

CultureTalk Turkey Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Asking for the Hand of a Daughter

Turkish transcript:

G: Kız isteme töreninden bize biraz daha bahsedebilir misin?

A: İşte iki insan evlenecekleri zaman...(Incomplete sentence)

G: Ciddi bir tören mi bu?

A: Yani ciddi olarak yapıldığı zamanlar da var ama şu anda daha çok geleneksel bir hal almış durumda.

G: Formalite icabı gibi mi?

A: Biraz formalite icabı biraz da geleneklere saygı göstermek amacıyla yapılan birşey. İşte damadın annesi ve babası, ya da büyükleri, gelinin evine gelir, evlenmeye karar verdikleri zaman ve amaç işte damadın annesinin, babasının, gelini, onun annesi ve babasının izniyle istemek. İşte eve gelinir bir kutu şeker ya da lokum getirilir, aileler oturur.

G: Bu esnada gelin türk kahvesi mi pişiriyor?

A: Bu esnada gelinin mümkün olduğunca salonda bulunmaması gerekir, o mutfakta türk kahvesi pişirir. Daha sonra türk kahvesi, kahveyi ikram eder. Damadın babası ‘Allahın emri, peygamberin kavliyle kızınızı oğlumuza istiyoruz.’ diye bir cümle kurar, ve işte kızın babası da kıza sorar isteyip istemediğini ve işte gençler uygun gördüyse tabi neden olmasın denir, böyle bir tören.

English translation:

G: Can you tell us a little bit more about the event of asking the girl’s hand in marriage?

A: When two people are going to get married . . .

G: Is this a serious ceremony?

A: Well it can be taken seriously too, but currently it takes more like a traditional shape.

G: Is it just done for the sake of formality?^{1*}

¹ Means to say: Is it just done for complying with the tradition, although it is no longer taken as seriously as it was before?

A: It is done for the sake of formality and also with an aim to honor tradition. The mother and the father of the groom, or his elders would come to the house of the bride when they have decided to get married and the aim is to ask the permission of the bride's parents to allow them get married. So they visit with a box of candy or Turkish delight, the parents meet each other.

G: Is the bride making Turkish coffee during that period?

A: During that period the bride is not supposed to be in the living room as much as possible, thus she makes Turkish coffee in the kitchen. Then she would serve Turkish coffee. And then the father of the groom would ask permission from the bride's parents with the following sentence: "We request your daughter for our son, with the word of Allah, and with the permission of the prophet"¹, and then the father of the girl would ask the girl about whether she wants to get married or not, and then he would say: "If they have thought that it is suitable, why not [let them get married]", so it is a ceremony like this.

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¹ There is no exact translation of this prologue