

Hinduism in Nepal

Nepali transcript:

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: तपाईंको नाम के हो?

बिद्यार्थी: मेरो नाम निरुमा हो।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: हजुर, अनि तपाईं अहिले कति उमेर हुनुहुन्छ?

बिद्यार्थी: म अहिले २३ वर्षको भएँ।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: के गरिराख्नुभएको अहिले?

बिद्यार्थी: अहिले मा M.B.B.S. पढ्दै छुँ, जुन चाहिँ चिकित्सासँग सम्बन्धित छ।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि अब यहाँ नेपालको, होइन, धर्मबारे केहि भनिदिनुस न।

बिद्यार्थी: नेपाल भनेको चाहिँ एउटा... विभिन्न धर्महरु भएको चाहिँ देश हो, होइन? यहाँ चाहिँ बिशेष गरि हामीले चार वटा धर्महरु चाहिँ पाउँछौँ। जसमा चाहिँ हाम्रो बुद्ध धर्म, हिन्दु धर्म, क्रिस्टियन धर्म र मुसलमान धर्महरु हामीले बिशेष रुपमा पाउन सक्छौँ।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि त्यो चारवटामा चाहिँ सबै भन्दा धेरै धर्म कुन पाउँछ?

बिद्यार्थी: नेपालमा चाहिँ धेरै जस्तो...मान्छेहरुले चाहिँ हिन्दु धर्मलाई... हिन्दु धर्मलाई नै follow गरिरहेको हुन्छ।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: हिन्दु धर्मको बारे केहि भनिदिनुस्न।

बिद्यार्थी: हिन्दु धर्म भनेको चाहिँ, खासमा, पहिला पुर्वकाल देखि चली आएको एउटा परम्परा हो। होइन? यहाँ चाहिँ विभिन्न देवी-देउताहरुलाई मानिन्छ। र, विभिन्न देवी-देउताहरुमा... हिन्दु धर्ममा चाहिँ बिशेष के छ भन्दा खेरि हामीहरुले चाहिँ धेरै भन्दा धेरै देवी-देउताहरुलाई मान्छौँ। विभिन्न प्रकारका देवी देउताहरु हुन्छ र

वहाँहरूलाई नै मान्छौं। र वहाँहरूलाई... वहाँहरूको पूजा- पाठहरू त्यस्तो गर्ने गरिन्छ, हिन्दु धर्ममा चाहिँ।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: ए हजुर। अनि चाड-पर्वहरू के-के मनाइन्छ?

बिद्यार्थी: हिन्दु धर्महरूमा चाहिँ बिशेष गरि, हाम्रो यो दशैं र तिहार भनेर, नेपालमा चाहिँ, धेरै मानिन्छ। र यो बाहेक चाहिँ, अब, हाम्रो बिशेष सानो पर्वहरूमा चाहिँ हाम्रो यो राम्नावामिहरू भयो, कृष्णाष्टमी भयो, यस्तो भिभिन्न देवी-देउताहरू सँग सम्बन्धित खालको चाड-पर्वहरू चाहिँ समय-समयमा भइरहेको हुन्छ।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि यो चाड-पर्वहरूले चाहिँ खासगरी के गर्छ? देउतालाई पूजा गर्नु हुन्छ होइन? पुजबाहेक अरु के गरिन्छ?

बिद्यार्थी: जस्तै बिशेष गरि त्यो दिनमा चाहिँ त्यहि देवी-देउताहरू सँग सम्बन्धित पूजा हरु गरिन्छ र कुनै प्रकारको बिशेष कथनहरू छ, अथवा कुनै पनि प्रकारको पहिलै देखि आएको चलन चल्ती छ भने, त्यसलाई पनि त्यो दिनमा गर्ने गरिन्छ। जस्तै हाम्रो हिन्दु धर्ममा हेर्ने हो भने... भन्नु न... कुनै पनि एउटा हिन्दु धर्मको पहिला एउटा कथा, त्यो देवी-देउता सँग सम्बन्धित कथाहरू सँगको बारेमा नै त्यो दिनले चाहिँ एउटा बिशेष ऊ¹ गरिरहेको हुन्छ। बताई रहेको हुन्छ। जस्तै र त्यो चाहिँ एक दिनको सट्टा... एकदिन पनि हुन सक्छ, अथवा धेरै लामो समय सम्मपनि त्यो त्यसको खालको चाड-पर्वहरूलाई चाहिँ मनाई रहेको हुन्छ। त्यहि नै हो।

