

CultureTalk North Africa Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>  
**The Story of Elissa and the Founding of Carthage**  
**Part 3**

**Tunisian Arabic transcript:**

ازدهرت التجارة في الوقت هذالك، ازدهرت الفلاحة، ازدهرت التجارة. كانوا القرطاجين يسافرو بما ان تونس منطقة ساحلية، تجي على البحر الابيض المتوسط و منفتحة على كله على اوروبا، على المناطق في العالم فأصبحت حتى الى آسيا التجار القرطاجين. يشرو من عند هذا، بيعو لهذا و ديما هم الراحين في لخر. الفترة ألي حكمت فيها عليسا مدينة قرطاج ما ذكرش عليها التاريخ برشا حاجات. ممكن يذكرو على على صناعة سفن كثير، بنائهم السفن بما انهم كانوا تجار بارعين. كانوا يعني بارعين في بناء السفن، تهو قاعدين يدرسو كيفية توزيع، ما كانش ثم محرك بخاري او. ف تهو قاعدين يدرسو كيفاش وصلو هذه البحارة بالسفن ألي سافرو بهم البحر الابيض المتوسط، لآسيا، لأوروبا، للهند آأمم كيما قلت لك ثم حاجات آأمم ثقافية ام فترة حكم عليسا شنهى عملت ما ذكرش عليها التاريخ برشا حاجات. الحاجة ألي ركز عليها التاريخ كانت نهاية عليسا. بما انها نهاية حزنه شوي. ف آآ قلنا است عليسا مدينتها الصغيرة و حكمت سكانها بالعدل و كانوا يحبوها، شعبها كان يحبها آأمم مدينة مجاورة ل لقرطاج كان يحكمها ملك. الملك هذا سمع بعليسا، سمع بالازدهار الاقتصادي في فترتها و سمع بالحاجات ألي عملتها عليسا فحب يتجوزها، حب يعرس بها... عليسا سمعت بلحكاية هذه هي، رفضت خاطر كانت و فية لذكرى رجلها ألي بيغماليون خوها قتله و رفضت انها تجوزه آآ ردت فعلها ما توقفتش على هكاهو، قرت انها تنتحر و وفاء لذكرى رجلها فشعلت نار كبيرة و رمات فيها روحها. السباب ظاهريا يمكن انه يكون وفائها لرجلها، اما ما عرفش ممكن يكون هناك اسباب اسباب اخرى خلتها تعمل هكيا. اما اسباب الظاهر و المعروف للناس تاريخيا هو انها قرت ماهيش تعرس برجل و حد اخر غير رجلها و كوفاء لذكرى زوجها قرت انها تنتحر. هك كانت عليسا هي لمرأ ألي بدأت فترة آآ تاريخية مزدهرة اقتصاديا في مدينة صغيرة اسمها قرطاج.

**English Transcript:**

During that time, commerce developed, as well as agriculture. The Carthaginians used to travel, especially since Carthage has a strategic location: It was by the coast of the Mediterranean Sea and open to Europe and all parts of the world. They – the Carthaginian traders – even got to Asia. They buy from this one, they sell to this one and they are always the ones to win in the end.

The period that Elissa controlled Carthage City is not mentioned much in history. It [history] talked a lot about ship building and the way they [the Carthaginians] used to build ships, since they were skillful traders—they were, I mean, skillful at building ships. Even today, they are studying how they used to row since there was no steam engine. So, today they are studying how these sailors managed to build ships that they used to travel from the Mediterranean Sea to Asia, Europe, India...aa...mmm... As I told you, there were also cultural things. During the rule of Elissa—and what she exactly did is not talked a lot about in history. The thing that history focuses on is the end of Elissa because it was a little bit of a sad ending. So ...aaa... we said—Elissa founded her small town and she ruled over them with justice and they liked her – her people liked her... umm... A neighboring city to Carthage was ruled by a king, and this king heard of Elissa. He heard of the economic advancement of her time and he heard of the things that Elissa did, and so he wanted to marry her – he wanted to marry her. Elissa heard of this and she rejected it because she was faithful to her husband who was killed by her brother Pygmalion, and

so she refused to marry him. Her reaction was not limited to her rejection; she decided to commit suicide as a way of showing her faithfulness to her husband. And so she lit a big fire and she threw herself in it. The surface reason could be as a way of showing her faithfulness to her husband, but we don't know, there may have been other reasons for her to do something like this. But the surface reason – and what is commonly and historically said – is that she decided to not marry any other man after her husband and, as a way of showing her faithfulness to her husband, she decided to commit suicide. This is how Ellissa was the woman who started a period aaa... an economically advanced historical period for a small city called Carthage.

**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 every day. 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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