

Nepali transcript:

सनिता: अनि धर्महरू चाहिँ के-के मान्छ
.....

मणिकृष्ण: हजुर?

सनिता: धर्मधर्महरू के-के मान्छ ?

मणिकृष्ण: अब पहिला चाहिँ, एउटा हिन्दु मान्थ्यो, होइन, अहिले चाहिँ 50 percent-50 percent भइसकेको छ।

सनिता: तिम्रो गाउँमा नि?

मणिकृष्ण: हजुर।

सनिता: एकसरी नि?

मणिकृष्ण: Christian ...अबत्यसमा चाहिँ, अब, कोही बिरामीहरू, यस्तो भुत-
आत्माहरू लाग्यो भने, होइन, Christianमा गयो भने केही खर्चहरू गर्न नपर्ने। अब,
पहिला त अब, थाहा नपाउँदा खेरि चाहिँ, यसो धामी¹हरूले अनि कबुल गर्ने,
एकजना....एकजना बिरामी मान्छे ...एकजना बिरामी मान्छेलाई केही भयो भने यति
हजारले म यसलाई निको पार्छु भन्थ्यो। त्यसरी खाने भएकोले, अनि, त्यसमा त्यो
ठाउँमा चाहिँ, अनि, एउटा स्वास्थ्य चौकी पनि नभएको कारणले, अलि टाढा-टाढा थिए,
अनि त्यही कारणले गर्दाखेरि चाहिँ आधी-स्वर चाहिँ Christian भइसके।

सनिता: अनि Christian(inaudible)... बारेमा चाहिँ कसरी थहा भयो नि गाउँ-गाउँमा ...

मणिकृष्ण: अनि Christianहरू पहिला गाउँमा त थिएन, होइन, यतै सहरमा बस्नेहरूलाई, 'यो
धर्ममा जाऊ, तिमिहरू निको नि हुन्छ, अनि तिमिहरूको आत्मा ...आत्माले नि शान्ति
पाउँछ' भनेर भनेका

¹ People in Nepal, especially villages, who are considered to have magic powers to heal people.

सनिता: प्रचार-प्रसार गर्दै हिँड्छ

मणिकृष्ण: हजुर।

सनिता: गाउँमै आएका कि ...

मणिकृष्ण: पहिला थिएन। यतैबाट ...सहरमै ...भक्तपुर²बाटै दुई-चारजना Christian भइसकेपछि ...अनि गाउँमा अहिले प्रचार हुन्छ। उता नि church मण्डल बनाइसकेका छन्, होइन।

सनिता: त्यसोभए, गाउँ ...अब...(inaudible)...यहाँ बसिराखेको गाउँको मान्छेहरूले थाहा पाए, अनि आफ्नो छिमेकीछर-छिमेकीलाई भने ...

मणिकृष्ण: हजुर, छर-छिमेकीमा भनेपछि ...उतै church बनाएर pastor एकजना खताइराखेको छ यताबाट। Pastor चाहिँ यहीं बस्नुहुन्छ। अहिले त एउटा भैंसी बिरामी भए नि pastorलाई बोलाउँछ। प्रार्थना गर्छ, निको भइहाल्छन्। दूध दिएन भने नि pastorलाई नि बोलाउँछ।

सनिता: अनि, अब, Christian धर्म त धेरैजसो अँग्रेजी नै बोल्ने ...English ... (inaudible)...मान्यता छ नेपालमा ...

मणिकृष्ण: हजुर?

सनिता: अँग्रेजी बोल्ने (inaudible)....केही मद्दत गरेको छ Christian धर्ममा आएपछि?

मणिकृष्ण: त्यस्तो केही छैन। हामी त, अब, त्यो, सबै, Bibleहरू नि सबै नेपालीमा नि छ, होइन, पूरै नेपालीमा छ। सबै नेपाली ...भजन गीतहरू सबै नेपालीमा छ।

सनिता: अनि दाइ-भाइहरू ...

मणिकृष्ण: हजुर, छ। म पनि धेरै भएको छैन, यो 2011देखि Christianमा गएको, दाइहरू, भाउजुहरू सबै गइसकेकोले ...अनि राम्रै छ जे होस्।

सनिता: अनि जे होस्, बाहिरबाट धेरै राम्रो ...

² Name of place

मणिकृष्णः धेरै राम्रो कुराहरु छ।

सनिताः तिमीलाई सबैभन्दा आफ्नो जीवनमा काम लागेको, अथवा जहिले याद आउने अर्थ,
Bibleमा भनौं, के चीज, के छ, याद छ?

