

Yemeni Arabic transcript:

ل: ممكن تكلم نحنا قليل عن حياة الشباب باليمن؟ يعني الروتين اليومي أيش يسووا أيش يعملوا؟ يعني أنته يعني كشاب يماني؟
ي: يخزنوا القات. طبعا ماقدرش أحكم على كل الشباب، بس تقريبا في مفهوم خاطيء من الشباب انه أول مايبترج من الجامعة مايبحصلش شغل. طبعا الأشغال مايتجيش لا عندك للبيت أو بيدقوا بابك يقولك تعال أشتغل. أنا أكره هادي في الشباب اليمني، أنه شباب إتكالي. يعتمد على اللي جنبه، يعتمد على أمه يعتمد على أبوه يعتمد على الحكومة. الحكومة مايتصلحش حاجة. مايفيش حاجة اسمه استسلام. أنا خريج حصلت... أشتغلت في أكثر من أماكن ما ارتحتش فيها، لكن مع ذلك حبيت أطور من نفسي. إذا طورت من نفسي، تزيد فرصتي في العمل. فدرست الفرنسي، بالإضافة الى الانجليزي. شفت برضو الفرنسي... فتحتلي أبواب كثيرة. طبعا اللغة الفرنسية فتحتلي أبواب كثيرة. زدت أدرس اللغة الالمانى، طبعا نحنا الآن في البيت الالمانى. هادي المكتبة.

English translation:

L: Can we talk a little bit about youth life in Yemen? I mean the daily routine, what do they do? I mean for you as a young Yemeni man?

Y: They chew *qat*¹. Well, I can't generalize and judge all the young people, but there is a misconception from the youth that once one graduates from college he/she is not going to find a job. Surely jobs won't come to you, to your house or knock on your door and tell you to come and work. I hate this about Yemeni youth, that it's a dependent youth. He [the young person] counts on whoever is with him, on his mother or his father or the government. The government won't do anything. There is nothing called giving up. I am a graduate, I found... I worked in more than one place where I was not [particularly] comfortable, but despite this fact I wanted to work on improving myself. If I work on improving myself, my job opportunities will increase. So I studied French on top of my English. I found that French opened many doors for me. For sure, French opened many doors for me. Then I studied German; now we are in the German House, this is the library.

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 Qat: the leaves of a tree that is considered a drug in many places; Yemeni people chew it to pass their free time.