

CultureTalk North Africa Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Stages of a Wedding
Part 2

Tunisian Arabic transcript:

حفلة لعروسة ألي هي لوطية، راحة لعروسة يعني الليلة من بعدها راحة دار لعروسة ما يعملو فيها حد شئ. ألي هي نفس الليلة ألي هي تصوير فيها حنة لعروس... يعني هي تعمل حنتها، تعمل وطيتها من غدوة هي ترتاح و هو يعمل حنته. في حنته آآ يتلمو صحابه و الاكثرية عائلته... آآ كيف كيف يعيشو ثم شكون يطيب عشا في الليل لعائلة. و و لعروس ما قلت لك معناه كيما نقول نحن يلم في السور، مهمل روجه يعني لحيته طالعة مش محجم. نهار الحنة يججمو له و يقبله و يحضره على خاطر من غدوة العرس. آآ و في العرس بالطبيعة لخرانية المسود و يعني آ احتفالات كبيرة، اهم ليلة في العرس ليلة العرس يعني. لعروسة آآ تلبس فيه آمم كل عروسة تفرق لانه كل منطقة عندها لبستها بالرغم من ان تونس صغير اما كل منطقة عندها لبسة معينة. في الجنوب آ لبسة معينة، في الشمال كيف كيف، في العاصمة كيف كيف. دونك اما المعروف انه يعني لمداول المرساوي ألي هو متكون من قطعتين. مرساوي القطعة الفوقانية تكون بالطبيعة آآ... هي من غير يعني اكمام. بالطبيعة نحكي على لعروسة مش مدينة. المدينة يعني كل شئ مستور. المرساوي تنجم تعدل فيه و ترده، يتأقلم معناها، يتأقلم مع عروسة مدينة اما المرساوي العادي ألي من غير آآ اكمام آآ لهنيا... بعد تجي ل آآ السروال، هو مرساوي السراول و ثم مرساوي يعني جوب طويلة.

English Transcript:

Lewtia is the bride's party and it is a resting time for her. The night after that is a resting night for her and so no one does anything in her house. On that same night, the groom gets his *henna* done. This is to say, she has her *lewtia* and the following day she takes a rest and he gets his *henna* done. When he is getting his *henna* done, his friends come, but the majority of people who come are his family members. The same, they also make dinner for the guests and family. As I told you, the groom has not been taking care of his appearance; he has left his beard unshaved and so on the day of *henna*, they shave his beard and get him ready because tomorrow is the wedding day.

The last night is the wedding night with *mezwed*! And... and big celebrations because the wedding night is the most important night in the whole ceremony. On that night, the bride wears... what the bride wears differ because each region has its own dress. Although Tunisia is small, each region has its own dresses. In the south, they wear a specific dress and the same goes for the north and the capital city. But what is common is *el-marsawi*, which consists of two pieces. The upper piece is sleeveless – this is of course only for a non-religious bride. If she is religious, she would cover everything because *el-marsawi* can be modified to fit the needs of a religious bride. But the normal *marsawi* is the sleeveless one and goes down to here. Then we have the pants. There are *marsawi* with pants and *marsawi* with long skirts.

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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