

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.<sup>1</sup>
- 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*.<sup>2</sup> The fifth floor is full of plants, right?
- Yes.
- This is hibiscus.
- Which one?

---

<sup>1</sup> She is talking about an allamanda plant.

<sup>2</sup> *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 person<sup>1</sup> lives there. Look, they have grown plants in that thing.
- Which one?
- Over there. Looks like the thing you bathe in.<sup>2</sup>
- 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?

---

<sup>1</sup> Perhaps the speaker means a person known to her?

<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>1</sup>
- 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].

**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

---

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