

CultureTalk Bangladesh Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Chatting in a Rooftop Garden

English translation:

- It is working.
- This is a flower. This is a kind of flower. It is a yellow... the color is yellow.¹
- This a *beli*-flower [jasmine] plant.
- Which one?
- This one. There is a flower there.
- I can't see it.
- Can't see? Here, it is small – you can [almost] not see it. Come.
- Whose house is this – the one we are looking at?
- This is Chhonda Aunty's. That is, Aunty's friend.
- And that... that is a kind of flower. It looks nice when it is in bloom.
- The red one?
- Yes.
- Do you know the name?
- The name... I can't say.
- Okay. What else is there?
- That is like *malati*.² The fifth floor is full of plants, right?
- Yes.
- This is hibiscus.
- Which one?

¹ She is talking about an allamanda plant.

² *Aganosma dichotoma*. A plant with jasmine-like white flowers.

- Here: the red one. There are two kinds of flower here. They are both hibiscus. I mean, the plants are of two types. You are feeling hot, aren't you, sister?
- Yes, it feels quite warm. It is hot today.
- There is bright sunlight. These are hibiscus. That flower is pretty, isn't it?
- Which one?
- There, that one.
- The pink one?
- Yes.
- What flower is it?
- It is a rose. Pretty, isn't it? If someone were around, they would give it to us if asked. Do you want it?
- [Laughing] No!
- Wow! Here is a flower. Don't peer down; you will fall.
- No, I won't. This one?
- Wow! How cute!
- What are those, on the roof? The clothes drying?
- Those? Clothes have been washed and hung up to dry, see? They are drying because there is sunlight.
- What clothes?
- What clothes? [Clothes] one wears. Undershirts, pants, shirts, sheet – things like that. Men's clothes.
- Do you know who lives here?
- I cannot tell exactly.
- The naughty lady lives there [laughs].
- Naughty lady! And who lives in this building? Do you know?

- This one? People rent [those places]. I mean, one person¹ lives there. Look, they have grown plants in that thing.
- Which one?
- Over there. Looks like the thing you bathe in.²
- That is something to bathe in?
- Yes.
- What have they done?
- They have grown plants in it. Shall I take you on that side?
- Yes. First let us see what is going on in the street.
- Okay. There is a taxi on the street, and a car. Many other things [are on the street]. People are going about. There is a tree you can see. The scene is beautiful. [Unclear] seems beautiful.
- And is this a Bangladeshi rickshaw?
- Yes, this is called a rickshaw. Only two or three persons at most can sit in one.
- And how much does it cost?
- Cost... it charges according to how far you are going. If you go from here to the place ahead, then it can cost you a hundred or sixty taka.
- Are there many rickshaws in Bangladesh?
- Yes, there are many rickshaws in Bangladesh.
- From very long ago?
- Yes, from very long ago. But there were not so many before. Now there are more.
- Is that right?
- There are many more people -- that is why the number of rickshaws is also greater.
- What is that over your head?

¹ Perhaps the speaker means a person known to her?

² The speaker means a bath tub.

- This is wire. For drying clothes.
- What else is there?
- Come. Here there is water.
- Water?
- Yes. That way. Do you want to shoot [there]?
- Come. This house makes a beautiful scene, doesn't it?
- Scene? What does "scene" mean?
- Beauty. Cutting, cutting.¹
- Oh. What are these trees? The tall ones?
- That? That is a coconut palm. And the big... big... tall and thin trees are areca palms.
- Areca?
- Do you know areca? You don't know areca. You know, they eat *paan* with areca-nut. Do you know what all is needed to eat *paan*? You don't know? Lime, areca-nut, tobacco-flakes, and *paan* leaf.
- Do you eat it?
- Hmm. I had eaten once. I ate [and vomited]. Mother used to tell me not to eat it. I ate and vomited. Mother was telling me not to [laughs].

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¹ The speaker is using the English word at random, probably in the sense of "scenery."