

Levantine Arabic transcript:

انو كئيب انا عمرو واحد و عشرين سنة اذا بعدنا عن موضوع الحياة الاجتماعية بالجامعة مثلا، بدي اطلع الحياة الاجتماعية مع رفقاتي أو مع أهلي أو مع الجو هوني كمدينة يعني انا بدرس الجامعة بمدينة تاني فأجمل وقت اللي نحنا منقضي هوني مثلا بحمص في عنا محصورين بمنطقة ترفيحية وحدة اللي هي شارع الحمراء مثلا اذا اجينا مثلا بدنا نقضي وقت اكثر في عندك انترنت كافي في عندك منطلع مع رفقاتنا منلعب بلاي ستايشن أو هيك شي، التزامات مع ال... بشكل عام نحنا هوني طبيعة المجتمع بتفرض علينا التزامات كثير مع العيلة. يعني مثلا، بالمناسبات، حتى بالعتل، المفروض كثير بالبنات بهالعمر تطلع دائما مع أهلها مثلا لعند القرابين لعند الأهل. هلا هي شغلة كثير حلوة بتعمل في علاقة كثير حلوة بين الأهل و بين القرابين و ولاد العم وولاد الخال يعني هالمبدأ ، بتعمل علاقة كثير قوية و كثير حلوة بيناتن، أهههه، بس أحيانا يعني الواحد لازم يطلع لبرا، يطلع مع رفقاتو أكثر ، أهههه، فهي بترجع لحسب نظام العيلة. هلا مثلا، أنا بطلع مع عيلتي كثير بس انو ، وقت اللي اطلع فيني ما اطلع مانا يعني مانا مشكلة كثير كبيرة ، بقدر اتحكم فيني طريقة حكم فيها بين أهلي بين رفقاتي.

English translation:

As a young guy who is 21 years old, outside of the social life at the university, for example, there is a social life with friends, family, and with people here in the city. I mean, I study in a university in another city. So most of the time we spend here in Homs, for example, is limited to a one entertainment area, which is Al Hamra Street.¹ For example, if we want to spend some time, we have internet cafes, and sometimes we go out with our friends and play Playstation or things like that. Obligations with... In general, the nature of society here imposes on us many obligations with the family. I mean, for example, occasions, even holidays ... it is expected from the girl in this age to go out with her family to family relatives. Now, it is a very beautiful thing, and it creates a beautiful relationship between family and relatives, and father's-side cousins, and mother's-side cousins. I mean, from this principle, it creates a very strong relationship between them... hmmm, but sometimes, one should go out with friends more, hmmm. That actually depends on the family's system. Now, for example, I go out with my family a lot, but I could, when I want to go out, it is not a big problem. I could control a balance between family and friends.

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.

¹ Popular Street in Homs; it has Cafés and restaurants with French patio styles.