

Yemeni Arabic transcript:

- ف:** طبعا عندنا في اليمن الزواج نوعين، في زواج عندنا تقليدي وفي زواج يعني مش تقليدي يعني في يكون علاقة من قبل طيب في طبعا يكون قبل الزواج، خطبة..
- ل:** لحظة، كيف يكون الزواج التقليدي؟
- ف:** يعني الأم تروح تشوف العروسة، أو بعض الأحيان الأم والإبن يروحوا يشوفوا العروسة وتظهر عليه، إذا عجبته و كده فيتم الخطبة، ماعجبنيش يكمنل الموضوع، تمام؟
- أما الزواج الغير تقليدي، يعني يكون شافها من الكلية ولا شافه في مول ولا شافه... ياده المول اللي بكل شي، يعني يعرفوا بعض في بينهم علاقة حب بينهم.
- ل:** طيب يعني في الزواج التقليدي الوليد والبنت مايعرفوش بعض؟
- ف:** لأ.
- ل:** من قبل ماتبدأ من قبل الخطبة.
- ف:** اههم.
- ل:** ولا قبل يشوفوا بعض؟
- ف:** من قبل الخطبة أصلا مايعرفوش بعض.
- ل:** وبعدين كيف يبدأ الزواج؟
- ف:** وبعدين هو، نادرا ما في أهل يرضوا بالخطبة طبعا، أغلب الأسر اليمنية أنه عقد على طول، مافيش خطبة. وفي بس دحين أتحسنوا تفكير الأهالي. الأب والأم تطوير، يعني ضروري عشان يفهموا بعض، عشان ما يحصلش سوء تفاهم في العقد فأحسن لما يسيبوا بعض وهم مخطوبين أحسن ما وهم معقودين. فدحين أصطاح في فترة خطوبة عشان يتفاهموا ، فترة تعارف بين الولد والبنت. وبعدين يتزوجوا ويخلفوا أولاد.
- طبعا عندنا في الشعب اليمني أنه العلاقة الأسرية جدا مش مترابطة. حتى علاقة الأب في عياله وعلاقة الأم في أولها مش أنه، نادرا ماتلاقي أسرة بمعنى الكلمة يعني، أب مهتم وأم مهتمة في أولادهم بشكل متكامل، أفتهملك؟ أنه يعني الأب يخرج يروح يشتغل، والأم تجس تبئن، تجلس عند أولاده. فهم واخدين ببالهم أنه الأب هو اللي يروح يجيب الفلوس والأم تجلس تربي، هذا غلط. هو الاتنين يتعبوا في تربية أولادهم، الاتنين يحسسوا بعطفهم لأولادهم، يعني كل واحد يكمل الثاني، النقص اللي عنده. فبرضه تستمر الحكاية أنه الأب والبنت يطلعوا زي أبوهم وأمهم يفكروا كده وكده ، وربنا يقرب البعيد إن شاء الله.

English translation:

F: In Yemen there are two types of marriage, there is the traditional marriage and the non-traditional marriage, I mean the one that has a relationship involved. Okay, before marriage, there is the engagement.

L: Wait, how does the traditional marriage happen?

F: The mother goes to see the bride, or sometimes the mother and son go to see the bride. She appears for him, if he likes her they make the engagement, if he doesn't he cancels the idea. Ok? As for the non-traditional marriage, he [the man] might see her [the woman] somewhere at college or at the mall, oh this mall is in everything [joking], I mean they know each other, they have a love relationship from before.

L: So you mean in the traditional marriage the guy and the girl don't know each other?

F: No.

L: Before the engagement?

F: Aha.

L: Or do they see each other before?

F: They don't know each other even before the engagement.

L: Then how does the marriage start?

F: Then, it's rare that families accept the engagement; most Yemeni families sign the marriage contract directly, without engagement. But now the mentality of the parents has improved, of the father and mother. I mean it's important so that they [the couple] understand each other, to avoid any misunderstanding that could happen after signing the contract. It's better if they break up while they are engaged than to do it after signing the contract. So now they allow for an engagement period so that they understand each other, a period during which they get to know each other. Then they get married and have children.

Here Yemeni people, family relationships are not very strong. The father's or mother's relationship with their children is not... It's rare to find a family with all that the word family means; I mean a father and mother who take complete care of their children. Do you get what I'm saying? The father [usually] goes to work, and the mother stays to baby-sit, she stays home with her kids. They think that the father is the one who goes to get money and the mother is the one who raises, this is wrong. They both should make effort taking care of their children; they both should make their children feel their love. I mean each one completes the other, fills each other's faults. So the story continues of the man and woman who become like their father and mother, thinking in the same way, and may Allah make the far [apart] close.

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