मणिकृष्णः त्यसमायाद भएको चाहिँ त्यो, यसको भजनको गीतहरु नि छ, होइन। अनि
प्रार्थनाहरु छ।

सनिताः Bibleको चाहिँ कुन चाहिँ कथा तिमीलाई सबैभन्दा राम्रो लाग्छ? Bibleमा यति धेरै
कथाहरु छन्।

मणिकृष्णः त्यसमा अनि, त्यो... यसको सबसे मनपर्ने 'परमेश्वरको चोखो भिंडीमा' भन्ने एउटा
भजन छ, त्यो राम्रो छ।

सनिताः अच्छम लाग्यो मलाई... पचास percent मान्छेहरु नै Christian भइसक्यो...

मणिकृष्णः हजुर। त्यो हाम्रो जुन ...हाम्रो यो नौ number गा .वि .स³ .को छ, होइन, चार सय
चानचुन छ, दुई सय पच्चीसजना चाहिँ Christian भइसकेका छ।

सनिताः अनि

मणिकृष्णः त्यो दुई सय पच्चीसमा चाहिँ ग्रहण गर्ने चाहिँ त्यति भए, होइन, अब बत्तीस⁴मा ...दुई
वर्ष अब अथवा त्यसले पूरै ज्ञान नासिकेसम्म बत्तीसमा दिँदैन, होइन। बत्तीसमा
दिनेहरु चाहिँ झन् सयजना जति छन्।

सनिताः अनि... तिमीहरुको गाउँ मात्र हो कि, गाउँ वरिपरि पनि धेरै जस्तो Christianहरु छन्?

मणिकृष्णः अब, हाम्रो गाउँ चाहिँ, अब ...त्यति भए, होइन। दाँया-बाँयाको गाउँहरुमा चाहिँ, अब
जस्तै, दुई-चार घरमा एक-दुईजना, एक-दुईजना जस्तो ...जे होस्, घर ...एउटा-दुईटा
मात्र खालि होला घर Christian नभएको।

सनिताः अनि अब तिमीलाई गाह्रो भएन? अब, नेवार⁵बाट Christian बन्न

³ Abbreviation. Stands for Village Development Committee.

⁴ The best guess can be that he means the 32nd day of a particular month. In Nepali calendars, there are some months with 32 days.

⁵ A caste in Nepal. Newari people either are Hindus or Buddhists.

मणिकृष्णः होइन, हाम्रो जात गएको होइन। हामीले एउटा बिश्वास मात्र गरेको हो। जात-भात गएको होइन।

सनिता: घरमा, परिवारमा अब, सबैजना Christianमा नलाग्ला ...अनि गाउँमा Christian नभएको मान्छे र Christian भएको मान्छेमा चाहिँ भेदभाव

मणिकृष्णः भेदभाव हुँदैन। अब, त्यसमा चाहिँ, होइन, हामीले हरेक कामहरू गर्दा, होइन, हिन्दुको पनि काम गर्नुहुन्छ, होइन, तर Christianको पनि काम गर्नुहुन्छ, होइन। एउटा कुरा के हुँदैन भने Christianले चाहिँ एउटा रगत खाँदैन, होइन, रगत⁶ र प्रसाद भनेर दिएकीजेजुन ...तपाईंले जे चीज दिए नि, प्रसाद भने नि त्यो खाँदैन। मुख्य कुरा त्यही मात्र फरक हो। अरु सबै कुरा चल्छ। अनि जाँड-रक्सीहरू छोड्छन्। जाँड-रक्सीहरूदेखि लिएर धुम्रपानदेखि लिएर हरेक चीज ...लागुपदार्थहरू चाहिँ खानलाई Christianमा जानेहरू खान दिँदैन, खाँदैनन्। अनि त्यही कारणले गर्दाखेरि मान्छेहरू अलि बढेको छ। अब, त्यो ...कोही मान्छे चाहिँ नसामा परेको हुन्छ, होइन, त्यसलाई छोड्नको लागि गाह्रो हुन्छ भनेर अब, छ महिना, त्यस्तोको म्याद दिन्छ, त्यतिसम्ममा ...timeमा हुन्छ।

English translation:

Sanita: And what are the religions that you believe in?

Manikrishna: *Hajur*⁷?

Sanita: Religion....what are the religions you believe in?

Manikrishna: Now, before, like, one Hindu [religion] was believed in, *hoina*⁸, now, like, it's already been 50 percent-50 percent.

