

**Levantine Arabic transcript:**

- الازمة الاقتصادية العالمية على سوريا ينطبق عليها المثل انو الميت لا يموت مرتين يعني نحنا بالاساس الاقتصاد  
عنا ميت فشو بدو ياتر اذا انسان مفلس انا بجييتي ما في فلوس شو بدو ياتر اذا ما في بالدنيا ما بقي فلوس ما انا  
بالاصل ما في بجييتي فلوس
- ما بجييتي فلوس  
- هي النتيجة  
- طيب، اممم
- بس عفوا، مشان ما يفهم من حديثي انو انا متشائم، او ما في أعمال بسوريا، طبعاً الاعمال مزدهرة عند اشخاص  
كثير و في أعمال عم تدر أرباح كبيرة، و لكن ما بعرف انا بشكل عام لاقى انو لحد هلا سوريا بدها كثير اعادة  
نظر بطريقة مزاوله العمل فيها، و القوانين اللي بتحكم بالعمل و في شغلتي هني مهمين، هني قيام بعض  
الموظفين، بتعسير الاعمال بدل تيسيرها، يعني هوي اساءة استعمال الوظيفة، سوء استعمالها، هذا كثير موجود  
عنا، محاربة هالامور هي لازم مشان تطوير الاعمال بسوريا.
- طيب حكيت شوي صغيرة عن الاقتصاد، و الشغلات السلبية، و الشغلات اللي لازم تحسينها بالبلد على مدى السنين  
الجابي. كشخص ساكن بسوريا، و طلعت لبرا، و عشت برا و اشتغلت برا، شو الشغلات اللي بالاخير بتحس حالك  
انو البلد بتتميز فيها، من ناحية إيجابية مثلاً.
- أول شغلة بيتميز فيها انها بلدي، هاهاها، انها وطني يعني، انا بحب بلدي و انسان انا صارتلي فرص كثير لعيش بأي  
دولة، أنا بدأت حياتي الدراسية بانكلترا، عشت ببريطانيا، سافرت لأستراليا، عشت بمناطق كثيرة بالعالم، و انا  
بحب سوريا و بتمنى أنها تكون... لانو فيها شعب، الشعب السوري شعب عظيم، الحقيقة شعب مجاهد و شعب  
صبور يتميز بالصبر. لولا صبر الشعب السوري ما بيقدر يعيش في ظل الدخل القليل اللي موجود. يعني انا بستخدم  
هون وسائل النقل العامة، انا بستغرب بشغلة، انو نحنا بسنة 1980 نتشابه بالالفين و عشرة، يعني أنا بيطلع أي  
شخص من باص على باصات البلدية، بلا حظ انو الباص حملته أربعين شخص. مبارح انا طلعت بباص فيه مية  
شخص، تحملت، ليش؟ لانو هذا بلدي.
- أنا أهم شي بالنسبة لهالبلد هو رجال المخلصين هاللي بدون يخدمو بلدون بشكل بدون انو يحسبو حساب منافع  
الشخصية. أي وطن، ما بيطور الا بخدمته، الا بالعمل، الا بالعلم، و تكريس الجهد، الجهد الحقيقي، عدم الحكي  
بأمور مانا واقعية.

**English translation:**

-The international economic crisis' effect on Syria goes with the proverb that "the dead cannot die twice." I mean, basically our economy was dead already, [so] how would that [economic crisis] affect it? If a person is broke, say I don't have money in my pocket, how would I be affected by the lack of the money in the world? I don't have money in my pocket in the first place!

-There is no money in the pocket.

-That is the bottom line.

-Okay, hmmm.

-But excuse me, just so my conversation wouldn't be understood [taken] as if I am a pessimist, or as if there was no business left in Syria. Of course business is thriving for many people, and there are some that make a lot of profit, but I don't know, in general, I find that until now, Syria needs reconsideration in how business is practiced in it, and the laws that govern business. There are two important things: that some employees are hindering businesses instead of facilitating them; it is a misuse of their position, and this misuse is very common here. Fighting these things is imperative for the development of business in Syria.

-Okay, you talked a little bit about the economy, and negative things, and things that should be improved in the country over the upcoming years. As a Syrian resident who went abroad, lived abroad, and work abroad, what are the things you would differentiate in the country, in a positive way, for example?

-The first thing that distinguishes it is that it is my country [laughs]; it is my homeland. I mean, I love my country, and I am a person who had many opportunities to live in any country. I started my educational life in England -- I lived in Britain, I traveled to Australia, I lived in many places in the world. I love Syria, and I wish that .... Because Syria has people, the Syrian people are great people. The truth is that they are fighters, patient people that are distinguished by patience. If it wasn't for the patience of the Syrian people, they wouldn't have been able to live under this low income here. I mean, I use public transportation, and I am surprised by something: that we were in the year of 1980 just like 2010; I mean, I would get on any bus of the public buses, and I would notice that the bus carriage [limit] is 40 people. Yesterday, I got on a bus that had 100 people; I stuck it out, why? Because this is my country. The most important thing for this country is these loyal men that want to serve their country in any way possible, without thinking about their personal benefits. Any country will not develop without [people] serving it, with work, with education, with dedication, real effort, not talking about unrealistic things.

**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.

