

Yemeni Arabic transcript:

ل: طيب أيش الفرق بين الفوطة والمعوز؟
ي: أيش من فوطة أول الصومالي ولا الاندونيسي؟
ل: قده كله زي بعض ليش عاده في اختلاف؟
ي: يعني... لا الفوطة الصومالي في فوط صومالي وفي فوط اندونيسي. بس الفوطة تجي خفيفة يعني بشكل عام اندونيسي أو غيره تجي أخف من المعوز. أه قماشه يجي أرق ومش زي المعوز، المعوز يجي فيه شغل كثير، يعني يشتغلوا عليه ناس كثير.
ل: شغل يد يعني؟
ي: شغل يد شغل.. أو ماكينة تقليدية يعني، ام.. ماهياش ماكينة يعني كهربائية أو جهاز كهربائي، لا هي تجي مكينة تقليدية من أخشاب و من.. فعليها شغل كثير المعوز. وأغلب الناس اللي يلبسوا معوز هم أصحاب شبوة، أصحاب مأرب، هي المناطق اللي وسط اليمن... البيضاء.
ل: المعوز يجي خرقة وحدة ولا يجي زي الفوطة كده كله يعني...
ي: الفوطة هي تجي تقريبا يكون في.. دائرية يعني... كأنه شكل أسطواني..
ل: زي التنور.
ي: زي التنور. فتجي بشكل أسطواني بينما المعوز يجي قطعة واحدة و تلفت فوق الجسم.
ل: أما الدرع، كمان قده قطعة وحدة كله..
ي: في الدرع هو قماش واحد بس يخييط يعني قطعة وحدة قماش، تقريبا من الهند أجت.
ل: طيب.
ي: الدرع جابونه التجار من الهند.

English translation:

L: So what's the difference between the *fottah* and the *mi'waz*¹?
Y: [Tell me] what kind of *fottah* first, the Somali or the Indonesian? (laughing).
L: They are all the same, is there any difference?
Y: I mean... the *fottah*, there are Somali *fottahs* and Indonesian *fottahs*. However, the *fottah* is lighter in general whether it's Indonesian or something else, it's lighter than *mi'waz*. Uh.. its cloth is lighter and not like the *mi'waz*'s. The *mi'waz* requires a lot of work, I mean many people work on its production.
L: You mean hand work?
Y: Hand work... work... or traditional machine, I mean... umm... it's not an electrical machine or device, it's a traditional machine made of wood and... so the *mi'waz* has a lot of work put into it. Most people who wear *mi'waz* are people from Shabwa or Ma'rib, the places in the middle of Yemen, or al-Baida.
L: The *mi'waz* is one piece of cloth or is it like the *fottah*...
Y: The *fottah* is like, there is, circular I mean, like a cylindrical shape...
L: Like the *tanour*²?
Y: Like the *tanour*. So it is cylindrical while the *mi'waz* is one piece that is wrapped around the body.
L: But the *dire*³ is also one piece too...
Y: The *dire*' is one piece of cloth but it's tailored. I think it came from India.

¹ Mi'waz and fottah are skirt-like outfits that men wear in Yemen.

² Tanour: a round shaped oven, made of steel, used to make bread at home.

³ Dire': the traditional women's wear in Aden.

L: Okay.

Y: The *dire* ' was brought by tradesmen from India.

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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