

CultureTalk Bangladesh Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Niagara Falls in Autumn

English translation:

Ishrat (I2): Then the Niagara Falls -- that place is so cold! Especially when the water splashes on you

Irena (I): Can you swim?

I2: [shakes her head.]

I: I'm very scared. And I also have a fear of heights so I'm always scared that I'll fall off. But didn't you like it over there? It's beautiful!

I2: I really liked the fall season there. When the leaves become orange, Pinky, I liked this thing so much! When all the leaves changes colors and became orange! When summer ends, I thought everything would end.¹ But then I saw the leaves change colors. One is more beautiful than the other. You know there's a screen saver on the computer, with crimson leaves? It's like that. I used to stay on the 24th floor and could see everything from there. The tree was green at first, then it becomes orange, then from orange the color deepens into a rich shade of orange and then it deepens a bit more before it falls off. It's so pretty! I was taking a picture on this side once and the next minute on the other side, to see which one comes out nicer. It's absolutely mesmerizing.

I: Hmm. Good. It's like...there are lots of things to see over there, right?

I2: You're used to seeing all this, but since I saw it for the first time

I: No, even now I like it.

I2: Or suppose during Christmas. Didn't you see the pictures from Christmas, where I had worn a sari? So after I came out, Ronnie told me to stand while he went to get the car because some of his friends were also going with us. There were three of them. One was Pakistani, one was Jamaican, and the girl was from Vietnam. So the three of them sat at the back and I sat on the passenger seat. [Unclear.] So we were in the car, and Pinky! They believe that if it snows on Christmas day, then it is a good sign.

I: Yes.

I2: Yes, that's what they believe. Pinky! The snow started falling like this and I was just awed.

I: Didn't you play in the snow?

¹ The speaker probably means that she thought all the leaves would just fall off after summer

I2: What?

I: Didn't you play in the snow?

I2: Yeah when they took us on a [field] trip... you know they take all the students. Pinky, it was so beautiful! It was falling and I was just staring at the sky! [Unclear.] It's so gorgeous! I had thought [that] it's like ice, like the ones we freeze in our refrigerator. But it wasn't, it was the total opposite. Snow is totally different from ice.

I: Yes, I really like it.

I2: It's so sudden!

I: You wake up from sleep and everything around you is white!

I2: One day, I woke up from sleep to go to work and I saw that it was raining and I decided to skip work that day and give a "sick call." You know how people use the "sick call" excuse to get out of work over there. Ronnie told me "This is not rain. This is snow." I thought, is snow like this? It was like rainfall. And the cold is so intense. I saw that the whole place had become white! [Unclear.] And then come summer, everything is green again! The green scenery is beautiful in one way, the orange one in another way and the white one is yet another way. The three seasons are unique in their beauty.

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