

Turkish transcript:

Mesala ben lisedeyken yine oda arkadaşlarım vardı tabi ki ve yemeği kaçırdığımda oda arkadaşlarım hani bilirdi ben odadayım, ve yemeğimi getirirdi benim yatağımın başucuna kadar. Mesala burda hastalanıyorsunuz yatıyorsunuz hani oda arkadaşınız bir demiyor yani çorba ister misin, şunu ister misin, bunu ister misin diye. Şimdi tek başıma kalıyorum, yalnız odadayım,oda arkadaşım yok, hani hasta olup ölsem, hani kimsenin gelip kapımı çalmaz bilmez yani. Çok şükür ki yan komşum Amerikalı değil, Pakistanlı o arada gelip soruyor nasılsın iyi misin diye, işte hasta olunca ilaç getiriyor bana, ya da küçük ihtiyaçlarımı gideriyor işte mesala postaneye gitmem gerekiyor o gidiyor yapıyor. Onun için genelde burdaki arkadaşlarım uluslararası öğrencilerden, Amerikalı pek arkadaşım yok. Olsa da yarı Amerikalı yarı başka ülkeli arkadaşlarım var, Amerikalı'lara karşı önyargılı değilim ama şu ana kadar yakın, çok yakın Amerikalı arkadaşım olmadı. Ama onların da neden bu şekilde olduğunu anlayabiliyorum. Çünkü sürekli böyle yetiştiriyorlar, ben, ben merkezli, hiçbir zaman biz kavramını oturtamıyorlar, ama yine de Amerikalı arkadaşlarım var ama dostum yok.

English translation:

For example, when I was in high school, I still had roommates. Obviously, whenever I missed dinner, my roommates would know that I was in my room, and they would even bring my dinner to my bed. Here, for example, if you get sick, your roommate would not even ask whether you wanted soup, wanted this, wanted that. Now I am staying on my own, I am in a single room, I don't have a roommate. I mean, if I were to get sick and die, I mean, no one would come knock my door and know. Thank God, my roommate next door is not American, she is Pakistani. She comes and asks once in a while how I am, whether I am well. She brings medicine to me whenever I am sick. For example, if I need to go to the post office, she goes and does it for me. That's why my friends here are generally international students; I don't have many American friends. Even if they are, they are half-American, half from another country. I am not prejudiced against Americans, but up until now I haven't had any close American friends. But I understand why they are that way too. Because they were brought up that way, always "me," I-centered, they are never able to understand the concept of "we." I still have American friends, but no close 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.

© 2003-2009 Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and Five Colleges, Incorporated