

Hassaniya Arabic transcript:

إمرأة: ايوا عندنا عيشتنا حمدنا الله، أيجينا الزرع ونشره، اها نحرثه الزرع نحرثه ونقبضوا و نعيشوا به، سمعتي ولا ما سمعتي؟ و أوتوف.
س: ايوا، امنين تحرثوا الزرع لاهي تطحنه؟
إمرأة: لاهي نطحنه و لاهي نصفه. شوفي، ينحرث و منين ينحرث يديره في أقتات، سمعتي؟ يديره في أقتات و يقبضوا و يديرو اعليه البيل، البيل يقبضها و يدرسه علي الخشبة، سمعتي؟ و يعدلو منه لغراير، سمعتي؟ و هما العايشين به، ياك فهمتي ذا؟ ايوا شي ثاني؟
س: ايوا شنهي الوجبات الي تعدلو من الزرع؟
إمرأة: وجبات؟
س: بيهه، لوكيل الي تعدلو من الزرع؟
إمرأة: لوكيل؟ أصل نعرفو. شوفي، نعدلو شوفي المقلي و نقله و نعدلو الزرع المقلي و نطحنه و نعدلو الزرع لبيض و نعدله أملي و نخبزه و نوكله، سمعتي؟ و نعدلو البلغمان و نعدلو الزميت، سمعتي؟ و هذا كامل راهو مع الدهن دهن لغنم. نخلبوا لغنم و ن آآ و نخلبوا لغنم و نمخضوا الشكوى و نقبضوا لينها و الزيت ما نعرفه، سمعتي؟ و نعدلو ذاك الدهن و نتموا نيدموا به الا الدسم و توف انديره في عكاكنا، عكة نعدلها و نملئها من الدهن و نتم نيدم من زرها ذاك ذاك هو أسمو؟ ذاك الزرع أنا طاحتو ألا إلى بغيت نمقليه الا كلها و الي بغيت نعدل نعدلو عايشين به العيشة الزينة الصالحة.

English translation:

Woman: Our food, thanks to Allah... aaa... We get wheat and we, we... aaa... we buy it. No, we actually grow it – we grow wheat seeds... We grow it and we... aaa... we, we... aaa... use it for survival, do you or do you not understand? And that is it.

S: And so, when you grow the wheat seeds, what do you do next? Do you grind it?

Woman: Yes, we would grind it and we clean it... So look, when we grow it and then harvest it, we would put it in *egtet*, do you understand? We put it in *egtet* and we... aaa... we... aaa... and we use camels to gather it and we put it in *grair*¹, do you understand? And... aaa... this is what we use for survival, do you understand this? And so, is there another thing?

S: So, what are the dishes you make from wheat?

Woman: Dishes?

S: Yes, the different foods you make...

Woman: Foods? Of course I know. Look, we make *elmegli*, and we... aaa... we basically roast wheat grains and we grind it and mix it with water. And we also grind the wheat grains [without roasting them] to make flour for bread and we eat that, do you understand? We make *belgman*² and we make *zamit*³, do you understand? And all of this

¹ *Grair*: Leather containers used for food storage.

² *Belgman*: A traditional Saharawi dish made from wheat that has been ground and boiled in water for a long time, stirring constantly until it is smooth; it is served with butter and milk.

³ *Zamit*: dish made from roasted wheat berries which have been ground and mixed with a small amount of cool water and sugar.

is used with goat fat [butter]... Aaa... We milk the goats and we... aaa... we milk the goats and we... aaa... we shake the *eshekwa*⁴ and we get the butter... We didn't know [vegetable] oil, do you understand? And we make the butter that we use for dipping; it is just butter and we put it in our '*ekak*'⁵. I would make '*ekaa*' and fill it with butter and use it for dipping. Aaa... I would use it to dip... aaa... what is it called? To dip the wheat grains that have been roasted and then ground – but it depends if I want to roast it or not; I can do whatever I want. We used to eat it and we lived a healthy life then.

⁴ *Eshekwa*: A container made from animal skin used for conserving camel milk. It hangs in the *humara*, which is made up of three sticks in a triangular shape. The *eshekwa* is shaken back and forth in the *humara* to produce butter from milk.

⁵ '*Ekak*': Plural form of '*ekaa*', which is a container used to store camel fat which has been taken from the camel's hump and melted.

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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