

Yemeni Arabic transcript:

ي: لكن في بعض الشباب مايشتشوش يطوروا من نفوسهم. يشتوا يخزنوا، يشتوا يتكلوا، يقنعوا بالقليل، أغلب الشباب هكذا. وكذلك البنات، بحكم أن البنات، يعني يزرعوا فكرة في عقل البنات يزرعوا فكرة أنها... البنات للبيت، البنات للزواج. فتحصلي كثير من البنات مش مهتمات بحاجة اسمها دراسة، وإن اتخرجوا..خريجات... وكملوا الدراسة، مايهتموش كثير بالعمل و الإنتاج والتنوع. لأنه ضروري العمل يحتاج له تنوع، مشاركة المرأة ضرورية جدا في مجتمعنا. فتحصلي الشباب يضيع وقته. فيقوم... طبعا يقوم الساعة ثلاث العصر، يقوم ياكله لقمه، ياكل لقمه من أمه الي هو معتمد عليها تصلح له كل شي. وبعدين يروح يجلس جنب أبوه، اللي معتمد برضو على أبوه في كل شي. يعطي له فلوس، يروح يشتري قات ويرجع الساعة عشرة، يروح يتمشي و يآدي بنات ويضحك ويعاكس ويهاوز. ويروح الساعة تسعة في الليل واشتري قات ويتمشي ويخزن الي الصباح. فدي مش حياة، دي أحسه إنتحار. يعني تضيع يومك كله بالنوم والضحك والقات، مش معقول المجتمع هو اللي ب... نحنا معه، المجتمع محتاج لنحنا ونحنا محتاجين له. فمش معقول نجازي المجتمع ونجازي الدولة والبلاد هادي اللي ولدنا فيها بدل مانوقف معاها، منتظرين ان هي توقف معنا. بالعكس، هي محتاجة لعقولنا، محتاجة للإنتاج، محتاجة للشباب. فهذا الشباب اللي... مش كل الشباب يعني. تقريبا بتقولي سبعين في المية من الشباب اليمني هكذا. بس إن شاء الله كل شي بيتغير، أنا عندي أمل كبير أنه كل شي بيتغير. لأنه في الآن شريحة من الشباب أجت، امم... مركزه في الأعمال الخيرية. الطبق الخيري وفي جمع الأموال لعلاج أمراض السرطان، فكثير من الطلاب هكذا، كثير من الشباب.

English translation:

Y: But there are some young people who don't want to work on improving themselves. They want to chew *qat*¹, to be dependent; they settle for little, most young people are like this. So are the girls, since girls, I mean they ingrained an idea in the girl's mind that... that girls are for [working in] the house, that they are for marriage. So there are a lot of girls who don't care about their education, and if they graduate and finish school they don't care for work or productivity or diversity. Because work needs diversity, women's participation is very important for our community. So you can find young men wasting their time. He wakes up at three in the afternoon, eats something that's cooked by his mother on whom he is dependent for everything. Then he goes and sits beside his father on whom he is dependent as well. He [his father] gives him money, so he goes and buys some *qat* and comes back at ten. He goes to wander about, teases and harasses girls and laughs. Then he comes back at nine the night after he bought his *qat*, and he eats his dinner and starts chewing *qat* until morning. This is not a life; I feel this is a way to commit suicide. I mean you waste your entire day sleeping, laughing and chewing *qat*. This can't be, the society is... we are with it, it needs us and we need it. It can't be that we requite the society and the country where we were born [this way]. Instead of supporting it we are waiting for it to support us. On the contrary, it needs our brains, needs productivity and youth. So this is the youth, well not all of it, you can say about 70% are like this. But *inshaAllah*² everything is going to change; I have hope that everything is going to change. Because now there are some young people who...umm... are into charity work. For example, [hosting] food drives and collecting money to help people with cancer, many guys and students do this.

¹ Qat: the leaves of a tree that is considered a drug in many places; Yemeni people chew it to pass their free time.

² InshaAllah: an Islamic expression meaning, "If Allah permits." It's used to express wishes, plans and hopes for the future.

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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