

Yemeni Arabic transcript:

ل: يعني الآن هذي الأزياء اللي ظهرت، هل هي مقبولة بالنسبة للمجتمع أو للجيل اللي فات؟ أو هل يعني هم يستهجنوا هذا الشيء؟ يقولوا يعني أيش هذا؟ يعني مثلاً أمك ولا جدتك لما تشوفك لابس جرم ...
ي: مافيش. أكيد مش مقبول بالنسبة لأمي، فاحصل انتقادات شوية من الأمي.
ل: تقولك البس فوطه؟
ي: لأ فوطه لأ. بس يمكن تقلي قص شعرك ما عجبنيش. بحكم انه طويل. ما عجبنيش شعرك، تشتي تصلحه زي العيال الصيع. هو مش حكاية مصيعة هو حكاية أنا مرتاح بشكلي كده، وأنا ما غلطش يعني. فأحب أعيش حياتي بحرية، ما حبش أعيش حياتي بيعني يعقد ولا.. لأنه ما اعتقدش انه الشعر هو اللي بيفرق. لأنه نحنا باقولك يعني، ما حبش ان الإنسان يحكم من الشكل، من الواجهة. أكيد في أشياء وراء الشكل هي الأهم اللي تكون. فأكيد نحصل انتقادات من الجيل الأولي، وأيش هذا زايد مكياج هذي البننت، وهذه البننت لابسة سروال ضيق زيادة ولا فتحة الفستان كبيرة.

English transcript:

L: Now that those outfits have emerged, are they accepted by society or the past generation? Or does it find this [change] bizarre? I mean like your mother or your grandmother when they see you wearing a t-shirt...

Y: No way. Of course it's not acceptable by my mother. I get some criticism from my mother.

L: She asks you to wear *fottah*¹?

Y: No, not the *fottah*. But she might tell me: "Cut your hair, I don't like it," because it's long. "I don't like your hair; you want to imitate rebellious guys." It's not about rebelliousness, it's that I like my appearance this way, I didn't make any mistake. I like to live my life feely, I don't like to live a life with complication, because... I don't think that the hair will make any difference. I mean, look, I don't like that people judge based on the appearance, the looks. There must be other things behind the appearance that are more important. So indeed we do receive criticism from the previous generation, [for example,] "This girl had too much make up on," or "The pants of that girl are tight," or "the opening of this dress is too big."

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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¹ Fottah: a skirt-like outfit that men wear in Yemen.