بتكون اذا كانت كبة مشوية بقلبها لحمة، مقلية
كمان بقلبها لحمة بس بتختلف الاشكال تبعيتون.

سارة: هي أكلة كثير مشهورة بسوريا ما هيك؟

نجاح: ايه طبعا، من أشهر الأكلات، الكبب، و المحاشي مشهورين فيها يعني

سارة: المحاشي؟ محشي؟

نجاح: محشي

سارة: كمان ممكن شوي زغيري تحكيلنا عن المحشي

نجاح: يعني مثلا عنا مثلا محشي البيبتجان بيحفروا البيبتجاجة، همهن و بقلبها بكون رز و لحمة، طبعا اكل حلب
فيو كثير طعمات فبحطولو مثلا مية بندورة

سارة: اها

نجاح: و بقلبو رز و لحمة و بيحشون و بيطبخون مثلا مع كوسا معاها، قرع، عنا اكلة اسمها قرع، كمان هي عنا
ياها ...

سارة: و بيطبخون هدولي بيحطون على النار فترة طويلة يمكن ما هيك؟

نجاح: يعني طبعا ما بتقل عن ساعتين ثلاثة

سارة: الاكل السوري بشكل عام بياخد اهمية كثير بحياة الناس ما هيك؟

نجاح: ايه طبعا

سارة: يعني عندن اهم شي اكلون

نجاح: الاكل عنا ياه مهم ، يعني هي مثلا الغدا، ما ما بمر يوم ما يعني بتوقع المجتمع السوري ما بيطبخ

سارة: يعني مثلا لفرضا، اذا قلنا مثلا معظم الاوقات يمكن المرة هي اللي بتطبخ بالعيلة؟

نجاح: ايه طبعا

سارة: فيه فيه..

نجاح: في رجال حبابين بيطبخو، بس يعني هدول يعني عنا ياهون الون اسم انو هني حبابين طبخوا يعني،

بيطبخو، بس بشكل عام، لا ، الرجال مانو مسؤول عن هيك شي.

سارة: كام ساعة ممكن تقضي المرا عم تطبخ؟؟

نجاح: و الله اهلينا بيقدوا الاشوي النهار كامل بالمطبخ، بين ما يحضروا الفطور، بيخلصو من الفطور ، بيجلو

أكل الفطور، ببيلشو بالгда ، بيخلصو غدا ، ببيلشو الولاد بدون عشاء، كثير بيقدو فترة طويلة.

English translation:

Sarah: Okay, you told us about food in Aleppo, and you said that food in Aleppo is very delicious. What are the most famous dishes that you can mention to us?

Najah: *Kebbeh*.

Sarah: *Kebbeh*, aha?

Najah: All types of *kebbeh* there.

Sarah: What is *kebbeh*, exactly?

Sarah: *Kebbeh* is grain and meat -- no no, no, it is grain and onions first. They put them together. There is a machine called the *Kebbeh* machine¹; then most of the time inside the *kebbeh* ...for example, if it's grilled *kebbeh*, it has meat inside of it. Fried also has meat inside of it, but they differ in shapes.

Najah: This is a very famous dish in Syria, right?

Sarah: Yes, of course, one of the most famous dishes; *kebab*, *mahashi* are famous too, I mean.

Najah: *Mahashi*?² *Mehshi*?³

Sarah: *Mehshi*.

Najah: Could you also tell us a little bit about *mehshi*?

Sarah: I mean, for example, here, for example, *mehshi* of eggplants: they core the inside of the eggplant, hmmm, and they stuffed with rice and meat inside of it ... of course, Aleppo food has many tastes, so they add, for example, tomato water.

Najah: Aha.

Sarah: And inside of it, meat and rice, they stuff them in the core, and they cook squash with it [meaning that it's cooked in a similar fashion]. Pumpkin, we have a dish called pumpkin -- we have that too.

Sarah: And they cook these [dishes]; they put them on fire⁴ for a long time, right?

Najah: Yes, of course, no less than two to three hours.

Sarah: The Syrian food, in general, has an importance in people's life, right?

Najah: Yes, of course.

¹ A kitchen appliance, specifically for making *Kebbeh*.

² Plural of *mehshi*.

³ A famous Syrian dish, the word means "stuffed."

⁴ An expression that means cooking something.

Sarah: I mean, for them, it is the most important?!

Najah: Food is important here, I mean, for example, lunch ... a day won't pass when, I mean, I expect the Syrian society to cook.

Sarah: I mean, for example, suppose, lets say most of the time, I guess the woman is the one who cooks in the family?

Najah: Yes, of course.

Sarah: There is, there is

Najah: There are good men who would cook, but, I mean, these are They have a name here, that they are good men -- "they cook," you know. But in general, no, the man isn't responsible for something like that.

Sarah: How many hours would the woman spend cooking?

Najah: *Wallah*,⁵ our parents almost spend the entire day in the kitchen, between preparing breakfast ... they finish breakfast, they wash the dishes, eat breakfast, start lunch, finish lunch, then kids would want dinner ... they spend a long time.

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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⁵ Means "with God"; it refers to swearing by God and is overused as a filler word.