

### Yemeni Arabic transcript:

- ل: طيب في هناك أي حاجات جديدة دحين ظهرت بالمجتمع اليمني تخص الشباب والشابات اليمنيات يعني أي حاجة جديدة هم يعملوها وماكانوش يعملوها بالسابق؟ مثلا قبل عشر سنين ظهرت الآن حاجات مستهجنة مش من العادات والتقاليد أو الثقافة اليمنية. في؟
- ف: في حاجات كثير. أه زي الوشم، وشم في الجسم وفي يعملوا تاتو في الحواجب ورسومات غريبة كده. وكمان الأخزاق اللي في الخشم وفي اللسان وفي العيون، وكمان في السرة كمان يسووا وحاجات غريبة. وكمان من الحاجات الغربية أنه البناطيل المطيحنى والبوكسر حقه بيان وحركات مقززة. و.. راعي، أو القفشات هههه.
- ل: أيش هي القفشات؟
- ف: هاذي شوشة كده، شوشة تطرحيها هنا بشعرك وتلبسي المقرمة و يطلعك الشكل كده كبير. طبعا هاذي أخذه الشعب اليمني من أهل الخليج وكده. وكمان معك الثياب الضيقة جدا، البنات أصبحت تلبس ثياب ضيقة وتبرز تقاسيم جسمه و الأولاد يعني يلبسوا ربالات باليدات وتيشترات غريبة الحاجات الغربية والرسومات وكده.
- وكمان من الحاجات اللي بدأوا يقلدوا الغرب بحاجات كثير، يعنوا أصطلحوا معظم الشباب اليمني ما يتفرجوش الأفلام العربية وكده أفلام أوروبية وأفلام فرنسية. وصبغات الشعر والسبايكي و القصات الغربية اللي من هنا كثير ومن هنا قليل. وكمان.. أه السيارات تلوين وليس زي أصحاب الراب وكله فضفاض ووا ووي ههههه. وحاجات كثيرة يعني بدأوا باين تقليد أعمى. وشباب وبنات تتكلم في الموبايل حاجات كده زي الزعقة واللوز ههه.
- ل: طيب تعتقدي أنه هاذي كله التغييرات اللي دحين أستوت عند الشباب، هل تهدد الحضارة تهدد الثقافة اليمنية؟
- ف: تهدد الأخلاق الإسلامية. كثير، يعني في حاجات ما ينفعش أنه ولد عربي وبنات عربية مسلمة يعملوا دي الحاجات، يعني شي محرم المفروض ما تقربش الحاجات هاذي. يعني أيش ولد يخزق وبنات تخزق وأيش هاذا يعني وتاتو.
- ل: يعني التخزيق محرم في الإسلام؟
- ف: أكيد، يعني المكان الحلال هو الأذن وبس. يعني هو محرم أصلا، وفي قصات كمان محرمة بالإسلام. القرع، يعني هنا كثير وهنا قليل. و كمان معك تاتو عندنا محرم في الإسلام. أه حاجات كثير يعني تهدد الأخلاق الإسلامية، للأسف يعني.

### English translation:

L: Well, are there any new things that emerged in the Yemeni society that are particular to young Yemeni men and women; I mean anything new that they do and was not here before? I mean ten years ago, for example; and now new, bizarre things have happened that are not from traditions or Yemeni culture, are there [any]?

F: There are a lot of things. Uh, like tattoos, tattoos in the body and eye brows and weird shapes and things like that. Also the piercing in the nose, tongue, eyes and naval; they do weird things. Also of the weird things they do is when they wear pants that are sagging down, to show their boxers and all these disgusting things... and wait, the *qafashat* hehehe..

L: What is the *qafashat*?

F: This is a hair clip, like this, you put it here on your head and you wear the scarf, you get this big shape. This was adopted from the Gulf by Yemenis. Also there are the tight clothes: girls now wear tight clothes and show their bodies' features. Guys wear plastic bands and weird t-shirts and weird things.

One of the things also is the imitation of the West in many things. I mean the Yemeni youth no longer watch Arabic movies; they now watch European and French movies. Also the hair dye and the spiky and other weird hair styles that have so much hair on one side and no hair on the other. There is also painting cars and wearing things like rappers, loose clothes and "wa" and "wee", haha. I mean it looks like a blind imitation. Another thing is that guys and girls speak to each other on cell phones just to pass time.

L: Well, do you think that these changes threaten Yemeni culture?

F: They threaten Islamic values. I mean there are things that are just not right for an Arab and Muslim guy and girl to do. I mean we should not do forbidden things [in Islam]. I mean what's this that a guy pierces or a girl pierces and tattoos and all this?

L: You mean that piercing is not allowed in Islam?

F: Indeed. I mean the only allowed place to pierce is the ear. It's not allowed, and some hair styles are not allowed either, like the *qaze*<sup>1</sup>. This is the hair cut that has some hair at one side and no hair on the other side. Tattoos are forbidden as well. I mean there are so many things that unfortunately threaten Islamic morality.

**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.

© 2009-2010 Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and Five Colleges, Incorporated

---

<sup>1</sup> Qaze': a hair cut where one part of the head is shaved and the other is left as it is.