

Yemeni Arabic transcript:

ج: في إحتفال على أهل العروسة، أو على العروسة يعني كيفية العروسة تعمله، اللي هو ال... اسمه، ايش يسمونه، الغسل، زقرة وغسل. الزقرة دي، زمان يعني حسب تقليديا يعني كانت أنه زمان يعني طبعاً أيش أقولك، قبل الخمسينات، الثلاثينات والعشرينات بعدن، كانت هذي الزقرة أنه عبارة البننت ماتعرفش ماتاخذش ماخذ رأييه، أنه باتزوج وده. يعني فجأة يقولوله خلاص باتزوجي. فدي الزقرة مثلاً كانوا ياخذوا زي قماش أخضر وكبير بحيث أنه يغطي الجسم كامل ويغطوا العروسة كله، البننت، هنا تعرف البننت أنه خلاص باتزوج مش عارفة على من وكيف، هذا زمان.

ل: يعني من غير مايسألوا رأييه من قبل؟

ج: لأ هذا زمان، من قبل الخمسينات، بالثلاثينات و بالعشرينات.

ل: طيب يسألوها عن رأييه قبل هذا؟

ج: لا لا ده زمان يعني.

ل: طيب أي أنكلم على زمان.

ج: لا لا مافيش.

ل: مايسألوهاش عن رأييه.

ج: لا أبدا، يعني على حسب جدتي ماقاللي، يعني ازوجت، جدتي هي عمره بالثمانينات لمن يعني أتزوجت، يعني عرفت أنه باتزوج و مش عارفة من بدي الطريقة.

ل: يعني جدلوا فوقه الخرقه وهي عرفت أنه باتزوج.

ج: أيوه. هذا طبعاً زمان. أما الآن يعني استوى تقليد، يعني عارفة وكل شي بس يعني كتقليد في ناس يسوونه وفي ناس مايسوونيش.

ل: الزقرة يعني.

ج: أيوه، بس أيش أنه يلبسوا كده خرقه، خضراء تجي حسب العرسان اللي أني رحته، دي الزقرة يسمونه.

ل: بس الآن يسألوها عن رأييه صح؟

ج: تكون قده مخطوبة ومعقودة يعني خلاص مزوجة، ده بعد العقد يعني.

ل: ده بعد العقد.

ج: ده بعد العقد.

ل: يعني دحين أول شي الخطوبة بعدين العقد وبعدين الزقرة؟

ج: أيوه.

ل: فيها إحتفال الزقرة ولا مافيهاش؟

ج: إلا فييه فييه، في بعض الناس يسوونه الظهر، يسووا غداء مثلاً، ويعزموا الناس. وفي بعض الناس يسوونه العصر ويوزعوا يعني أكل سريع ويجيبوا يعني مثلاً فرقة تعزف، مش فرقة، نساء، عبارة عن نساء يعزفوا يعني الأغاني الشعبية اليمنية.

English translation:

G: There are some celebrations that are from the bride's family, I mean the bride is the one who plans it. This is called... *Ghasl* and *Zaqrah*. The *Zaqrah* is an old tradition, I mean [this was performed] before the fifties, in the thirties and twenties in Aden. This was about, the girl didn't know anything, and no one asked her for her opinion on whether she wanted to get married. I mean all of a sudden they told her that she was getting married. So in the *Zaqrah* they would take a large piece of green cloth that would cover the whole body and would cover the bride, the girl. Here the girl knows that she is getting married but she doesn't know how or with whom, this was before.

L: You mean without asking her for her opinion before?

G: No, this is before, before the fifties, in the thirties and the twenties.

L: Well, do they ask her of what she thinks before doing this?
G: No, no this was before.
L: I'm talking about before.
G: No, they didn't.
L: They don't ask her.
G: No, never. I mean according to what my grand mother told me, she got married, now she is in her eighties, she knew that she was getting married but she didn't know who through this tradition.
L: You mean they put the piece of cloth on her and she knew she was getting married.
G: Yes. This was before. Now it's just a tradition. I mean she [the bride] knows everything but they do it as a tradition. There are some people who do it and there are others who don't.
L: You mean the *Zaqrah*?
G: Yes. They [the brides] wear a green piece of cloth, as of what I have seen from the weddings where I happened to be.
L: But now they ask her for her opinion, right?
G: [They do this] after she is already engaged and signed the marriage contract, this comes after the marriage contract party.
L: This is after the marriage contract party.
G: Yes, this is after the marriage contract party.
L: So now the first thing is the engagement, then the marriage contract and then the *Zaqrah*?
G: Yes.
L: Is the *Zaqrah* celebrated by a ceremony?
G: Yes, there is. There are some people who do it at noon and invite people. There are people who do it in the afternoon and serve snacks. There is usually a band, a band of women to play and sing the folk Yemeni songs.

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.