

## A Barber

The first part of the video has no audio.

### Nepali transcript:

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: हजुर, तपाईंको शुभ नाम के?

हजाम: रबिन्द्र।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: हजुर, अनी यहाँ के गर्नु हुन्छ?

हजाम: ए, पेशा? कपाल काट्छु।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: कपाल काट्ने? हजाम?

हजाम: हजुर।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: हजुर, अनी यता पसल चाहिँ कता छ नी?

हजाम: यहिँ, गुहेश्वोरिकलमा।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: हजुर, अनी कपाल काट्ने बाहेक पसलमा अरु के-के गर्नुहुन्छ?

हजाम: खाली... Hair cut गर्ने, होइन? अनी facial massage गर्ने।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनी कपाल काट्ने चाहिँ कसरी सिक्नु भएको? तपाईंको बच्चा बेलादेखिको रुची हो कि?

हजाम: होइन। हाम्रो पेशै हो यो।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: होइन, तर कसरी सिक्नु भएको?

हजाम: यो... बाबालाई देखेँ...

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: हजुर।

हजाम: बुरुश, केंची सम्त्दा-समात्दा, काट्दा- काट्दा सिकेको।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: हजुर, अनी तपाईं यहाँ शहरको हो?

हजाम: होइन, म त India को हो।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: ए India ... अनी तय्सपछी, त्यहाँबाट यहाँ कहिले आउनुभएको? कती वर्ष भयो?

हजाम: मेरो त यहाँ ६ पुस्ता भईसक्यो।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: हजुर अनी यहाँ आएर कम कसरी सुरु गर्नु भएको पहिला? यहाँ आएर... त्यहीं थियो कि परिवारका मान्छेहरु?

हजाम: बुवा हुनुहुन्थ्यो। हजुरबुवा हुनुहुन्थ्यो।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: ए हजुर. अनी तपाईं India को भन्नुभयो होइन? अब उता भारतको गाउँको बारे केहि भनिदिनुस्न।

हजाम: गाउँमा त्यती घुमेकै छैन।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: ए...त्यती घुमेकै छैन?

हजाम: छैन।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनी, यहाँ काठमाडौँ शहर मनपर्छ?

हजाम: अब यहाँ जन्मेको म।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: ए हजुर...

हजाम: म त यहाँ जन्मेको।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: ए हजुर...

हजाम: सबै जहान जनामा चार जना दाजुभाई, तीनवटा दिदीबहिनी... सबै जना यहाँ जन्मेको।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: ए...सबै जना ... अनी त्यहाँ कतिको जानुहुन्छ? आफ्नो घर?

हजाम: वर्षमा एकचोटी।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: वर्षमा एकचोटी?

हजाम: अँ, १० दिन, १५ दिनकोलागि गयो।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: कसरी जानुहुन्छ?

हजाम: बसले

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: ए... बसले... बसमा कती दिन लाग्छ?

हजाम: यहाँ Night गयो भने, अली दुइ-तीन बजे पुग्छ।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: दुइ-तीन बजे? त्यस्तै चार-पाँच घण्टा?

हजाम: चार-पाँच घण्टा।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: ए... हजुर हुन्छ...

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: यहाँ बाट चाहिँ बिर्गज, बिर्गज बाट चाहिँ चितवन जिल्ला।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: ए... हुन्छ.. हजुर... धन्यवाद

### **English translation:**

Interviewer: *Hajur*<sup>1</sup>, what is your *shubha*<sup>2</sup> name?

Barber: Rabindra.

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<sup>1</sup> In this context, the word '*Hajur*' is used to address, and with that, acknowledge that the speaker is an elder. In other contexts, this word can be used to ask a person to repeat what they are saying in a formal way or to imply that you are listening to what a speaker is saying, especially if you're talking to a person older than you.

<sup>2</sup> The direct translation of '*shubha*' is 'auspicious' or 'good'; when people formally ask each other's name they say this as a sign of respect. It may also be related to the fact that name choosing ceremonies in Nepal are very auspicious occasions.

