

Hassaniya Arabic transcript:

ك: كنت في النرويج. تكلمي عن النرويج...

س: كيف كانت النرويج؟

ك: اه

س: عجبتي، دولة كانت زينة. الكلية ألي كنت فيها، كلية عالمية يعني فيها 200 طالب من جميع أنحاء العالم و يعني كانت تجربة رائعة يعني. يعني، جبرت ياسر من الطلاب و الشباب ألي سني و لا أكبر مني و كل عنده فكرة مختلفة عن فكرتي و كل ينظر للعالم نظرة مختلفة و عجبني الجو بما أنها كانت في قرية صغيرة، يعني الجبال فيها جبال و فيها الما كل بلاصة و لخطار و كل شي أخطر، مختلفة تماما علي الطبيعة ألي متعودة أنا عليها. و كانت تجربة زينة الحمد لله

ك: ماهو الاختلاف بين النرويج و الصحراء الغربية؟

س: طبعا عنه المجتمع مختلف تماما، بما أني أنا عشت مع مجتمع صحراوي و لا جزائري، يعني عنا كاملين عرب و كاملين مسلمين و من جيت للنرويجيين، النرويجيين قاع اخبارهم. النرويجيين شعب في نظري أنا إنطوائي قبالة، يعني عنهم ما يتقبلو الا جانب بصفة منفتحة و هاك كان صعب علي أنا قبالة لاني أنا طابة ألي علي مجتمعي يعني نسلم علي أي حد في الشارع، ألا شفت حد كبير نسلم عليه، هما والو. أمنين سلمت علي واحد متخطي في الشارع ما رد قاع عليا الجواب، ايوا بقيت ألا نتعجب. أمنين نعود ماشين في الكار، الدنيا ما تتكلم مع بعضها، يعني عنهم أنطوائين تشكل ما يوتصف. تفاجيت قبالة بهذاك و ثانيا املي بما اني أنا، بالرغم اني قط قست أسبانيا و هذي لبلايص، يغير المجتمع النرويجي مختلف تماما عن المجتمعات الاوروبية الثانية لانهم متفتحين قبالة، يغير متفتحين علي أنطوائية و هذا جعلني، حسيت عني ماني متقبلة اقبالة في المجتمع. و تفاجيت املي لانه مثلا عندك الحرية التامة باش تعدلي الي بغيتي، امشي في الشارع الطريقة لبقيتي و ذا كامل يغير لبلاصة الي كنت أنا نقرا فيها، بما أني أنا كنت الطالبة الوحيدة المحببة، الجميع يسولني أنت علاه تلبسي هذا، علاه معذب نفسك؟ و هذي المسائل، هذا جاني غريب لان المجتمع النرويجي، مجتمع متفتح يغير امنين جيت و تقلمت مع الدنيا، اخبار.

English translation:

K: You were in Norway. Talk about Norway...

S: How was Norway?

K: Yes, how was Norway?

S: I liked it, it is a nice country. The school I attended was an international school. We were 200 students from all over the world, and it was a fantastic experience. I mean, I met a lot of youth my age and older, and each one of us had a different way of thinking and we all looked at the world differently. In addition, I liked the weather and the environment, especially since my school was in a small city. It was surrounded by mountains, water was everywhere and everything was green. A very different kind of nature from what I am used to. And it was a wonderful experience, *alhamdulillah*¹.

K: What were the culture differences between Norway and Western Sahara?

S: Of course the two societies are very different. Since I had lived with only Saharawis and Algerians, I mean, all of us were Arabs and Muslims. But when I came to Norway, the Norwegians were very different. Norwegians, I believe, are a very introverted people; I mean, they don't accept people who are different from them in an open way, and that was difficult for me because I am so used to my society. In my society, I would greet people in the street, and especially elders. In the Norwegian society, that is not the case. I remember when I greeted an old man in the street and he didn't even reply to me and I was very surprised. Also, in the bus for instance, people don't talk to each other at all, people are reserved, and that really shocked me. Even though I have been in Spain and France before... but the Norwegians are very different from the rest of the Europeans, and that is because of the fact that

¹ *Alhamdulillah*: Thank God (literally: "Praise Allah"): An Arabic expression used in a variety of contexts, but most often to express thankfulness for or an awareness of grace in any good thing.

they are a liberal society but they are very reserved at the same time. This made me not feel very welcomed in the society. The other thing that really surprised me was that... oh... one has the full freedom to do whatever one wants. One can go in the streets however one wants, but it was very different in the place where my school was in the sense that I was the only girl with the hijab [Islamic headscarf]. Everyone asked me, why do you have to dress like this and why do you make yourself suffer like that? I found this aspect very strange because I thought that the Norwegians were very open, but after coming to Norway I found the people to be very different.

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