

خلينا نسمع عن الشاي!

What do singing and tea have in common?

In the Arab world, both are associated with joyous occasions and social gatherings with friends and families. Perhaps for this reason, tea itself has become the object of many songs. **Let's listen to a popular song from Morocco** and consider how the artists capture the joy of drinking tea in a social setting as we follow along with the lyrics:

ها الكاس حلو

Here's a Sweet Cup

Sung by Hamid Bouchnak and Hajja L'Hamdaouia (Morocco)

Translated by Mike Turner

SOURCE



TEA CULTURE NOVICE

Here's a sweet cup	haa l-kaas Hlu	ها الكاس حلو
Here's a sweet cup	haa l-kaas Hlu	ها الكاس حلو
For whoever wants his gathering to be sweet	lli bgha l-glsa tHla lu	اللي بغى الجلسة تحلى له
There's nothing like this cup	had l-kas ma kaayn bHaalu	هاد الكاس ما كاين بحاله
Here's a sweet cup	haa l-kaas Hlu	ها الكاس حلو
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Tea with amber	ataay b-l-3nbr	أتاي بالعنبر
Tea with amber	ataay b-l-3nbr	أتاي بالعنبر
Tea with amber	ataay b-l-3nbr	أتاي بالعنبر
Tea with amber, Hamid!	ataay b-l-3nbr, yaa Hamiid!	أتاي بالعنبر، يا حميد!
I just can't wait for it, my son	3liih ma nSbr ya wldi	عليه ما نصبر، يا ولدي
Here's a sweet cup	haa l-kaas Hlu	ها الكاس حلو
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A pot of tea	brraad ataay	براد أتاي
A pot of tea, my love	brraad ataay, ya l-3mr	براد أتاي، يا العمر
A pot of tea	brraad ataay	براد أتاي
A well-steeped pot of tea	brraad ataay mshHHr	براد أتاي مشحّر
I swear, I really can't wait for it	wLLaah 3liih ma nSbr	والله عليه ما نصبر
Just keep filling	ghiiir ziid 3mmr	غير زيد عمّر
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Tea with mint	ataay b-n-3naa3	أتاي بالنعناع
Tea with mint	ataay b-n-3naa3	أتاي بالنعناع
Tea with mint	ataay b-n-3naa3	أتاي بالنعناع
All our friends will come to get it	jamii3 S-SHaab yHDru fiih	جميع الأصحاب يحضروا فيه
There won't be any complaints, Hamid	ma ykuun S-SDaa3 yaa Hamiid	ما يكون الصداق يا حميد
Here's a sweet cup	haa l-kaas Hlu	ها الكاس حلو

Open the doors	Hllu l-bwaab	حلّو الأبواب
Our friends have come to us	raahum jaawna l-Hbaab	راهم جاونا الأحباب
From every place	mn kull blaad	من كل بلاد
We've brewed up some mint-infused tea	qmna ataay mn3n3	قمنا أتاي منعنع
The gathering's always joyful	diima mnuuwr l-mjm3	ديما منور المجمع
Here's a sweet cup	haa l-kaas Hlu	ها الكاس حلو

Tea with wormwood	ataay b-sh-shiiba	أتاي بالشيبية
Tea with wormwood	ataay b-sh-shiiba	أتاي بالشيبية
Tea with wormwood	ataay b-sh-shiiba	أتاي بالشيبية
Tea with beloved wormwood	ataay b-sh-shiiba l-Hbiiba	أتاي بالشيبية الحبيبة
It's a strange taste to have, my son	qliiltha ghriiba, ya wldi	قليلتها غريبة، يا ولدي
Here's a sweet cup	haa l-kaas Hlu	ها الكاس حلو

A cup for the family	kaas ahliiya	كاس أهلية
I filled up with my own hands	3mmrtha b-iidiya	عمّرتّه بيديا
And for you, just you	w liik ntiya	وليك انتيا
Hajja L'Hamdaouia	l-Haajja l'Hmdaawiiya	والحاجة الحمدوية
How much I love you	w shHaal 3ziiza 3liiya	وشحال عزيزة عليا
Sing for me!	w ghnni liiya	وغنّي ليا

Tea with amber	ataay b-l-3nbr	أتاي بالعنبر
Tea with mint	ataay b-n-n3naa3	أتاي بالنعناع
Tea with wormwood	ataay b-sh-shiiba l-Hbiiba	أتاي بالشيبية
It's a strange taste to have, my son	qliiltha ghriiba	قليلتها غريبة، يا ولدي
Here's a sweet cup	haa l-kaas Hlu	ها الكاس حلو



Now that you've heard that song and read along, **let's discuss:**

- What Arabic word are the singers using for 'tea?' Is this word the same one you know? If not, why might that be?
- What types of tea do the singers sing about? How do they express them in Arabic? Which of these are familiar to you? Which of them aren't?
- What evidence does the song give of the social role of tea in Morocco? What does the chorus claim a "sweet cup" is able to do?
- What do the lyrics reveal about the relationship between the two singers?
- Can you think of any songs in English or other languages that talk about food or drink items with such affection? If so, what are they?