

Hindi transcript:

(रत्ना गज़ल गाती हैं।)

- (प्रश्नकर्ता) आप सगीत में बहुत शौक रखती हैं। आप अनसगीत और ज़िदगी काबारामें कुछ शब्द बोलना चाहेंगी?

- मैं तो शुरू शुरू में, षिन दिनों हम लोग कॉल में षढताथ्रतो सगीत काबारामें कहना तो एक बहुत बड़ा जुल्म माना षता था। फिर आहिस्ता आहिस्ता – क्योंकि मशीको काफी शौक था – तो माइस लाइन में गई ही गई आग और कश्मीर में रह कातो music कासाथ deal करना तो एक... बहुत बुरा भी माना षता था, लकिन में तो उसकी तरफ ज़रा भी तवज ह नहीद्वि थी क्योंकि मशी रुचि तो थी गाना गानकालिए और सुननकी भी। तो इस दौरान में मैंनmusic एक सब छट लिया था। आगमाबढती रही, बढती रही, इम्तिहान भी दस रही और chances भी बहुत ऐसआ गए कि कॉल में भी मुझको appoint किया गया। और आहिस्ता-आहिस्ता में इतना आगबढती गई कि I was the Head of the department of music section in Women's College, Government Women's College, and I did a lot। तो इतना काम होता रहा, होता रहा, तो हमारा यहाँ, कॉल क्योंकि बड़ा prestigious कॉल माना षता था, वह कोई dignitary India की नहीहुआ करती थी षे कॉल नहीआती थी। षाहरलाल नहरू सालकर present तक षिनतनभी prime ministers रहाँ, षिनतनभी presidents रहाँ, वामाराकॉल आतरह बहुत बढिया टाइ काहमाराप्रश्न हुआ करतथ्र षे कि हर षह appreciate हुआ करतथ्र तो अभी तक तो... अब तो हम रिटायर हो गए हैं। थोड़ा-थोड़ा अभी भी तवज ह रखतहँ, दिलचस्पी रखतहँ।

- आप कासबस सन्दीदा गायक कौन हैं?

- मशी सबसबड़ी सन्दीदा गायक हैं किशोरी आमोनकर।

- और वह किस तरह का गाना गाती हैं?

- वह entirely pure classical music षinterested हैं और... light... गानकनको ज़रा भी षसद नहीहँ। व बिलकुल grammar षर ही चलती रहती हैं। और उनकी आवाज़ में षे गहराई हउनका literature में षे मिठास हवह और किसी षह नहीमिलणा।

- और आपन षे अभी गाना गाया था, वह किस घरानका... वह गानकाकिस घरानमें आता ह

- वह गाना षे था, light music था, गज़ल था फज़ का।

English translation:

(The music teacher sings a ghazal.)

- (Interviewer): You have a lot of interest in music. Would you like to say a few words about your music and your life?

- In the beginning – in the days when we studied in college – it was considered a [pretty] big crime to [talk] about music. Then, bit by bit¹ – since I was very interested – so, I continued to go forward² in this line. And while living in Kashmir, it was also considered very bad to [be associated] with music, but I didn't pay any attention to that because I had a fondness for singing, and listening, too. So, during this time I took music as a subject. I went ahead, I went ahead; I took the exams, too, and many such chances came along, so much so that I was appointed at a college. And bit by bit I went ahead so far that I was [appointed] Head of the department of music section in Women's College, Government Women's College, and I did a lot. So, there was so much work that at our place ... since the college was considered quite [a] prestigious [college], there was no Indian dignitary who did not come to visit the college.³ Every prime minister since Jawaharlal Nehru, every president there has been, [has] visited our college. We had very fine [music] programs, which were appreciated in every place. So until now ... I am now retired. I still pay some attention to [developments in music]. I take an interest [in it].

- Who is your most favorite singer?

- My most – biggest – favorite singer is Kishori Amonkar.

- And, what kind of songs does she sing⁴?

- She is interested in entirely pure classical music, and ... she does not like light ... music at all. She absolutely follows the grammar. And, the depth of her voice, [and] the sweetness of her literature⁵ can't be found any place else.

- And the song that you just sang, what gharana⁶ does that ... what gharana does it fall under? That song [was] might music: it was a ghazal by Faiz.

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¹ आहिस्ता-आहिस्ता means slowly.

² The speaker tends to convey continuity by means of iteration – e.g., गई ही गई आग and बढ़ती रही, बढ़ती रही – these phrases have been translated in a way that best conveys the sense of what is said.

³ An odd but standard practice is to treat the English word 'dignitary' as feminine! This may have to do with the fact that the closest Hindi equivalent – हस्ती – is feminine.

⁴ गाना, while it means song, also often stands in for संगीत – music. The question is probably better rendered as “what kind of music does she pursue?”

⁵ The translator is unsure of what this means. Since Indian classical music often involves arranging verses from classic literature, 'literature' here might mean 'lyrics'.

⁶ This refers to musical families that evolved their own distinctive styles. The word just means 'household'. Gharanas are usually known by the names of the places where the families flourished.

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