

Yemeni Arabic transcript:

س: مثلا لو في زائر خاص.. شو نوع الأكل اللي مثلا تسويه يعني لو مثلا في زائر في حد؟
ل: أه....

س: في نوع معين يعني العائلة بتتسوي؟
ل: والله مدري. يعني في ناس يجو بس.. يعني غالبا هو الأكل هو هو نفسه. بس أحيانا يعني تصلح أكلة خاصة مثلا كبسة، و كبسة زي الزربيان بس مع الدجاج. ولا أحيانا مكرونة بالباشاميل.. حاجة زي كده.

س: كيف تعملوا المكرونة بالباشاميل؟
ل: لحظة.. بحاول. تفوري المكرونة زي اللزانيا زيمانا نقولي هنا بس من غير جبن. تفوري المكرونة و بعدين تطحني طبقة مكرونة و بعدين طبقة باشاميل. الباشاميل تشتريه جاهز بعدين تطحنيه مع لبن و مش عارفة يمكن مع مي حاجات زي كده.. يطلع لك زي الكريمة. وبعدين تطحني طبقة مكرونة و طبقة باشاميل و طبقة مكرونة و طبقة باشاميل و تطحنيها بالفرم. طعمها ماشالله حلو زيها زي اللزانيا هنا، بس اللزانيا اللي هنا حالية لأنه يطحونها فيها سوس... يطحونها فيها صلصة حالية. في عندنا باشاميل. الباشاميل غالبا زيده، زيده مش أنه زيده الحالي بس زيده اللي فيه بلا ملح. زيده أحيانا ولبن و مش عارفة أيش كمان.. حاجة زي كده.

English translation:

S: For example if there is a special guest, what are the types of food that you (Yemenis) make?

L: Ah...

S: I mean is there a certain type that the family makes?

L: *WaAllah* I don't know. I mean people come but the food is the same. Sometimes we make a special dish like *Kabsa* for example. *Kabsa* is like *Zorbian*¹ but it comes with chicken. Or sometimes we make macaroni with *béchamel*, something like this.

S: How do you make macaroni with *béchamel*?

L: Wait, I'll try. You boil the macaroni; it's like lasagna but without cheese. You boil the macaroni and then put a layer of macaroni and another layer of *béchamel*. We buy *béchamel* and mix it with milk maybe and water, things like this. It becomes like cream. Then you put down a layer of macaroni and a layer of *béchamel* and keep doing this and then you put it in the oven. *MashaAllah*² it tastes really good like the lasagna here, but the lasagna is sweet because they put red sauce in it. *Béchamel* is usually made of butter, not sweet butter but butter without salt. Butter and milk and I don't know what else, something like this.

¹ Zorbian: a traditional rice and meat dish.

² MashaAllah: an expression to express strong feelings and extremes.

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