

Yemeni Arabic transcript:

ل: طيب تقدرني تقولني لنحنا كيف حياة الإنسان يعني الوليد اليمني العادي؟ كيف يعني يقضي يومه؟ الطالب الجامعي؟
ف: اههم... يعتمد على الطالب عن طالب، في الطالب امجتهد وفي الطالب المزمبل أي كلام. يعني الطالب المجهتد أكيد يعني بالكلية بالمسجد بالبيت وكده. أما الطالب التيك أوي وأي كلام وده أنه تمبل و يشترني تمبل وسجارة وكده.
ل: الشباب بأيش يقضوا أوقات فراغهم؟ يعني بغض النظر لو كانوا مثلاً طالب جامعي أو كان جالس في البيت
ف: في المولات.
ل: مع نحنا مول واحد.
ف: في المول في السوق في البلايستيشن وكده. مافيش حاجة، مافيش... ماعندهمش تعليم وكده...
ل: معظم الشباب اليمنيين في أيش في رأيك يقضوا أكثر وقتهم، زيما تشوفي أنتي هنا؟
ف: أه.. في القات، يعني يدوب أول مايخلصوا دوامهم سواء كلية أو شغل أو عمل أو أي حاجة، بيدوا. يمكن ياخذ، بيدأوا من الساعة خمس لغاية الساعة عشر احداعشر ومافوق، قات مع شباب وديوان وكده. يعني لو كانوا يقرولهم كتب أحسن مما...
ل: طيب العيال اللي هم في الكلية لهم نفس القصة ولا أيش؟
ف: تقريباً أيوه، بس يعني الفرق بين اللي ما يشتغلش واللي يدرس. يعني اللي ما يشتغلش تلاقيهو مسكين طول الوقت بالشارع يتسلع ويدور ويصيع. لكن بالنسبة للي يدرس بالكلية، يعني يمكن نص وقته في الكلية يكون بعدين النص الباقي تخزين وقات وسجارة وشووه وهدره وكلام فاضي وكده أفتهملك؟

English translation:

L: Can you talk to us about the life of the typical Yemeni man? How does he spend his day, the university student?

F: Hmm... It depends on the student: there is the hard working student and there is the lazy student. I mean the hard working student will definitely be at university or in the *masjid*¹ or at home. While the “take away” student will be eating *tombol*² and smoking and doing things like that.

L: In what does the youth spend its leisure time? I mean regardless of whether they are university students or just staying home...

F: In malls.

L: There is only one mall.

F: At the mall, in souks or playing Playstation, there is nothing, they don't have education...

L: How do most Yemeni youth spend their time as you experience here?

F: In *qat*³. I mean once they are done with their work, whether it's classes or a job or anything, and then they start. They start from maybe five o'clock [and go] until 10 or 11PM or maybe later, qat with guys and *diwan*⁴ gatherings and things like that. I mean if they were reading books instead, it would have been better than...

L: Well, what about college students? Are they the same as well?

F: You could say yes. I mean the only difference is that one is studying and one is doing nothing. I mean the guy who doesn't work would be wandering about in the streets all the time. While the

¹ Masjid: the Arabic term for mosque.

² Tombol: a sort of Indian sweets that's made of grape leaves and has many things inside. People usually chew it for some time and then spit it out.

³ Qat: the leaves of a tree that is considered as a drug in many places, Yemeni people chew it to pass their free time.

⁴ Diwan: the place where people usually sit to chat and host guests. It looks like an elaborate, decorated thick mattress that is laid around the room.

guy who goes to university, maybe half of his time is spent in college and the other half is spent in chewing qat and smoking and talking about nonsense. Do you get what I am talking about?

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