Interviewer: *Hajur*, and what do you do?

Barber: Oh... my job? I cut hair.

Interviewer: Hair cutting? Barber?

Barber: *Hajur*<sup>3</sup>.

Interviewer: *Hajur*, and where is your shop?

Barber: Near here, in Guheshworikal<sup>4</sup>.

Interviewer: *Hajur*, and what other services do you offer in your shop besides hair cutting?

Barber: Mostly just hair cutting, *hoina*<sup>5</sup>? And facial massages too.

Interviewer: And how did you learn how to cut hair? Were you interested in this when you were a young?

Barber: No. This is our job<sup>6</sup>.

Interviewer: No. But how did you learn it?

Barber: This, I watched my father.

Interviewer: *Hajur*.

Barber: I learnt by holding the brush and scissors and just practicing cutting over and over again.

Interviewer: *Hajur*. And are you from this city?

Barber: No. I am from India.

Interviewer: *Ae*<sup>7</sup>, India. So when did you come here from there? How many years has it been?

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<sup>3</sup> '*Hajur*', in this context, is used to acknowledge what the interviewee is saying in a respectful way and also shows that the interviewer is listening and following whatever she is saying.

<sup>4</sup> Guheshworikal is a name of a place in Nepal.

<sup>5</sup> The direct translation of '*hoina*' is no; in this context, it is to make sure that the person is following the story and to confirm something. For example, in English, the word 'Right?' is used to confirm something.

<sup>6</sup> In Nepal, there are still some castes that follow their familial jobs which they take on generation after generation. By saying "this is our job," he means that his family has been doing this for generations.

Barber: My family has already had six generations living here.

Interviewer: *Hajur*. So how did you start your work then? After coming here... or did your family members already start?

Barber: My father was here. My grandfather was here.

Interviewer: *Ae, hajur*. So you said you were from India, *hoina*? Now can you tell us a little bit about your village in India?

Barber: I haven't traveled to the village that much.

Interviewer: Oh, so you haven't traveled?

Barber: No.

Interviewer: So, do you like Kathmandu city?

Barber: I was born here.<sup>8</sup>

Interviewer: *Ae, hajur*.

Interviewer: I was born here.

Interviewer: *Ae, hajur*.

Barber: Everyone in my family... my four brothers and three sisters... All of them were born here.

Interviewer: *Ae*... Everyone... So how often do you go? To your home<sup>9</sup>?

Barber: Once a year.

Interviewer: Once a year?

Barber: *An*<sup>10</sup>. For ten or fifteen days.

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<sup>7</sup> 'Ae' is like an interjection. It can be used in ways similar to the word 'oh' in English. In this context, 'ae' is used to acknowledge and express understanding of the interviewee's statement. It can also be used to directly address someone, especially if you're trying to get their attention from afar, or it can be used to express surprise.

<sup>8</sup> The speaker's tone here, and his choice of words, suggests incredulity at having been asked the question. By saying "I was born here," he is indicating that of course he likes it in the city.

<sup>9</sup> By home, the speaker means to India.

Interviewer: How do you go?

Barber: By bus.

Interviewer: *Ae.* By bus. How many days does it take in a bus?

Barber: When you go by night bus, you reach at two or three o'clock.

Interviewer: Two to three o'clock? So four to five hours?

Barber: Four to five hours.

Interviewer: *Ae. Hajur.* Okay.

Barber: From here to Birgunj<sup>11</sup> and from Birgunj to Siwan<sup>12</sup> district.

Interviewer: *Ae. Okay. Hajur.* Thank you.

**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 every day. 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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<sup>10</sup> ‘*An/अं*’ is a colloquial word that is pronounced with a nasal tone. It is just used to agree to something, almost like saying ‘yes.’

<sup>11</sup> Birgunj is a name of a place (a city) in Nepal.

<sup>12</sup> Siwan is a name of a place in Nepal.