

### Yemeni Arabic transcript:

ل: طيب في أي إحتفالات ثانية؟  
ج: في ... في لمن مثلا... فترة إحتفالات الزواج، إحتفالات الزواج عندنا. في خطوبة، الخطوبة دي مش عبارة عن فترة، يعني تعارف بين البنت والولد، ده الإحتفال ممكن يكون في البيت حسب العايلة. في عايلات تسويه بقاعات أو بقاعات الفنادق، وفي عايلات تسويه في البيت بحفلة صغيرة يوزعوا كيك وأكل وكده وتجي يعني العروسة يعني اللي تكون مش عروسة يعني عاده بتتخطب، عند المسرحة والكوفير والثوب وكده يعني والشياكة وده. والبنات برضه يحضروا الحفل، الخطوبة تكون حفلة أما صغيرة أما كبيرة حسب مقدرة الشخص. في كمان عايلات أنه بالحفلة مثلا العروس يدخل على العروسة برغم أنه دي الحفلة مش رسمية. يعني دينيا يعني بالدين الاسلامي مش رسمية يعني، في عادي يعني بعض العايلات تقبل الأمر. يدخل العروس يلبس العروسة الدبلة، هي عبارة عن خيتم. في أنواع دبل بعدن، في دبلة تجي تقليدية يسمونه السادة، من ذهب، في بعضه يجي منقوشة يعني على أشكال. استوت يعني على الموضة.

ل: والدبلة لازم تكون ذهب؟

ج: الدبلة ذهب أبوه.

ل: لازم تكون ذهب؟

ج: لازم تكون ذهب للنساء، أما الرجل لازم فضة. لأنه بالدين حرام الرجل يلبس الذهب.

ل: طيب ماحصلتش من قبل أنه وحدة أختطبت على دبلة حديد؟

ج: حديد؟! (ضحكات)

ج: المهم فترة الخطوبة تكون يا أما بتكون ببيت أو بقاعة بشكل يعني رسمي. وبعدين بعده يجي العقد، هو ده الرسمي. يعقدوا شخص يعني أعتقد أنه شيخ؟ شيخ؟

ل: المأذون.

ج: أبوه يجي موكل من الحكومة من قبل المحكمة، ويعملوا العقد، البنت يكون وكيله أبوها أو أخوها أو يعني حد من عايلته، والرجل هو لوحده يعني يوقعوا الاثنيته.

ل: يعني العقد على أساس أنه هذا الولد وهذي البنت بيكونوا زوج وزوجة أمام الله ورسوله.

ج: أبوه يعني رسمي، يعني دينيا. ويسوا حفلة برضه، وهنا يعني خلاص يصبحوا زوج وزوجة ويعملوا الحفلة وتروح العروسة برضه للكوفير ويعملوا في الزفة العدني. الي هي فيه أغاني يعني معينة وكده وبعدين يدخلوا العروس والعروسة والبنات يزفونهم وأهل العروس والعروسة وكده يجسوا يعني يسوا كرسيين مع بعض وشراب وكيك وأغاني طبعا العروس بعدين يخرج عشان البنات ياخذوا حريتهم. لأنهم صديقات العروسة معزومين، البنات مايدخلوش بالثياب حق الحفلة، اللي هي الثياب اللي لابسينه العادية. يلبسوا مثلا العباية والمقرمة وبعضهم برقع عشان يشوفوا العروس تمام بعد ما يروح العروس وده يعني يحتفلوا ويرقصوا وكل شي.

ل: يتحللوا

ج: أبوه ها، عشان يرقصوا مع العروسة ويتصوروا وكده.

### English translation:

L: Well, are there any other celebrations?

G: There are, for example, weddings, the wedding celebrations here. There is the engagement, this is not... it's a period where the man and the woman get to know each other. This party can be in the house, depending on the family. There are families that have it in halls in hotels, and there are other families that make a small party at the house and serve cakes and food. Then the bride comes, she is still not a bride, I mean she is getting engaged. She comes from the coiffeur wearing a dress and dressing elegantly. Girls also attend the party; the engagement is a party that's either small or large according to the person's [financial] ability. In some families the groom sees the bride [in the engagement party] despite the fact that this party is not official. I

mean in the Islamic religion it's not official, but still some families accept it. The groom comes in to put the wedding ring on the bride's finger. There are [different] types of wedding rings in Aden. There are the traditional wedding rings that come plain, made of gold, and there are the decorated ones, they come in shapes. I mean it's about fashion now.

L: And the wedding ring has to be made of gold?

G: Yes, made of gold.

L: It must be made of gold?

G: It must be, but it has to be silver for the man, because it's taboo for the man to wear gold.

L: Okay, did it ever happen that a woman got engaged with a metal ring?

G: Metal?!

(Laughter)

G: The engagement can be either in a house or in a hall in an official way I mean. After this comes the wedding contract, which is the official [event]. Someone makes it, I think a sheikh? Sheikh?

L: The *ma'thun*<sup>1</sup>.

G: Yes, he comes authorized from the government by the court of law, and they make the contract, the woman's representative is her father or her brother or someone of her family, and the man is by himself, and they both sign.

L: You mean the contract according to which the man and the woman become husband and wife before Allah and the Prophet.

G: Yes, I mean official, religious. They also have a party, and here they become husband and wife. The bride goes to the coiffeur and they have an *Adeni zaffa*<sup>2</sup>, which has certain songs and things like that. Then the bride and groom come in through the *zaffa* and their families with them. They put two chairs together [for the couple] to sit; [they serve] cake and drinks and play music too. Then the groom goes out [of the hall] so that the girls can sit comfortably. Because the bride's friends are invited too, girls don't stay with the party dresses, which are the normal party dresses, they wear *abbayas*<sup>3</sup> and headscarves and some of them cover their faces with a burqa<sup>4</sup>. They do this so they can see the groom; once he leaves they start partying and dancing.

L: They take off [the abbayas and headscarves].

G: Yes, so they can dance with the bride and take pictures and things like that.

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<sup>1</sup> Ma'thun: an official authorized by the court of law who verifies that the couple is legally and religiously related through marriage.

<sup>2</sup> Adeni zaffa: the way people invited to a wedding receive the couple once they get to the wedding hall; Adeni zaffa is usually composed of Adeni specialized songs for this situation and ululations.

<sup>3</sup> Abbaya: a long black dress that women wear in Yemen when they go out.

<sup>4</sup> Burqa: the piece of cloth that covers the face that Muslim women sometimes wear.

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