

### Yemeni Arabic transcript:

ل: طيب مثلا في ثياب يعني هنا يعني مثلا حيث مانحنا عايشين، في ثياب يعني خاصة بالرجال لكن الحريم لأ، أو في ثياب خاصة يعني زي البنطلون مثلا، لو بنت لبست البنطلون بيحي أخوها بيقول له ليش تلبس البنطلون هذا حق العيال. مع أنه أول مابدأوا يخيوطه في أوروبا، ماكانش... ماقالوش ده حق الرجال.

ي: (غير واضح)

ل: أيوه.

ي: والله...

ل: في زي هذي القصة في حاجات ثانية؟

ي: لأ يعني، على حسب السروال، إذا كان السروال شوية ضاغطة، يبين الل... أعتقد أنه بيستفز الآخر.

ل: لأ يعني قصدي يعني فكرة السروال كله.

ي: فكرة السروال ماعتقدش انه بضايق حد لأنه أصلا البنات تخرج بعباية. مش معقول حد بيثوفها. بحكم انه السروال متقدرش البنات تلبسه إلا في مجتمع نسوي يعني، في غرفة مغلقة فيها بنات، أو في قاعة أعراس فيها بنات. أما ما بعتقدش انه في بنات يلبسوا سراويل ضاغطة وضيقة ويخرجوا الشارع.

ل: طيب هل في بنات مثلا ينتقدوا أولاد لو لبسوا سروال فيه فصوص بيقولوا هذا حق بنات؟

ي: اكيد.

ل: بس من اللي... من فين أجت هذي الفكرة يعني، هي مش حق البنات أصلا هي حاجة يعني عامة صح؟ أي واحد يقدر يلبس حاجة فيها فصوص.

ي: شوفي، انتي قلتي يعني. بحكم التقاليد، التقاليد تحكم كل شي تقريبا هنا في اليمن. تقريبا 50 50 ، اللي يحكم اليمن 50 50، 50 تقاليد قبلية، وال50 الثاني الدين. هو الشيء... هو المذهب اللي ماشي في البلاد ويحرك تقريبا البلاد كامل. التقاليد والدين. فالتقاليد ماعتقدش انه في ممكن رجال يلبس عباية ويخرج. حاجة غريبة يعني. فاعتقد انه السراويل بحكم ان الناس ينزلوا في محلات النساء سراويل فيها فصوص. فتبان، في فرق يبان بالسراويل.

في من فترة سروال عجبنا يعني، السروال فيه زراير فضة، يعني فضية اللون وتلمع كده. فحببت ان أنا اشتريه. طبعا كل أصحابي عارضونا، لا تشتريهوش لا تشتريهوش، فاشتريته ولبسته. حصلت انتقادات في الشارع وحصلت من البيت، ماعد لبستوش، موجود في البيت.

ل: ههه.. قالوا حق بنات؟

ي: أيوه. ومعني كان جرم نص يعني، لونه بصلي، بنك، وقالولي حق بنات، ما عاد لبستوش. اها، بلاك. لايس الأسود و أنا مرتاح.

### English translation:

L: Well, are there clothes, here where we live, are there clothes that are only for men but not for women? I mean like the pants for example, if a girl wears pants, her brother will say, why are you wearing pants, those are for boys." Although when it was first made in Europe, no one said it was for men.

Y: (Not clear).

L: Yes.

Y: *WaAllah*<sup>1</sup>...

L: Is there something similar for other things?

Y: No. I mean it depends on the type of pants. If the pants are tight and show the... I think it will provoke others.

L: No, I mean the whole idea of the pants.

<sup>1</sup> WaAllah: an expression used to demonstrate honesty or the process of remembering something; it literally means: I swear to Allah.

**Y:** I don't think that the idea of the pants will disturb anyone because girls primarily go out wearing *abbayas*<sup>2</sup>. It's impossible that someone sees her. Since girls can't wear pants unless they are in a feminine society, like in a closed room with other girls, or in a wedding hall with girls. I don't think that there are girls who will wear tight pants and will go out onto the street.

**L:** Well, are there girls who criticize guys who wear pants with sequins and say that this [the pants] is for girls?

**Y:** Of course.

**L:** But who... where did this idea come from? I mean it's not for girls it's something general, right? Anyone can wear something with sequins.

**Y:** Look, you said, because of the traditions, traditions rule almost everything here in Yemen. It's like 50/50, what rules Yemen is like 50/50. 50 is about tribal traditions and the other 50 is about religion. [These are] the things... the method that works in the country and rules almost the whole country, [it's] about traditions and religion. As for the traditions, I don't think that a man could wear an *abbaya* and go out. It's bizarre I mean. I think that because people have pants with sequins in the women clothing stores, it makes a difference in the types of the pants.

A while ago I liked a pair of pants, it had silver buttons, they had a silver shining color. I wanted to buy them; all my friends opposed me telling me not to buy them. But I bought them and I wore them. I got criticisms in the street and from my family so I stopped wearing them, it's in the house.

**L:** Hehe, they said it was for girls?

**Y:** Yes. I also had a t-shirt, its color was pink. They told me it was for girls so I didn't wear it. Here, black, I'm wearing black with peace of mind.

**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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<sup>2</sup> *Abbaya*: a traditional costume that women in Yemen and the Gulf wear when they go out. It is usually one long piece of black cloth.