CultureTalk India Video Transcripts: http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu

Chauthi and Shoe-Stealing (Bride's Return)

Hindi transcript:

चौथी कहते हैं इसको जब दूल्हा दोबारा लेने आता है दुल्हन को बिना किसी... it's not a party then, it's just that कि घर में आता है, हमारे घर में। कोई बड़ी party नहीं होती उसके लिए, जैसे निकाह की grand party थी, ऐसा कुछ नहीं होता। Normal... कुछ रिश्तेदार उस वक्त भी होते हैं घर में, तो... जूता चुराई। बड़ा interesting case होता है। उसमें क्या होता है कि लड़की की जो बहनें होती हैं वो दूल्हे के, यानि कि लड़के के जूते चुराती हैं। चुराना यानि कि steal करना – they steal their shoes, the shoes of the bridegroom. All the sisters… real sisters and cousin sisters, सब लोग मिलके, और उसको ऐसी जगह पे छुपा देती हैं कि किसी को नहीं मिल पाता और फिर पैसे माँगती हैं कि "आपको अगर आपके shoes चाहिए, अगर आपके जूते चाहिए तो आप पहले हमें पैसे दीजिए।" तो उससे बड़ा हंगामा होता है, बड़ा अच्छा, interesting माहौल रहता है जिसमें दूल्हेवाले मना करते हैं, "नहीं इतने नहीं चाहिए" और दुल्हनवाले ख़ूब सारे पैसे माँगते हैं, कहते हैं, "नहीं हमें तो इतने चाहिए, हमें तो इतने चाहिए"… कुछ ज़्यादा से ज़्यादा amount...और वे लोग – दूल्हेवाले जो होते हैं – वे कम करने को कहते रहते हैं। तो यह चीज़ कभी हम लोग निकाह के दौरान कर लेते हैं और कभी इस वक्त भी कर लेते हैं, चौथी के दौरान। हम लोगों ने चौथी के दौरान करी थी, हम लोगों ने 5000 रुपय लिये थे – 5000 rupees – अपने जीजू से, थक-हार के। हम लोगों ने दस (हज़ार) से start किया था, तो 5000 पे आके ख़ैर वो मान गये और उन्होंने दिये।

मेरे ख्याल से मूवी बनती है शादी की सारी दिनों की – निकाह की, माय्यो की। हम लोगों ने माय्यो वगैरह की नहीं बनाई थी। निकाह, वलीमे के photographs वगैरह लिये जाते हैं, grand albums बनती हैं उसकी फिर। बहुत अच्छे से फिर जाके होता है और फिर, इस वक्त, finally, लड़की जा रही होती है हमेशा... I mean, काफ़ी दिनों के लिए। I mean, बस, उसका घर फिर उसका ससुराल हो जाता है।

English translation:

We call it '*chauthi*' when the bridegroom comes back again to take the bride back, without any … it's not a party then, it's just that he comes home, to our home. There isn't a big party for this, like there is a grand party for the *nikah*, there is nothing like that.

Normal … I mean, some relatives are present at home at this time too, so … shoe stealing. It is a very interesting case. What happens in it is that the sisters of the bride steal the shoes of the boy: that is, the shoes of the groom. '*Churana*' means 'to steal' – they steal their shoes, the shoes of the bridegroom. All the sisters … real sisters and [cousins], everyone together, and then hide them in such a place that no one is able to find it and then ask for money: "If you want your shoes, if you want your shoes then first give us money." So there is a lot of pandemonium on account of this, a very nice, interesting atmosphere prevails in which the groom's people refuse, "No, we do not want [to pay] so much" and the bride's people ask for a lot of money, [they] say, "No, we want this much, we want this much," some amount as high as possible and those people – the groom's people – they keep asking that [the price] be reduced. So sometimes we do this during the *nikah* and sometimes at this time, during the *chauthi*. We did it during the *chauthi*, we took 5000 rupees – 5000 rupees –from our brother-in-law, [who gave in] exhausted. We had started with ten [thousand], so he agreed finally at 5000 and he gave [the money].

I believe movies are made of all the days of the wedding – of the *nikah*, of the *mayyo*.[1] We did not make [a movie] of the *mayyo* etc. Photographs etc. are taken of the *nikah* and *walima*; then, grand albums are made with them. It is done very nicely and then, this time, finally, the girl is leaving forever … I mean, for a long time. That's it, her home becomes that of her husband's (literally, in-laws').

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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[1] The speaker means that the events of the entire wedding are filmed and compiled.