

Practicing Buddhism

Nepali transcript:

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: हजुर, अनी तपाइँ, हजुरको धर्मकोवारे अरुकेही भनिदिनुस्न।

पसले: धर्ममा हामी Buddhist हो, होइन। बुद्ध धर्म मान्छु, बिहान बेलुकी घुम्छु, त्यही हो।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनी यहाँ स्वयम्भुमा पुजा गरी राख्नु हुन्छ?

पसले: हजुर, पुजा त गर्छु बिहान बिहान।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: हजुर, पुजाहरू कसरी गर्नुहुन्छ एकचोटी भनिदिनुस्न।

पसले: पुजा त्यही हामी धेरै जस्तो Buddhistहरूको पुजा गर्छ, होइन। त्यो हारती माताकोमा मासुहरू राख्छ। बुद्धलाइ चाहीं मासु चल्दैन। त्यही पेंडाहरू, खिरहरू, फल्फुलहरू...

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: पसल बिहान कती बजेदेखी कती वजेसम्म खुल्छ?

पसले: बिहान आउँछु, यहाँ भजन गर्छु, भजन सिद्धाएर अनी ८, ९ बजेतिर यहाँ पसल राख्छु। बेलुका ६, ७ बजेसम्म राख्ने अनी फेरी पसल बन्द गरेपछी बेलुका भजन गर्नुपर्छ। हारती माताको भजन छ।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: ए, भजन गर्नुहुन्छ?

पसले: बिहान यता छ, उता हुन त त्यही ग्यारामरा भजन हो। बेलुका ६, ७ बजेदेखी १ घण्टा जती त्यहाँ भजन सिद्धाएर अनी फेरी तल घर जाने।

English translation:

Interviewer: *Hajur*¹, can you tell me something about your religion?

¹ *Hajur* – a word of respect used to address elders as well as people you don't know that well, which cannot be directly translated into English

Shopkeeper: We're Buddhists by religion, *hoina*²? I believe in Buddhist religion, I circle the temple in the morning and in the evening, that's it.

Interviewer: And do you always do *puja*³ in Swayambhu⁴?

Shopkeeper: *Hajur*⁵, we do *puja* in the mornings.

Interviewer: *Hajur*, can you tell me how exactly you do these *pujas*?

Shopkeeper: *Puja*, well, we usually do it as the other Buddhists do, *hoina*? We offer meat items to Harati Mata⁶. But for Buddha, we can't offer meat. We offer *peda*⁷, rice pudding, fruits...

Interviewer: What time do you open and close your shop?

Shopkeeper: I come in the morning, sing some religious songs. And after I finish participating in the singing ritual, I open the shop at around eight or nine. And then I close the shop around six or seven in the evening and then after I've closed shop, I again go to sing religious songs. The religious singing ritual for Harati Mata.

Interviewer: Oh, so you practice ritual singing?

Shopkeeper: In the mornings it takes place here, but even there it's almost the same kind of ritual. In the evenings, we start singing the ritual songs at around six or seven, which goes on for an hour and after we finish, we go home.

² *hoina* – the direct translation is no; when added at the end of a sentence, it is to confirm something, like a nuance. For example in English we add “right?” in order to confirm something.

³ *puja* – a ritual that is done while praying

⁴ Swayambhu – a Buddhist religious heritage site in Kathmandu

⁵ *Hajur* – in this context, it is a formal way of saying ‘yes’

⁶ Harati Mata – the name of a powerful goddess who is said to be in Swayambhu

⁷ *peda* – a sweet delicacy, made out of milk products

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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