

Hindi transcript:

और मैं यह एक बात और कहना चाहूँगी कि जो लोग भारत के प्रति इतना प्यार रखते हैं, जो... हमें... हमारे माँ-बाप की उम्र के जो लोग हैं, जिन्होंने... जिनको first generation बोला जाता है जो यहाँ पे... जिन्होंने खुद हिन्दुस्तान छोड़ा, और यहाँ पे आए, अमरीका की उस चमक-दमक के लिए जिसने उन्हें इतने कोसों दूर तक... जिन...जिसकी आवाज उन...उनको यहाँ ले के आई। तो, जब भी वे आपस में बात करते हैं, तो यही एक बात सबसे पहले आती है या अन्त में आती है मगर आती जरूर है— कि अमरीका कितना गलत है अमरीका के लोग कितने अलग हैं हमसे, और उनकी करनी-धरनी गलत है और मैं इस विषय पे यही कहना चाहूँगी कि यह एक तौर का ढोंग मुझे लगता है कि वे उस देश के प्रति द्वेष रखते हैं, जिन्होंने... जिसने उन्हें इतनी सफलता दी। चाहे वह सफलता कौनसे रूप में ही हो... चाहे उस सफलता की वजह से वे अपनी देश की मिट्टी को भूल गए हैं, या याद करते हैं, या उन दोस्तों को छोड़ आए हैं, जिनसे वे कभी नहीं मिलेंगे, या जिनकी सिर्फ मरने की खबर उनको मिलेगी। मुझे यह बात गलत लगती है क्योंकि यहाँ पे जो हम रहते हैं, वे भी इंसान ही हैं, लोग ही हैं। उनके साथ हम हर रोज उठते-बठते हैं। उनके...उनकी वजह से हमें इतनी सफलताएँ प्राप्त होती हैं। और उनसे हम, जाहिर ही है कुछ तो सीखेंगे ही। और कई बातें ऐसी हो सकती हैं जो हमें... जो हमारी प्रकृति को गलत लगे। मगर कई बातें ऐसी भी सीखने लायक होती हैं, जो अच्छी होती हैं। मैं आपने लिए तो यही... अपनी तरफ से तो यही कहूँगी कि मैंने काफी कुछ अमरीकी लोगों से जो सीखा है वह सराहने योग्य है और मुझे यहाँ के लोगों से काफी प्रेम मिला है जिसकी वजह से मैं उन... यहाँ के लोगों के प्रति द्वेष नहीं रखना चाहूँगी। और जो लोग रखते हैं द्वेष उनसे यही कहूँगी कि ज़रा इस बात पे फिर से गौर करें।

English translation:

Note: The speaker moved to the United States when she was fifteen years old. Although her Hindi is remarkably clear and creative, some expressions are idiosyncratic. Sometimes it appears that she is thinking in English; sometimes the relative clauses don't quite work. It may be a useful exercise to re-order the speaker's thoughts into well-formed Hindi sentences.

And I would like to say another thing: people who love India so much, people... who ... people who are our parents' age – who ... who are known as first-generation [immigrants]; those who ... those who themselves left India to come here, miles and miles away from home, drawn by the glitz of America ... the sound of which (sic) brought them here. So, whenever they talk amongst themselves, what comes up at the beginning of the conversation – or at the end, it comes up for sure – is [the thought that] America is so wrong; the people of America are so different from us, and their ways are wrong. And what I would like to say in this regard is that I find this kind of attitude to be pretentious – they harbor feelings of aversion towards a country who ... which gave them so much success. Whether that success be in the form of money ... the success on account of which they have forgotten the land of their birth* – [or] which they [might] miss; for which they have left their friends behind, of whom the only news they will ever have is news of their death. I find this to be wrong, because those who live here are also human; they are also people. We interact with them everyday. We achieve so much success on their account. So, it is evident that we would learn something from them. There may be some things about them that ... we find wrong from our perspective (speaker says “which seem wrong to our natures” – meaning, perhaps, things that appear to be fundamentally wrong given how we Indians are taught to think about them, etc.). But there are many things that are worth learning [from them], things that are good. As for myself ... I would only say that I have learned many things from American people – things that are commendable. And I have received a lot of love from the people here, because of which I ... would not (speaker probably means to say ‘do not’) harbor aversion toward them. And I would say to the people who feel aversion [toward them] that they [should] think carefully about the matter.

*चाहे उस सफलता की वजह से is misleading: the speaker does not mean to say “*whether* on account of their success, etc.”

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 everyday. 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.