

CultureTalk North Africa Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>  
**Stages of a Wedding**  
**Part 1**

**Tunisian Arabic transcript:**

العرس في تونس طويل. ما يعني مش نهار و كهاء، ليلة العرس و كهاء... الحاجة ألي نبدأو بها كتبان الصداق باش يخلو الامور يعني قانونية و من بعد تبدأ لفراح و الليالي الملاج. بعد كتبان الصداق يعني تهو ظهرت حاجة في تونس... آمم برشا عباد هي يكتبوا الصداق رجال صافي الجامع... آآآ يعني مرا تكون متزينة لابسة ققطان آآآ و في الدار بالطبيعة و معهم صحابها، نسا من عائلة لعروس و رجال يمشو و تلمو في الجامع و يصلو و من بعد آآآ يقراو الفاتحة و يكتبوا الصداق يعني عاد الشهاد يكون موجود معهم يكتبوا الصداق، لعروسة و لعروس في الجامع... من بعد قلت لك النهار هذاك آآآ ثم شكون يعشى بعد الصداق يعني دار لعروسة تعشي دار لعروس و الضيف بالطبيعة ألي يجي معهم. و من بعد يعني من غدوة تبدأ لحانيين... ليالي الحنة عادة ثلاثة ايام حنة آآآ ليلة لخرانية فيها النقشة يعني تكمل حنتها، تعمق لعروسة حنتها من بعد ينقشو لها بالحرقوش آآآ الصبا كيف يبدأو ملومين، كل واحد باخت يعني بحنة لعروس تحب سعدها يعني الرجال ألي باش تاخذو يجي في ساع ولا تعمل نفس حنة لعروسة و بعد لحاني، ليلة لوقبة. لوقبة ألي هي حفلة، حفلة لعروسة آآآ يعني جي فيها لعروس ما يكونش، ما يكونش آآآ كفاش نقول لك؟ يعني ما يكونش محجم و لابس كسوة، لا لعروسة تكون لابسة يعني تجم تلبس كسوة تتصرد آآآ محنية آآآ لعروس تكون فيها كيما نقولو حنا يلم في السور.

**English Transcript:**

The wedding in Tunisia is long; it is not just one day and done. The first thing that it starts with is a marriage contract to make the marriage legal. After that, the celebrations and the good nights start. After signing the marriage contract, in Tunisia many people have started to do something new, which is that only men are present at the mosque for the marriage contract. The woman wears a nice *kuftan* with a lot of jewelry and stays in the house with her female friends and maybe some women from the groom's and her families. Meanwhile, the men get together in the mosque, they pray; after that, they read the *Fatiha*<sup>1</sup> and then sign the marriage contract. They sign the marriage contract between the groom and the bride at the mosque.

After signing the marriage contract, some people make a dinner. The bride's family usually makes the dinner for the groom's family and other guests who come with them. The following day, the *henna*-doing starts. The *Henna* Night is three days: for three days they do the *henna* and the last night of them is the *Naksha*, which is when the bride's *henna* is done and is darker - they beautify it with *harkus*. The same goes for her female friends: they sit around her for, as we say, optimism, which means that they wish that their husbands-to-be would come quickly and so they would get the same *henna* as the bride.

After *Henna* Night, there is *Lewtia* Night, which is the bride's party. On that night, the groom arrives but he is not... he is not shaved and does not wear nice clothes and... The bride can wear nice clothes, sits nicely and has her *henna* done nicely. But the groom would be, as we say, not taking care of his appearance.

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<sup>1</sup> *Fatiha*: The Opening: The first chapter in the Quran.

**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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