## CultureTalk Western Sahara Video Transcripts: <a href="http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu">http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu</a> Tea and the *Jma'a* of the Elders

## Hassaniya Arabic transcript:

إمرأة: يغير امنين انجي لحد و يقدم اماعينه و يتي لي، هذا معنها عنه يبغيني و معنها عنو منطرب لي و جماعتي زينة عنده. و منين انجيه و لا يقدم لماعين و لا يتبشش معنها عن جمعاتي ماهي زينة عنده. هذه هي أهل الصحراء عادتهم ذي هي في خيامهم، أمنين يعود و قاطنين في خيامهم و في بيوتهم و في بلدهم. هذه هي عاداتهم و أحسانهم. سن: و منين يعرض عليك حد أتاي، تقد ترد الكاس و لا معتبر عنها ماهي زينة؟ المرأة: اهها، امنين يعود يضر. نحن عارفين عن خالق نوع من الناس ما يشربو يضر بصحته، يكدر عليه مثلا. عنه هو ماهو طاب عليه من يومه و عندنا نحن في تربيتنا، خالقين نوع من أو لادنا ما يشرب أتاي بيه الي قام من صغره به الي امنين يعود اليشير يشربه حتي هو يبقي الجماعة و الجماعة ماهي لليشير. لولد و لا المنت ما هو للجماعة ارواقيج كبار الين يعود هو كبير و يعود في المستوى ذاك هو لجعل نحن علن اليشير ما يشربه باش ما تم يقعد في الجماعة عبر عند امنين يعود يشرب أتاي لاهي يعود يجمع مع الناس لكبار و يتنطق تنطق الناس لكبار و يتحدث الجماعة عدد أله المو المورة الله و يتمو و كالم خاص بهم عما و هو صبي صغير و لاهي يمرق لشارع و يقول ذاك الي قالو ذوك لكبار اقبيل. هذا ما هو في مستواه يغير حد مع والديه يشرب أتاي. و الجماعة قاع ماهي ممدوحة لليشير ماهو وقته لاهي ينتصح و لا وقتو لاهي ينحلو تمارين مع والديه يشرب أتاي. و الجماعة قاع ماهي ممدوحة لليشير ماهو وقته لاهي ينتصح و لا وقتو لاهي ينحلو تمارين مع والديه يشرب أتاي. و الجماعة قاع ماهي ممدوحة لليشير ماهو وقته لاهي ينتصح و لا وقتو لاهي ينحلو تمارين

## **English translation:**

**Woman:** When I come to someone and they take out the tea set and make tea for me, it means that this person loves me and enjoys my company. But if I come to someone and they don't take out the tea set with joy, it means that this person doesn't enjoy my company. This is the tradition of the Saharawi people at their homes; when they are in their own tent or house, this is their tradition.

**S:** So, if someone gives you a cup of tea, is it fine to return it or is it considered impolite? **Woman:** No, if it is a problem for the person's health. We know that there are people who don't drink it because it may damage his/her health, or if the person is simply not used to it. Some of my children never had tea since they were small because they were not raised drinking it. Personally, I have children who didn't drink tea when they were small and they stayed like that. You may wonder, why so? Well, it is because if the child likes to drink tea, he/she would enjoy being part of *jma'a* and *jma'a* is not meant for children. The boy or the girl cannot be part of the *jma'a* of the elders until they are older. This is why the child should not drink it so that he/she should not be part of *jma'a*. And so, when the child starts to drink tea, he/she would be part of *jma'a*, he/she would talk like adults. This is just a form of respect; the small child should not be part of the *jma'a*, which is for the elders because the elders say things that are not for his/her age when he/she is still young. And if he/she goes outside, he/she would start to talk like the elders,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Jma'a is a gathering or group of people. The jma'a referred to here may be either a gathering of family members, or a gathering including neighbors and guests as well. However, the term jma'a is traditionally used to refer to a council made up of tribal leaders.

which is not his/her level. And if someone hears it, he/she would say that this is not the talk of a small child. For this, the child is not advised to sit with his parents and elders to drink tea. In addition, *jma'a* is not advisable for the child unless someone is giving him/her advice or helping him/her with homework or study. And the parents should always be present.

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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