

Tunisian Arabic transcript:

المهر ما عدش يعني كان مداول من قبل حتهو آآ... ما عدش يعني ما عدش لعروس يعطي فلوس لاهل لعروسة على اساس انه مهر ليها ولا آآ نهار كتبان الصداق، نهار يكتب فيه الصداق يمكن يعطيها مثلا آآ ورقة بثلاثين دينار آآ يعني حاجة رمزية مش كمية هاييلة من لفلوس لا ما عادتش المهر ما عدش مداول كيما قلت لك و حتى ثلاثين دينار، ورقة ثلاثين دينار لعروسة تحطها في اليوم التصاور ذكرى. هذا هي المهر ألي هو عطى لعروس عطه لي نهار كتبان الصداق... و يمدو ياما في معناها في كان في الجامع فيه بو لعروسة كان في الدار معناها عليها هي... اذا كان هو يحب يهدي لها هدية مثلا قبل العرس، يهديها لها يعني من عنده هو لها هي مش يعني يعطي فلوس لعائتها.

English Transcript:

The providing of a dowry used to be practiced before but now, not anymore. The groom no longer gives money to the family of the bride as part of the dowry. On the day that they sign the marriage contract, he may give her a note of 30 Dinars; it is just something symbolic, not a big amount of money. As I told you, the giving of a dowry is no longer practiced; even the note of 30 Dinars is just for the bride to keep as a souvenir and to remember: "This is the dowry that my husband gave me when signing the marriage contract." If the groom is signing the marriage contract in the mosque with the bride's father, he has to give this symbolic dowry to her father. And if the contract is signed at home, he has to give it directly to her. If he wants to give her a gift before the wedding, he can give it from him to her and not give money to her family.

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.