

Hindi transcript:

(यह) बात बुरी लग रही है कि, as a Muslim, कि वे लोग हम लोगों को हमोशा underdog दिखाते हैं, या typical पुरानी दिल्ली का जाके कोई culture ले लेंगे कि भई, मुसलमान तो ऐसे होते हैं... ऐसा नहीं है... या अगर कभी हिजाब में दिखाएँ तो दिखाएँ कि उनके माँ-बाप, उनके बाप, उनके भाई, बड़े सख्त और गदे और बिना किसी... ऐसा कुछ नहीं है। अगर अच्छे मुसलमान दिखाएँ तो वह वही दिखाएँ, मतलब, जो... अपने आप को repeat ही कर रही हूँ... जो के शराब भी पी रहा हो, हिजाब भी न पहन रहा हो, नमाज़ भी न पढ़ रहा हो... तो वह अच्छा मुसलमान है। फिर वह hero का दोस्त होता है फिर भी। मतलब, छोटी-छोटी चीज़ें होती हैं जो इन्सान note करता है and you really can't help it because... मैं तो करूँगी notice क्योंकि मेरी आँखें और मेरा दिमाग खुला हुआ है। छोटी-सी बातें होती हैं कि... अब... आपने एक मूवी बनाई है... उसमें hero के बहुत सारे दोस्त हैं, उसको धोखा कौन देता है? बस, वही दोस्त देता है जो मुसलमान था, है न... which is like... wrong! I mean, अगर आप सही तरह के मुसलमान हो तो आप किसी को धोखा नहीं दोगे। मैं... मैं यह नहीं कह रही कि सारे मुसलमान नहीं देते, लेकिन फ़िल्म में जैसे आप किसी को अच्छी तरह से जिसको typing करोगे कि जिसने दिया धोखा तो वही, मतलब... अली और ये सारे नाम के... stereotypical name इन लोगों ने रखे हुए हैं।

Villain टोपी पहन के, वो शेखों-वाला वह करके, दाढ़ी, और नमाज़ का निशान ... which is so bad. I mean, you guys are hurting us so much. जिन लोगों के नमाज़ के निशान होते हैं न, आपको मालूम है, वे आँखें उठा के नहीं देखते। और ये मैं biasedness नहीं दिखा रही हूँ। आके लोगों में रह के खुद आके देखिए, फिर बोलिए। कि आप हमेशा दिखाएँगे, सलाम अच्छी तरह करते हुए और वह, और उनको आप villain और वह दिखा देते हैं।

अगर realistic मूवीज़ बनाना है तो उनको reality बनाओ, ये नहीं कि आप किसी को इतना ज़्यादा नज़रों से गिरा दो कि लोग उनसे ढरने लगे। मैं स्कूल में पढ़ती थी – मैं एक मुस्लिम area में रहती हूँ – तो मेरा एक junior था, उसके साथ मैं खेलती थी, यह थी। शायद... मैं शायद ninth में थी, वह शायद फ़ोर्थ-वर्थ में होगा। तो स्कूल बस में... तो उसको... मुझको बोलता है, “दीदी, आप कहाँ रहते हो?” तो मैंने उसको बोला, मैं

फ़लाँ जगह रहती हूँ, तो बोलता है, “अरे! वहाँ तो बच्चों को उठा के ले जाते हैं।” मैंने कहा “Excuse me! ऐसा तो कुछ नहीं है।” मतलब, किसने बनाई उनके दिमाग में ये image?

अभी एक serial आया था कि बड़ी बेटी के बच्चे नहीं हो रहे तो छोटी बहन से शादी कर दी। इस्लाम में नहीं है और वो Muslim family दिखा रहे थे। कुछ चीजों का पता नहीं है और आगे बढ़के पूरे... मतलब, इतनी बड़ी responsibility ले रहे हैं आप और... दूसरी शादी बहन से हमारे यहाँ allowed नहीं है, अगर बहन जिन्दा हो, बिल्कुल भी allowed नहीं है, it's हराम, बिल्कुल भी allowed नहीं है... और उन्होंने पूरा उठाके serial बना दिया। तो यह गलत तरीका है, न? आप यह responsibility ले रहे हो चीजों को करने की और उसको इतने ज़्यादा गलत तरीके से? जो कि बिल्कुल possible नहीं है। एक चीज़ में कहती हूँ कि, ठीक है, कुछ possible हो सकता है कि आपने मुसलमान को झूठ बोलते हुए दिखा रहे हो, ठीक है भैया, कहीं होता होगा, आपने किसी को देखा होगा, लेकिन कम-से-कम ये तो चीज़ें... इतने बड़े-बड़े मुद्दे आप लेके... वह, मतलब, वह basis ही serial का यह था कि बड़ी बहन के होते, छोटी बहन से शादी हो गई, which is like... never happens!

