

Hindi transcript:

- Once I was in Connecticut in United States. तो I was told that tomorrow ... day after tomorrow, there will be snow falling. I went to New York and purchased some garments. And, really, it was first time that I have seen that snow falling. I put on my all shoes and garments and cap and I went out. So, in countryside beside the road I was going on foot. One police car applied the breaks ... cheeeeeewand asked me, "Where is your car?" "I don't have my car." "Oh, I see." They again... (unclear). Like that I hope this country will become.

- You hope this country will not become like this?

- I beg your pardon?

- आप बोल रहे हैं कि ऐसा नहीं होना चाहिए इंडिया में।

- नहीं होना चाहिए न होना चाहिए, यह तो प्रश्न ही नहीं आया। ऐसा होने जा रहा है

- ऐसा होने जा रहा है। दिल्ली में?

- दिल्ली में तो हो ही गया। यह तो... उसे तो कोई रोक ही नहीं सकता। इतनी flyover बन चुकी हैं... मुझे नहीं पता pedlar (?) एक bus-stop से दूसरे bus-stop तक कैसे जाएगा? यह जो... ऐसा लग रहा है कि सभी लोगों के पास कार होनी चाहिए। जल्द मैंने मिसाल दी कि वह पुलिस वालों ने पूछा कि "Where is your car?" मैं... "I don't..." "oh I see"... तो it's a new thing for them. तो ऐसा होने जा रहा है। और बाकी...

- तो आप क्या prefer करते हैं? आप को पुरानी वाली दिल्ली अच्छी लगेगी जहाँ सारे गाँव थे या फिर अब जल्दी दिल्ली हो गई है।

- मुझे इमारतों से मोहब्बत कम है। आदमियों से मोहब्बत ज़्यादा है। उन... उन बड़ी-बड़ी इमारतों का... जहाँ आदमी आदमी से बात ही न करे, और एक दूसरे से नफरत करे... तो वह तो नहीं चाहिए। हम ही तो हमें तो वह चाहिए कि जहाँ खुलूस-मिजाजी हो, मोहब्बत हो, मरव्वत हो, मीठी ज़बान हो... और बाकी... वह तो नज़र नहीं आता (अस्पष्ट)। ऊँची इमारतें हैं, इमारतों से कैसे प्यार किया जाए? इन इमारतों को देख के तो ऐसा लगता है कि हम अपनी झुग्गियों में आग लगा दें। इन इमारतों को देख के तो ऐसा लगता है कि हम अपनी झुग्गी को नज़रे-आतिश कर दें। तो अब यह अच्छा या बुरा तो तब कहें कि भई मानवजाती की कुछ तरक्की हो। इज़्मान की तरक्की हो। इज़्मान की तरक्की अब... आजकल मुझे नहीं पता... कैसे वे... माप-दण्ड उनका क्या है (अस्पष्ट) करते हैं। लेकिन इज़्मान की तरक्की तो यही है कि भई उसके पास दर्दमन्दी हो, दूसरों के लिए दर्द हो, सब को देख के खुश होता हो, औरों की तरक्की से अस... (अस्पष्ट) न हो, खुशी हो। सब को रोटियाँ मिलनी चाहिएँ, सब इमानदार होने चाहिएँ, सब मेहनती होने चाहिएँ, अपने मुल्क से मोहब्बत होनी चाहिए। ये खूबियाँ हों तो ठीक है। वरना तो इमारतों का क्या... इमारतें...। तो इसीलिए हिन्दुस्तान में शायद लोग आते रहे हैं, और चीखते रहे हैं... और बड़ा... बड़ा गला फाड़ के ऊँची आवाज़ से कहते रहे हैं कि हिन्दुस्तान की

संस्कृति का कोई मुकाबला नहीं तो क्या इन इमारतों की वजह से तो नहीं आदमियों की वजह से। मानवता की प्रगती होनी चाहिए।

English translation:

- Once I was in Connecticut in [the] United States. So I was told that [the next day] ... [the] day [after that], there will (would) be snow falling. I went to New York and purchased some [winter] garments. And, really, it was the first time that I had seen that snow falling. I put on my all (all my) shoes and garments and cap and I went out. So, in countryside beside the road I was going on foot. One police car applied the breaks ... (mimics the sound of breaks being applied) cheeeew ... and asked me, "Where is your car?" "I don't have my car." "Oh, I see." They again ... (unclear). Like that I hope this country will become.

- You hope this country will not become like this (this way)?

- I beg your pardon?

- You are saying that this¹ should not happen in India.

- No, the question is not whether or not this should happen. This is going to happen.

- This is going to happen ... in Delhi?

- This has already happened in Delhi. So this ... no one can possibly stop that [from happening]. So many overseas have been constructed ... I don't understand how a pedestrian can go from one bus-stop to another. It seems like everyone must have a car now, like the example I gave. The policemen asked me, "Where is your car?" I ... "I don't ..." "Oh I see," – so that's a new thing for them. So this is going to happen. As for the rest ...

- So what do you prefer? Would you like the Delhi of old, where all the villages were, or the way that Delhi is now ...

- I love people more than I love buildings. Those ... those big buildings ... where men don't even talk to other men, where they hate each other ... so, that we don't want. Do we? So we want that where there is a spirit of openness, where there is love, [and] kindness; where there is polite speech ... as for the rest ... that isn't to be seen ... There are tall buildings; but how can one love buildings? When we see these buildings, it feels like we [ought to] set fire to our huts. When we see these buildings, it feels like we ought to remove our huts from sight. So, now, we can call this either good or bad only when, let's say, humankind makes some advancement, [when] human beings advance, now the advancement of human beings ... these days I don't know ... how that ... how that is measured, how that is (unclear). But the advancement of a human being lies in, let's say, he has compassion, and sympathy for others, he is happy to see everyone, is not (unhappy?) on account of the advancement of others – he is happy. Everyone should have [food]² everyone should be honest, [and] hard-working, [and] should love their country. If these excellent qualities obtain, then that's fine; otherwise, what are buildings [worth] ... buildings ... So, perhaps this is why people continue to visit India, and to shout ... at the top ... at the top of their voices that there is nothing to match Indian culture. So, surely that is not because of these buildings, but because of the people.³ Humanity should make progress.

¹ ऐसा is 'thus' or 'like this.'

² The speaker says 'get bread'.

³ This is not a grammatical sentence, strictly speaking – the क्या is out of place. The speaker began a sentence like 'So, is that because of the buildings?' but finished with a declarative sentence.

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