

English translation:

Our ... I mean... On the third day in the month of *Muharram*,¹ no, the fifth ... later on the sixth day of Muharram there will be an event. Do you understand what a *nishaan* is? They will roam around carrying the *nishaan* [flag]. They go around seven times. *Nishaan* is... a red cloth... black cloth, white and red... [they] will place it on the middle of the sticks and hoist it up. The two brothers Hassan [and] Hussain, that ... [unclear] that day the grandsons of the prophet, the two brothers... God had given them clothes: one had red clothes, the other one black clothes. They tie this to the *nishaan* sticks. After tying them they chant "Hassan, Hussein." After that, I mean ... six days ... after six days, on the seventh night ... from our village ...to the *mazhaar* (holy shrine) Our village Aushatgram is in the Kishoreganj district. Then everyone makes *guli pittha*.² Hassan and Hussein were shot...with arrows ... that is why we make *shirni*³ with *guli*.⁴ The dessert is called *guli pittha* to commemorate how Hussain was killed. Everyone takes *firni*⁵ to the *mazhaar* in their names. The *khadem*⁶ eats them. The next day ... after the night ... during the day... later on they take bananas and puffed rice to the shrine and give it to the children. After that seven ...eight... again on the eighth night they give... they make tents. They make houses, deer, and horses with bamboo. After making these and decorating them very nicely they walk around the shrine... Then they take the tents away. There are many shrines in our village. On the seventh day, these... will come here... on the tenth day. Some people, let's say, eat once in the evening. On the tenth day [some eat] *niramish*, some [do that] on the fourteenth day. *Niramish* means that they do not eat fish [or meat]. We eat *niramish* on the tenth day. On this tenth day, we make *shirni*. We make it and give it to the shrine. The *shirni* is offered in the name of Hassan and Hussain. [Unclear.] The fights and killings that occurred before our birth ... in the city of Kufr ... before we were born ... we observe the ten days [to commemorate those events]. Some take oil ... to the shrine ... depends on who does what... ten days... [some] sweep the floor of the shrine... Suppose you are in trouble; you [might] think that you will donate something... in the name... of God... the trouble tides over... If... some people observe *niramish* for ten days, some fast for two days, others for ten days. For ages our ancestors have observed it; we do it also. Then we take the flags to another shrine where people make various things, they make paper houses, rings and other things to decorate the shrine.

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:

¹ The first month in the Arabic calendar.

² A kind of sweet.

³ A sweet offering.

⁴ *Guli* means "shot" in Bengali.

⁵ A traditional Bangladeshi dessert.

⁶ The caretaker of the mosque.

Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

© 2003-2009 Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and Five Colleges, Incorporated