

Hindi transcript:

प्रश्नकर्ता - तो, आँके दोस्तों के साथ आँ समय जब बिताते थे, तो क्या करते थे लखनऊ में? और... मतलब, फ़िल्में देखते थे, या बाहर खाना खाने जाते थे? कैसा...कैसा लगता था आँको...

अर्पिता - लखनऊ जैसे तो बहुत ही छोटा-सा शहर है, और उस समय... अब...अब की बार जब मैं वाँस हिन्दुस्तान गई थी, तो मैंने देखा लखनऊ में तीन मॉल खुल गए हैं, और जब मैं बच्ची थी तो बस एक जगह थी – हज़रतगंज। And “Ganjing” करना was... बहुत ही cool माना जाता था। And कभी-कभी parents से permission मिलती थी, because लखनऊ जैसे छोटा-सा शहर है, और थोड़ा-सा conservative है, तो हर टाइम घर से बाहर निकलने को नहीं मिलता था। तो कभी-कभी मिलता था। दोस्तों के साथ जाते थे Ganjing, और वहाँ और एक जगह थी – मिनि महल। वहाँ और जाके आइसक्रीम या पेस्ट्री खाना, and then एक...एक सिनेमा हॉल था – Mayfair, जहाँ और they would show English movies। And since हम लोग... we were in an English-medium school... तो वहाँ एक English film देखा करते थे, और और घण्टों उसकी बातें किया करते थे। And then अम्बिका म्यूज़िक स्टोर होता था जहाँ और थोड़ी-सी English की cassettes होती थीं। ...ये सब था till, like... जब मैं तेरह-चौदह की थी, और और इन्टरनेट आ गया, and then सब बिलकुल automatically changed क्योंकि you could ha... इतना ज़्यादा access बढ़ गया to the world outside। तो इतना ज़्यादा ह... इतना ज़्यादा घूमने तो नहीं मिलता था, और जब घूमने को मिलता था वह इतना... इतनी देर बाद मिलता था, और इतने कम समय के लिए मिलता था कि बहुत ही मज़ा आता था।

English translation:

Interviewer: So, when you spent time with your friends, what did you do, in Lucknow? And ... I mean, did you go to the movies, or eat out? How ... how did you like it ...

Arpita: Actually, Lucknow is a small place, and at the time ... now ... this time when I visited India, I saw that there are three new malls in Lucknow, but when I was a girl, there was just one place [to go to], namely, Hazratganj. And going “Ganjing”* was considered very cool. And sometimes you would get permission from your parents, because, actually, Lucknow is a small town, and a bit conservative, so you did not get to go out of the house all the time. So, you [went out] sometimes. We would go Ganjing

with friends, and there was a place there called Mini Mahal. There [we would] eat ice-cream and pastries, [and] then there was a movie theater called Mayfair, where they would show English movies. And since we were in an English-medium school**... so we would watch one English film [there], and discuss it for hours on end. And then there was Ambika Music Store where there were a few cassettes containing English songs... All this went on until I was, like ... when I was thirteen or fourteen, and then the internet came around, and then everything automatically changed, because you could ha ... [then] you had so much more access to the world outside. So, we didn't get so many... opportunities to roam about town, but when we did, we did after so ... so long, and for such a small amount of time, that we enjoyed ourselves very much.

*The name 'Hazratganj' can be broken down into two distinct nouns: *Hazrat* (the Prophet) and *ganj* (market). Among people who speak both English and Hindi/Urdu, Hazratganj shortens to Ganj (or 'Ganj!). Hence, Ganjing!

**Schools in which the medium of instruction for most subjects is English.

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