

English translation:

- Will you sing?

- Sing?

- Will you be able to sing?

- Yes.

- Please sing a little.

(The speaker sings a Rabindrasangeet.¹)

- (Pays a compliment.) Where did you learn to sing?

- I have had many teachers. The person who learned from Rabindranath [Tagore], Sri (Mr.) Shailajaranjan Majumdar... I am his student. And a very famous person of our country, Wahid ul Haq ... I am his student. And the person I learned from first, especially Rabindrasangeet, is Professor Noor ul Anwar. Basically, all three of these people are my teachers of Rabindrasangeet, and of Bengali music.

- So do you have any

- I have [put out] CDs; three of them... Three albums, yes.

- The song that you sang just now: [will you] explain what it means first?

- This means ... [recites a line], meaning, I may not be able to go near God, but perhaps my life will be spent in this [world, among things that I like]. Perhaps I will not be able to go there. But I like it very much here. [Recites a line.] The breeze that my boat is passing through as it sails on the river, or sea, wafts against my body. That I like very much. I don't need to go there. I like it here just fine. This is what these two lines mean.

¹ The songs of Rabindranath Tagore, the Bengali poet, are known as Rabindrasangeet.

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.

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