

فالييري جيسكار ديستان

<https://youtu.be/pLePXDKelcc>

فالييري جيسكار ديستان

والست بتاعه كمان

حيجيب الديب من ديله

ويشبع كل جعان

يا سلامم يا جدعان

ع الناس الجنتلمان

داحنا حنتمنجه واصل

وحتبقى العيشه جنان

التليفزيون حيلون

والجمعيات تتكون

والعربيات حتمون

بدل البنزين

بارفان

وحتحصل نهضه عظيمه

وحتبقى علينا القيمه

في المسرح او في السينما

او ف جنينة الحيوان

وحتبقى الاشيا زلابيه

ولاحوجه لسوريا وليبيا

وحنعمل وحده ارايبا

مع لندن والفاتيكان

والفقرا حياكلوا بطاطا

وحيمشوا بكل الاطه

وبدال مايسموا شلاطه

حيسموا عيالهم

جان

ودا بفضل صديكي

ديستان الرومانتيكي

ولا حدش فيكو شريكي

في المسكن والسكان

TRANSLATION:

VALÉRY GISCARD D'ESTAING

Valéry Giscard d'Estaing
And his lady too
Will bring the wolf by its tail¹
And every hungry person will BE satisfied
O my goodness, dear friends,
These people are *gentlemen*.
These are times of progress
And life will be crazy good
Everyone will have colour TV
There will be freedom of association²
And cars will be fuelled
By perfume
Instead of gasoline
And a great renaissance will happen
And we, the people, shall be valued
In the theatre and in the movies
(Or in the zoo)
And everything will be hunky-dory³
And we won't need Syria and Libya
And we shall unite as one Arabic nation
With London and the Vatican
And the poor will eat sweet potatoes
And they will walk proud and mighty
And instead of calling their children "Shalata"
They will call their children "Jean"⁴
And all of this is thanks to my friend
D'Estaing, the romantic,
And none of you is my partner
in the residence
and in the residents.⁵

TRANSLATION: Ed Emery with Ahmed Selim

NOTES:

This is a humorous song at the expense of French president Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, in regard of his foreign policy. In the sung version, in between the lines of the chorus the sheikh interjects French phrases such a "Oui, oui", and the whole atmosphere is one of humour and laughter.

There is a fine video recording on the moultaka channel, which shows Sheikh Imam performing this in typical circumstance, sitting on a sofa in a private house, with a group of friends, who join in the chorus.

Characteristically, the opening lines of each verse are sung once, and then sung again, before moving on.

VIDEOS:

Lively funny performance at a private gathering:

<https://youtu.be/pLePXDKeLcc>

Quite clear performance, no video

<https://youtu.be/JRf7eK2I6kQ>

¹ Grabbing the wolf by its tail – Egyptian saying means doing the impossible; someone who is very capable and resourceful.

² And organisations will be formed.

³ like *zalabiya*: Small round honey pastries, "good things".

⁴ Jean – French "John".

⁵ The reference is to Sadat. I run things on my own. I don't share my power. I am self-made.