

Yemeni Arabic transcript:

ل: هل هذا الاختلاف يعني زي مثلا الشميز والفوطة في عدن، في قصة ورائه؟ في يعني حاجة كان من قبل الناس مايلبسوش حاجة وبعدين أجت قصة وختهم يلبسوها؟
ي: والله هذا قبل ما أولد الله أعلم أيش السبب. ههههه، لكن أكيد في قصة. ورا كل شي في قصة. يعني أكيد أحس، أعتقد أنه الفوطة دي حاجة أدخلت على اليمن، ما كانت موجودة، الفوطة كفوطة، لكن كزي قبل الفوطة كان موجود أعتقد بتحصيله في المتحف الحربي في أزياء قديمة.
ل: قبل الفوطة؟
ي: نعم. في فوطة وفي الأزياء القديمة بتحصيلها في المتحف.
ل: يعني كيف شكلها كان؟
ي: تقريبا زي المعوز بس يجي لون واحد، زرقاء يعني، زرقاء فاتحة ولا بني.
ل: والمعوز هو، بعنب الفرق...
ي: تقريبا زي المعوز بس الفرق بينه و المعوز، المعوز فيه شغل كثير وتطريز وشفتي خيوط فيه وتشكيلات هذي يكون لأ، طبيعي، يعني عادي لون واحد. أعتقد ده الزي العدني القديم، الصيادين بحكم، عدن كانت أغلبها ناس صيادين ناس تجار. كانت عدن بسيطة، هذا قبل الاستعمار.

English translation:

L: Is there a story behind this difference, I mean like the shirt and *fottah* in Aden? I mean was there a thing that made people wear them?

Y: *WaAllah*¹ this was before I was born, Allah knows what the reason is. Haha... but there must be a story. There is a story behind everything. I mean, definitely, I feel, I think that this *fottah* was introduced to Yemen. It didn't exist as a *fottah*, but as a costume; before the *fottah* there was something [else]. You can find it in the national museum in the ancient clothes [section].

L: Before the *fottah*?

Y: Yes. There is a *fottah* and there are ancient clothes you can find in the museum.

L: I mean how did it look?

Y: Almost like the *mi'waz*², but it comes in one color. I mean blue, light blue or brown.

L: And the *mi'waz* is, I mean the difference is...

Y: Almost like the *mi'waz*, but the difference between it and the *mi'waz* is that the *mi'waz* has a lot of hand work and embroidery, you can see it has strings and decorations. This *fottah* is not [like the *mi'waz*], it's natural, I mean one color. I think that this is the old costume of Aden, since most of the people were fishermen and traders. Aden was simple, this was before the occupation.

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

² Mi'waz and *fottah* are skirt-like outfits that men wear in Yemen.

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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