

Nepali transcript:

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: त्यसो भए तपाईं चाहिँ दिल्ली चाहिँ time to time जाने रहेछ होइन? अनि तपाईं अरु कुन सहरमा जानुहुन्छ ? जस्तै?

सोनाम: अब त्यहि हो, हाम्रो चाहिँ यहाँ काठमाडौंको नजिकमा चाहिँ उतातिर डेल्ली छ, अनि फेरी थिम्पु भन्ने अब त्यतिनै एक घण्टा हवाई जहाजमा गयो भने एक घण्टाको समय भयो, यहाँबाट, काठमाडौंबाट दिल्ली जानुपर्यो भने नी एक घण्टानै परिराखेको छ¹. अब थिम्पु पनि, म त्यहाँ जाँदाखेरि कहिले कहिँ म चाहिँ एक महिना बस्ने, पटक पटक जानुपर्ने अनि त्यहाँ चाहिँ मलाई थिम्पु चाहिँ हेर्न पायो.

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: हजुर, तपाइलाई थिम्पु कस्तो लाग्छ?

सोनाम: पहिलो पटक म जाँदाखेरि, मलाई चाहिँ असाध्यै राम्रो लग्यो, अचम्म पनि लागेकोथियो। के छ भने, उनीहरूको चाहिँ के छ भने, घरहरू चाहिँ सबै चाहिँ भुटानी architecture design सबै चाहिँ त्यस्तै चाहिँ उनीहरूको कलामा गरिराखेको छ² अनि हरेक घरहरू चाहिँ यस्तै प परेको छ। So भन्दाखेरि, हाम्रो, जहाँ पनि गयो भने त्यस्तो खालको घरहरू चाहिँ कुनै ठाउँमा चाहिँ नदेख्ने, उनीहरूको आफ्नै चाहिँ भुटानीको चाहिँ घरको चाहिँ design भएको,

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: भनेपछि पुरानो र नयाँ चाहिँ एउटै देख्ने?

सोनाम: हो, त्यो सबै चाहिँ भुटानी architecture नै हुनुपर्ने.

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: हजुर

सोनाम: So, त्यो एउटा भयो, अनि अर्को अचम्मको कुरा चाहिँ के छ भने, उनीहरूको पोशाकहरू छ नि?

¹ The interviewee does not pronounce the full phrase 'परिराखेको छ/ parirakheko cha' but rather pronounces it as 'pariracha'. This is done often while speaking quickly. It is similar to shortening 'want to' to 'wanna' in English.

² The interviewer does not pronounce the full phrase "गरिराखेको छ/garirakheko cha" but pronounces it as 'gariracha'. See footnote 1.

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: हजुर

सोनाम: लुगाहरु लगाउने चाहिँ, फेरी, उनीहरुको चाहिँ भुटानी नै लगाउनुपर्ने। त्यसलाई चाहिँ लोग्ने मान्छेहरुले चाहिँ को भन्ने लगाछ, अनि श्रीहरुले चाहिँ किरा भन्ने लगाउँदो रहेछ। अनि त्यो उनीहरुले त्यो लगाएको त कति, दुई-तीन सय वर्ष त भइसक्यो होला, अनि त्यहि अनुसार चाहिँ सबैले लगाउँदा खेरि, त्यहाँ निर एउटा चाहिँ अर्कै ठाउँ, कस्तो राम्रो लग्यो जस्तै हामी बाहिरको मान्छेहरुलाई।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: हजुर

सोनाम: त्यहाँ पाइँट-साइँट लगाउनु मिल्दैन, कमिजहरु लगाउनु मिल्दैन। So भन्दाखेरि उनीहरुको भुटानको पोशाक लगाउँदा खेरि अलिकति राम्रै लाग्छ मलाई

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: हजुर

सोनाम: अनि त्यो घरहरु पनि त्यस्तो हुँदाखेरि, अर्कै एउटा देशमा गएको जस्तै त्यो चाहिँ धेरै अनौठो खालको।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि त्यहाँ चाहिँ बाटोहरु ठूलो छन् कि सानो छन्?

सोनाम: हो।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: मान्छेहरु धेरै, कम, कस्तो छ त्यहाँ?

सोनाम: अब त्यसमा चाहिँ हेर्दा चाहिँ काठमाडौँ चाहिँ बीचमा परेको जस्तो लग्यो। सहरहरु पनि ठिकै ठिकै खालको है? दिल्ली चाहिँ, उता खेरि जाँदाखेरि सहर चाहिँ दश गुणा ठूलो, अब यतातिर थिम्पुमा गयो भने, काठमाडौँ भन्दा सायद चाहिँ भन्न पनि सक्ला, दश गुणा सानैनी होला, अनि थिम्पु सहर चाहिँ काठमाडौँभन्दा सानो छ।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि, तर, जस्तैकि तपाइँलाई थिम्पु राम्रो लाग्छ काठमाडौँभन्दा, सफा छ, फोर छ, कस्तो छ?

