

Hassaniya Arabic transcript:

س: أبو أينت بيداو الصحراويين يتعلمو يعدلو أتاي؟

إمرأة: من باش أباو، من باش بداو أهل الصحراء...

س: قصدي، مثلا، اليشير الصغير...

إمرأة: كلها و هو...

س: علي كم سنة بيداو؟

إمرأة: كلها و هو، خالق قاع الي منسه و حايته بدوية و ألي منسه ألا أتاي و يعلمو التركة الصغيرة كيف قلنا. يعلموهم و زين عندهم الولد يعود يتي لواليه مثلا، تعود مستقرة وحدة قاعدة وحدها و دور ولدها يتي يغير بعد لاهي يطب عليه. يغير هذه في حالات نادرة، في حالة حد ما هامو يقري ولده. يغير منين يعود واحد يقرا و ماشي لاهي يقرا في لبليدات و متعلق بلقراية، خصه ما يتعلم أتاي. ألا كلها و هو، خالق ألي يعلم تركته أتاي بلعجلة مزالو صغيرين يغير بعد لاهي يآثر عليهم.

س: ابو تقليديا، أينت بيداو يتعلمو؟

إمرأة: تقليديا؟

س: يعني في القديم، علي كم سنة بيداو التركة يتعلمو؟

إمرأة: بالنسبة لأتاي، قلنا لك عنه ألا ذا. ألي مثلا بدوي و...

س: ما عنده سنة معينة؟

إمرأة: ما عنده سنة معينة، ألي بدوي... هو ألا هو و الحياة، ألا هو و حياة الانسان. ألي مدني و في عصر الحضارة، خصو أتاي لتركة محدود، التلميذ ما يدخل الجماعة و ما يتي و ألي مثلا ماش في سياحة و البدو و الرعاة و ماشي علي وجهه و ماشي بغنمه، ماهو داخل ليد. مثلا عنه في حياة البدو، أيد أربعين و ذيك الجماعة، الناس ألا رحالة. ألي يقولو والدينا أمال أنا ماني من الناس لقديمة الحقيقة. لاهي نقول ألا الحق. قالو والدينا عندهم ذوك ألي رحالة اليوم يباتو في بلد و الصبح يباتو في بلد ثاني يروكو بلد ترنع فيه الحية، ذوك ما غاديلهم يتي لولد الصغير و لولد لكبير و يتيو كاملين، يغير نحن ذوما هي زينا عندنا. يغير بعد، ألا بعد قد علامته لتاي لو عادو أهلو ذاك نيتهم، قد علامته لتاي، ما يشرب أتاي قدام بوه ولا قدام حد أكبر منه. يخصه يتيه ألا وحده ألي عاد متعلمه، ماهي زينة قدام حد كبير يشرب حد أتاي ولا ينكي قدامه. هو عنده إحترام محدود أتاي ذا و لكليشي عنده الاحترام. جماعة لكبار وحدهم و الصغار، تقد التركة تمشي تتعلم عنها أتبي يغير وحدهم. يغير كلها و هو، ماهو بعد ممدوح للتلميذ عنه يعود يشربه لانه يعود يتراه.

English translation:

S: So, when do you Saharawis start to learn how to make tea?

Woman: Since the beginning, since the Saharawis began...

S: No, I mean, for example, the young child... aaa... How young or at what... aaa...

Woman: It depends on each person...

S: At what age do they start to learn it?

Woman: It depends on each person. There are people whom it [tea] keeps company because their lifestyle is more rural... And what keeps them company is just tea and so they teach young children, they teach it to them. They would like the child to make tea, for example, for his parents. It could be that a mother may be bored alone and would like her son to make tea for her but that makes him used to it. These cases are very rare – only in the case when the parent doesn't want to educate his/her child. But if the child is studying, goes to study in different places and is tied to his/her studies, he/she should not learn to make tea. It really depends on each person. There are people who teach their children to make tea very early on – at a young age, but it will impact them.

S: So, traditionally when do they start to learn to make it?

Woman: Traditionally?

S: I mean in the old days, at what age do they start to learn to make it?

Woman: I told you everything. If they are... aaa... if the people are, for example, living in the rural area...

S: So, there is no specific age?

Woman: There is no specific age; it all depends on lifestyle... It depends on the lifestyle of the person. If the person is more civilized and modernized, he/she should... aaa... aaa... tea for the children should be limited. It is limited for the pupil: he/she should not be part of *jma'a*¹ and should not make tea. But if the person, for example, is more nomadic and... aaa... wanders around for grazing and taking care of the animals, he/she is not very serious. This means that he/she is living the nomadic lifestyle like during the *ait arba'en*² and that period, when people were just nomads. This is what I heard from my parents but frankly I am not one of the older people. I am just saying the truth. Our parents said that the nomads were those who slept today in this place and tomorrow in another place. Basically, they look for a place to graze their animals. These people don't care – the young and old make tea alike. But for us, it is not very good. However, even if the family of the child is nomadic and teaches him/her to make tea, he/she cannot drink tea in front of his parents or elders. If he/she knows how to make it, he/she has to drink it by her/himself. It is not advisable for a child to drink tea in front of someone older... or lie down in front of them. It merits a certain respect, tea does, as does everything else... the elders separated from the younger. The children can learn to make tea, but by themselves. But it really depends on the person... It is not advisable for the pupil to drink it because he/she gets addicted to it.

¹ *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.

² *Ait arba'en*: *Ait* means council in Berber language and *arab'en* means forty in Arabic. This council was the oldest political council in Western Sahara and was made up of forty tribal leaders from the different tribes in region.

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