English translation:

Interviewer: What is your name?

Student: My name is Niruma.

¹ 'ऊ/oo' is a word that indicates 'something'. Nepalis frequently use this word, if they forget the exact word for the thing that they want to say. However, it can only be used when it is understood that even if you don't use the exact word and just use 'ऊ/oo', the listener will be able to understand what you are trying to say. For example, in this case, the listener will probably replace the 'ऊ/oo' with 'भन्ने / bhanne', meaning 'says' because that makes the most sense. So, the listener will then assume it to be: 'Specific stories about these gods and goddesses are told via these celebrations.'

Interviewer: *Hajur*², and how old are you now?

Student: I am twenty-three years old.

Interviewer: What are you doing right now?

Student: I am completing my M.B.B.S. studies, which is related to the practice of medicine.

Interviewer: Now, can you tell me a bit about the religions followed in Nepal?

Student: Nepal is a country that holds many religions. *Hoina*³? We find, mostly, four kinds of religion here. These four main religions are: Buddhism, Hinduism, and Christianity and Islam.

Interviewer: And among those four, which is the most common?

Student: In Nepal, mostly... people usually follow Hinduism... Hinduism is mostly followed.

Interviewer: Can you tell me a bit about Hinduism?

Student: Hinduism is a religion and a tradition that has been here from an early age. *Hoina*? A lot of different gods and goddesses are believed in this religion. And with these different gods and goddesses... the main thing in Hinduism is that we believe in various gods and goddesses. There a lot of them and we believe in all. And we do *puja*⁴ for them.

Interviewer: *Ae*⁵, *Hajur*. And what festivals are celebrated?

² '*Hajur*' in this context is used to acknowledge what the interviewee is saying in a respectful way and also shows that the interviewer is listening and following whatever she is saying. It may also be used as a response to someone's question, to acknowledge that a speaker is right and may also be used to address someone older than you. It can also be used to ask a speaker to repeat something they just said in a formal way.

³ The direct translation of *hoina* is 'no.' In this context, it is to make sure that the person is following the story and to confirm something. For example, in English, the word 'Right?' is used to confirm something.

⁴ A ritual that is done while praying

⁵ '*Ae*' is like an interjection. It can be used in ways similar to that of the word 'Oh' in English. In this context, '*Ae*' is used to acknowledge and express understanding of the interviewee's statement. It can also be used to directly address someone, especially if you're trying to get their attention from afar, or it can also be used to express surprise.

Student: In Hinduism, mainly, in our country, we celebrate Dashain and Tihar. And other than these, other smaller festivals like Ram nawami⁶, Krishnasthmi⁷, which pertains to different gods and goddesses, are also celebrated from time to time.

Interviewer: And what do you actually do during these? You do *puja* to the gods and goddesses, *hoina*? What else is done except for *pujas*?

Student: We, mainly, do *pujas* that are related to the gods and goddesses we are celebrating and we also do any other rituals or read stories that are relevant to these deities. Like, in Hinduism... let's say... there are lots of stories related to deities that are followed by Hindus, and the days we celebrate these deities tells us a specific story about that deity. And these celebrations can last for a day only, or they can go on for days too. That's it.

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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⁶ Ram nawami is a festival that celebrates the birth of Lord Ram, the seventh reincarnation of the God Vishnu.

⁷ Krishnasthmi is a festival that celebrates the birth of the God Krishna.