सोनाम: Oh! (हाहा...) Okay! (हेहे...) थिम्पु चाहिँ के छ भने, हेर्नुपर्यो भने काठमाडौँ भन्दा अलि सफा नै भन्नुपर्यो। काठमाडौँ चाहिँ थिम्पु भन्दा अलि ठूलो भएर, अनि यहाँको सरकारले पनि राम्रै चाहिँ फोहोर-महिला चाहिँ हेर-विचार गर्न, सफा गर्नुको लागि उनीहरूको त्यति राम्रो चाहिँ व्यवस्था छैन। कहिले कहिँ चाहिँ, बीचमा चाहिँ छुट्यो भने अनि अलि नराम्रो देखिने, थिम्पुमा त्यति साह्रो चाहिँ देखिन।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अँ... त्यसो भए हावा पानी, सबै त्यहाँ धेरै सफा होला?

सोनाम: हो, किन भने फेरि, अर्को कुरा चाहिँ क छ भने, जनासंख्या पनि कम अनि, त्यसले गर्दा मान्छे पनि कम हुदा खेरि सफासुघर राख्न पनि सजिलो होला तर एउटा कुरा चाहिँ के छ भने यती सानो सहर हुँदाखेरि धेरै जसो मान्छे, सबैले चाहिँ चिन्दो रहेछ। उसले यसलाई चिन्छ, सहर मा हिड्ने बित्तिकै मान्छे चाहिँ चिन्छ। काठमाडौँमा भयो भने फाटफुट एक-दुई जना चाहिँ भेटेर चिन्दो रहेछ। दिल्लीमा गयो भने चिनेको मान्छे भेट्नलाई सारै गार्हो footpathमा।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: हजुर

सोनाम: त्यति फरक छ भन्ने कुरा हो।

English translation:

Interviewer: So you visit Delhi from time to time. What are the other cities that you visit?
Any examples?

Sonam: The thing is, Kathmandu is near to Delhi on one side and again, Thimphu also, if we travel by an airplane, it takes one hour. From Kathmandu, Delhi is also just one hour by air. So, when I go to Thimphu, I stay there for one month sometimes. Since I go there time and again, I get the opportunity to see it.

Interviewer: So, how do you find Thimphu?

Sonam: The first time I went there, I liked it a lot. I was also very surprised. The thing is, the houses in Thimphu are all designed in Bhutanese architecture. All the houses are designed in their own traditional architectural style. So, wherever else we go, we will not see those types of houses since they have their own unique Bhutanese design.

Interviewer: So all the old and new houses in Thimphu look the same?

Sonam: Yes. All the houses are designed in Bhutanese architecture.

Interviewer: Okay.

Sonam: Another interesting thing is the clothes that the people wear in Thimphu...

Interviewer: Yes.

Sonam: All the clothes they wear have to be traditional Bhutanese clothes. The men wear traditional wear called *Ko* and the women wear *Kirar*. They have been wearing the same traditional clothes for maybe one hundred to two hundred years. So when we see people wearing these traditional clothes in Thimphu, we feel like we are in a very different place. It's really interesting for people from outside [tourists].

Interviewer: Oh, okay...

Sonam: There the people cannot wear pants or shirts. So, when we see people wearing just traditional clothes, it is very interesting.

Interviewer: Oh...

Sonam: Since the houses are also traditional, you feel like you are in a fascinating place and it feels great.

Interviewer: Okay, so the roads in Thimphu, are they wide or narrow?

Sonam: Oh...

Interviewer: And the population is it small or large there?

Sonam: I feel like Kathmandu is in the middle in this aspect. Kathmandu city itself is middle sized, right? Delhi, if we go there, is ten times bigger [than Kathmandu]. If you go to Thimphu, maybe it is again almost ten times smaller than Kathmandu. Therefore, Thimphu is smaller than Kathmandu.

Interviewer: So, do you like Thimphu better than Kathmandu? How is Thimphu, cleaner or dirtier?

Sonam: [laughs] If we look, Thimphu is cleaner than Kathmandu. Since Kathmandu is bigger than Thimphu and the government doesn't really take care of cleaning, Kathmandu doesn't have a good system for waste management. So if they stop cleaning in the middle, it doesn't look nice at all. But it's not that bad in Thimphu.

Interviewer: So the environment—air, water—must be very clean there [in Thimphu]?

Sonam: Yes, then, the other thing is, the population in Thimphu is smaller. So as there are less number of people [in Thimphu], it must be easier to keep it clean. But another thing is, since the city is so small, all people know each other. One person knows another; if you walk in the streets of the city, they will recognize you immediately. But in Kathmandu, you just tend to meet one or two people who you know, whereas in Delhi, it is very hard to meet people that you know accidentally in the road.

Interviewer: Oh!

Sonam: That's the main difference.

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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