

Yemeni Arabic transcript:

ل: طيب أيش هي المشاكل، أكبر المشاكل اللي تواجه الشباب اليمني؟
ي: البطالة. بحكم أنه طبعاً يمكن كل فترة تجزع الآن يتقدم العالم كله تزيد المتطلبات، فتحصل الشباب عنده متطلبات و اتفتحت
عيونه على إنفتاح، شوية انفتاح، وخاصة من التلفزيون والإعلام وكل ماذلك. ف..تحصلي الشباب يشتوا يفعلوا ويشتوا يشتروا
سيارة زي هادي اللي شافوها بالتلفزيون ويشتوا يفعلوا زي هادا اللي...فعل، ويشتوا يتزوجوا ويشتوا يحبوا ويشتوا يشتروا فلة
ويشتروا... لكن مافيش الإمكانيات. فتحصلي البطالة، البطالة الرزق...ام... وفره الأموال، هادي مشكلة عوايق هوس للطلاب
والمترجيبين والشباب يعني. فتحصلي هوس، يشتوا يفعلوا ويشتوا...مافيش. فوصلنا لمرحلة إن نحنا ام...زيما اقولك.. وصلنا
لمرحلة زيما نقولك الشباب وقفوا مكانهم، ماقدروش لايتقدموا ولا قدروا يرجعوا لاوراء. فلا قادرين انهم يكملوا دراستهم
ويشتغلوا ويبدأوا من الصفر الى ان يوصلوا للي هم يشتونه ولا قادرين انهم يروحوا يحققوا داتهم بالدراسة.. فبقينا بمرحلة
غريبة جداً.

ل: أيش برأيك السبب اللي خلا الشباب هكده؟ متكاسل؟

ي: عمداً على... مش سبب هم في أسباب كثيرة. اه... في معانا وضع اقتصادي متردي، عندنا اتكالية، أسباب كثير، وسبب
رئيسي القات برضه. في أسباب قلة الأعمال وزيادة البطالة، في أسباب كثيرة اللي وصلت الشباب لهاذي المرحلة.
الإتكالية هي شباب المدن، الشباب المدلع زيما نقول. الشباب المدلع بحكم أول حاجة كمان كأنظمة. كان النظام أول اشتراكي،
النظام الاشتراكي عود الشعب الكسل. انك تعمل أو تتخرج تحصل وظيفة جاهزة، وظيفة حكومي. تزوجت وفرولك شقة، سكن.
فهذا النظام الاشتراكي. طبعاً النظام الاشتراكي له مساوئه وله محاسنه. بس لأ، أعتقد انه هادي من المساويء. فهادي ماخلفتش
روح المنافسة، عشان تتطور باليمن وننهض فيها. خلت الشعب كسل، اتكالي، الشعب كله. فقمة طموح الشاب انه يشتغل في
وظيفة حكومية، طبعاً الوظيفة الحكومية أبدا ماتكفیش. فمافيش تطوير مافيش... الشباب أعتقد اللي يلام هو نسبة خمسين في
المية بخمسين في المية. خمسين في المية المجتمع والظروف الاقتصادية المتردية، وخمسين في المية ترجع للشباب نفسه. من
كسله واتكاليته وعدم تطويره لنفسه.

English translation:

L: What are the problems, the biggest problems that face the Yemeni youth?

Y: Unemployment. Maybe because as time passes now the world develops and the demands increase. So young people start to have demands and open their eyes to progress, some [cultural] progress, [that comes] especially from TV and media and things like that. So young people want to do [this] and buy a car like the one they saw on TV and do what that person [on TV] did. They want to get married and love and buy a villa and... but there is no chance. So the unemployment, the earnings...umm...the abundance of wealth, all these are creating obstacles, obsessions for students and young graduates. You find this obsession, they want to do and want... but there is nothing. We reached a point where we...umm... like you say... a point where young people freeze in their places. They can go neither forward nor backward. They can't finish their education and work and start from scratch till they achieve what they want, and they can't prove themselves in education. We are at a very strange stage.

L: What do you think is the reason that made youth like this—lazy youth?

Y: It depends... it's not one reason, there are many reasons. Uh... there is a bad economic situation, dependence, and many reasons, including *qat*¹ as a principle one. The scarcity of jobs and the increase of unemployment. There are many reasons that made youth reach this point. Dependence is a characteristic of young people in the city, the spoiled youth as we say. First of all, the systems: the system [of government] before was communist. The communist system made people lazy. You work and graduate and find the job ready for you, a public job. If you get

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

married you get an apartment, a residential place. This was the communist system; it had its advantages and its disadvantages, but I think that these are its disadvantages. These [privileges] didn't create a spirit of competitiveness to develop Yemen and make it rise and flourish. They [the privileges] made people dependent, all people. The peak of a young man's ambition is to get a public job; public jobs are never enough [to keep up with life]. There's no improvement... the youth, I think that the reason is 50/50. 50% to blame is the society and the weak economic situation, and the other 50% to blame is the youth themselves. Their laziness, dependence, and not working on improving themselves.

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