और अगर किसी ने किया होगा तो कोई ignorant इन्सान होगा, आप जाके उनको बोलो... और वह जो family उसमें दिखाई है, कोई ignorant family नहीं। काफ़ी अच्छी, well off, बहुत अमीर लोग दिखाए हैं... मतलब, गलत है यह।

English translation:

It feels very bad, as a Muslim, that those people always depict us as the underdog, or take some typical Old Delhi culture¹ [to show] that Muslims are like this ... it's not like that ... or if they show [someone] in a *hijab*, then they will show that their parents, their father, their brothers, are very strict, and bad and without any ... it's not like that at all. If they show 'good' Muslims, then they show only, I mean, those ... I am repeating myself here ... someone who drinks alcohol, does not wear a *hijab*, does not read the prayers either ... so they are 'good' Muslims. And even then, he is only the hero's friend. I mean, there are small things a person notices and you really cannot help it because ... I notice [these things] because my eyes and my mind are open. There are small things that ... now ... if you have made a movie ... the hero has many friends, [but] who betrays him? Of course, the friend who is a Muslim, right, which is, like ... wrong! I mean, if you are a good sort of Muslim, you will not betray anyone. I ... I am not saying that no Muslims

¹ Old Delhi, built by Shah Jahan to serve as the capital of India from 1649 to 1857, has many mosques and buildings constructed in the broadly Islamic architectural style. In many movies, the Muslim characters are shown to be part of old Delhi, a common stereotype the speaker is referring to.

betray [people], but in a movie if you cast people carefully [then you would be careful to show who betrays the hero], that is how, then, I mean ... Ali and all these stereotypical names these people have [in stock].

Villains wear caps,² [with] the kind of [thing] done by sheikhs, beard, and the *namaz* mark ... which is so bad. I mean, you guys are hurting us so much. The people that have the *namaz* mark, do you know that they do not raise their eyes [and look at anyone directly]? And I am not showing any bias here. Come and live among people first, see for yourself, and only then say [such things]. And then you will show, [these respected people within Muslim society] doing [their] *salaams* nicely and you show them to be villains and such.

If you want to make realistic movies, then [base them] on reality, [it should] not be that you disrespect someone [and show them to be unsavory] to such an extent that people start fearing them. I used to go to school –I live in a Muslim area – so there was a ‘junior’³ of mine, I used to play with him. Perhaps ... perhaps I was in the ninth [grade], and he was perhaps in the fourth [grade]. So in the school bus ... so his ... he asks me, “Didi,⁴ where do you live?” So I told him, “I live in such-and-such place,” so he says, “Oh, they kidnap children from there!” So I said, “Excuse me, nothing like *that* happens.” I mean, who has constructed such an image [about Muslims] in his head?

Now, there was a serial [on TV] that the older sister was not conceiving children, so [the husband] was married off to the younger sister. This does not exist in Islam, and they were depicting a Muslim family. They don’t know certain things, and yet they go ahead and entirely ... I mean, you are taking on such a huge responsibility and ... a second marriage with a sister [of the existing wife] is not allowed in our [religion], if the [older] sister is alive, absolutely not allowed; it’s taboo (*haram*), it’s not allowed at all, and they have made an entire serial [based on it]. So, this is a wrong way, right? You are taking up this responsibility of doing things and [you do them] in such a wrong way? Which is absolutely not possible. One thing I’ll say is that, all right, some things may be possible; you might show a Muslim lying, all right, it might happen somewhere, you might have seen someone [lying] but at the very least, these things ... you take such huge issues ... the, I mean, the basis of the serial was that while the older sister existed, [the husband was] married off to the younger sister, which is like ... [it] never happens!

And if someone has done [this] then s/he is an ignorant person, you tell them ... and the family that was depicted was not ignorant family ... it was shown to be quite good, well-off, very rich family ... I mean, this is wrong!

² The speaker means the typical prayer caps worn by Muslims.

³ ‘Junior’ meaning someone in a lower grade in school or college, junior in terms of years of schooling.

⁴ ‘Didi’ or दीदी, is an appellation meaning ‘older sister,’ it denotes respect to a girl or women older than you are.

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.

© 2003-2008 Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and Five Colleges, Incorporated