

**Hindi transcript:**

दूसरी सबसे बड़ी अजीब चीज मुझको यहाँ आ के लगी, वह थी एकांत – अँग्रेजों का एकांत का पसन्द करना, और यहाँ पे आबादी का इतना कम होना। जैसे मैं अपने... चाचा के घर में ठहरा था, और वह सब काम पे गए हुए थे। और दिन भर मैं ग...घर पे बैठा रहा, खिड़की सामने एक खुली हुई थी, लेकिन सारा दिन गुजर गया, और मैंने किसी एक इंसान को भी उस सड़क से जाते हुए नहीं देखा। और यह मेरे को बड़ी...बड़..बड़ा अजीब लगता था। दूसरी चीज यहाँ पे बड़ी अजीब लगती थी कि वातावरण बिलकुल शान्त था। न कोई भीड़-भाड़ थी, न कोई गाड़ी का हॉर्न बजाता था। या, न कोई चिल्ला-चिल्ली थी, और बहुत ही साफ़-सुथरा शहर था। और साफ़-सुथरा शहर इसलिए था क्योंकि हर एक छोटा...छोटे से छोटा बच्चा भी ...अपने शहर को, या अपने देश को साफ़-सुथरा रखने में एक... गर्व महसूस करता है। और एक तरह का यह phrase बन गया कि ‘Keep Britain tidy’। यह चीज़ कलकत्ते में बिलकुल नहीं थी। कलकत्ते में आप जब जाओगे तो आपको सबसे पहले लगेगा कि एक... noise explosion हो रहा है। चारों तरफ़ से आवाज़ें आ रही हैं, और जो कि मैं पहले महसूस नहीं करता था। अब मैं ज...अगर जाता हूँ, तो मुझे लगता है कि यह बहुत ही बड़ा intrusion है to my own space।

दूस... एक और बड़ी... अलग cultural चीज है जो इंग्लैन्ड में या west में मुझको महसूस होती है, वह है यहाँ की... यहाँ का आम आदमी जो है, ...दूसरे आदमी की ... space या उसकी privacy को बहुत respect करता है। और हिन्दुस्तान में जबी भी मैं जाता हूँ, मुझे काफ़ी महसूस होता है कि मेरे आसपास के लोगों की जागरूकता मेरी तरफ़ कुछ हद से ज्यादा है, और... हद से ज्यादा होती है। And this inquisitiveness is almost intrusive – I feel it’s intrusive towards my privacy, or my own space, or my own environment – जो कि पहले मुझे महसूस नहीं होती थी। पहले शायद मैं भी उसी तरह से और लोगों के बारे में... जागरूक और inquisitive, without realizing that it might be intrusive। और यह शायद एक cultural thing... एक cultural चीज है जो अंग्रेज़ लोगों... अंग्रेज़ बड़े reserved होते हैं, और...। They...they, maybe, create a space around them, which they don’t like being invaded by other people, even if that is a well-meaning conversation.

**English translation:**

The [other] thing that I found strange here was the solitude – the fact that the British like solitude, and that [England] is sparsely populated. For instance, I ... I was staying at my

uncle's, and they had all gone to work. And all day I stayed home, with a window open in front of me; but the day wore on, and I did not see a single human being go down the street. And this seemed ver...very strange to me. The second thing that I found odd here was the surrounding quiet. There were no crowds, no one honked their car horns. [And,] there was no shouting, and the city was very clean.

And the city was clean because every child ... the youngest of children ... feels proud in keeping ... her city and her country clean. There's a phrase that goes around: 'Keep Britain tidy.' This sort of thing simply did not exist in Calcutta. When you go to Calcutta, the first thing that you sense is an explosion of sound. There's noise all round, and this is something I wasn't sensitive to earlier. Now wh ... if I go [there], I find [the noise] to be an intrusion on my own space.

The sec ... another big ... cultural thing that I experience in England or in the west is that the ... the common man ... respects ... the space or privacy of another individual very much. And whenever\* I go to India, I feel that people around me are much too attentive\*\* to me, and ... much too attentive. And this inquisitiveness is almost intrusive. I feel it's intrusive towards my privacy, or my own space, or my own environment; this is something I did not feel before. Perhaps I, too, was as attentive to the people around me then ... and inquisitive, without realizing that it might be intrusive. And perhaps this is a cultural thing about the English ... the English are very reserved people, and ... They ... they, maybe, create a space around them, which they don't like being invaded by other people, even if that is a well-meaning conversation.

(\*जबी is a colloquial use of जब. \*\* जागरुक literally means aware.)

**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.

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