Sanita: Even in your village?

⁶ Blood drinking tradition, in Nepal, is unheard of. When he says 'blood,' the best guess can be that he means meat with blood.

⁷ '*Hajur*' is a term that essentially means 'you' but in a formal way. Nepali language has degrees of respect in it and the term '*hajur*' decrees the highest degree of respect. In this context, however, it is used to ask the speaker to repeat what she was saying in a formal, respectful way. Compare to the use of 'pardon' in English.

⁸ The direct translation of *hoina* is "no." In this context, it is used as a filler word 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.

Manikrishna: *Hajur*⁹.

Sanita: Oh...how come?

Manikrishna: Christian...now...in that, like, now, if any sick people, if they are being haunted by demons, *hoina*, if you are a Christian, there is no expense. Now, before, now, when it wasn't known, those wizards¹⁰ used to take them in, one...one sick person....if anything happened to one sick person then, by getting some thousand [rupees], I will cure them, is what they said. Because they used to eat up [our money] that way, and because of that reason, and, because there was not even one health post, they were a bit far away, and because of that, around half [of the people] have become Christians.

Sanita: And Christian... (*inaudible*)... how was it known about it in villages.....

Manikrishna: And Christians were not in villages before, *hoina*, here, to people living in the cities, by saying, 'Go to this religion, you will be cured...and your soul...your soul will be in peace,' they said...

Sanita: They advertise it...

Manikrishna: *Hajur*.

Sanita: Did they come to the village, or...?

Manikrishna: Not before. From here...in the cities... after two or four of them became Christians in Bhaktapur ... now they advertise in the village. There too, they have already made a church building, *hoina*.

Sanita: If that is the case, village... now... (*inaudible*)... the people living here, from villages, found out about it, and their neighbors... they told about it to their neighbors...

Manikrishna: *Hajur*, after telling their neighbors... by making a church there, they have found one pastor from here. The pastor lives here. Now, even if one buffalo is sick, they call the pastor, pray, they are cured! Even if it doesn't give milk, they call the pastor.

Sanita: Now Christian religion...a lot of speak in English...English... (*inaudible*)...that is the belief in Nepal.

Manikrishna: *Hajur*?

⁹ In this context, *Hajur*, is used as a formal way of saying yes

¹⁰ People in Nepal, especially villages, who are considered to have magic powers to heal people.

Sanita: To speak in English... (*inaudible*)... is there any help after becoming a Christian?

Manikrishna: There is nothing like that. We, now, that, all of the Bibles are in Nepali, *hoina*, it is all in Nepali. All Nepali... the prayers, songs are all in Nepali.

Sanita: And brothers and sisters...

Manikrishna: Yes, they're there. It's not been long for me too, I became a Christian from this [year of] 2011, my brothers and sisters-in-law, since all of them had already been ... and it's nice, whatever it is.

Sanita: And whatever it is, from the outside, it is very nice...

Manikrishna: There are a lot of nice things.

Sanita: That which has been the most helpful in your life, or the verse you always remember, let's say, from the Bible, what is that thing, what is it, do you remember?

Manikrishna: In that....what I remember is, that, there are its chants and songs, *hoina*. And there are prayers.

Sanita: Of the Bible, which is the story that you like the most? There are so many stories in the Bible.

Manikrishna: In that, and then, that... my favorite from it is, there is a prayer called 'In the way of the Lord,' that is nice.

Sanita: I am surprised... 50 percent of the people are already Christians...

Manikrishna: *Hajur*. That, our which... there are [people] from our No.9 Village Development Committee, *hoina*, there are four hundred and some people, two hundred and twenty-five of them have already become Christians.

Sanita: And...?

Manikrishna: Out of the two hundred and twenty-five, the ones who go for prayer, *hoina*, now, on the thirty-second... two years now, or they won't give on the thirty-second¹¹ if the person doesn't have the full knowledge, *hoina*. The people, being given on the thirty-second, are like around a hundred of them.

Sanita: And...is this only your village, or are there Christians around as well?

¹¹ The best guess can be that he means the 32nd day of a particular month. In Nepali calendars, there are some months with 32 days.

Manikrishna: Now, our village, like, now... that is it, *hoina*. In the villages to the left and the *hoina*, like, now, for example, in two or four houses, there are one of two, one or two like...whatever it is, home...there might only be one of two empty houses without Christians.

Sanita: And now, wasn't it hard for you? Now, to be a Christian from a Newar¹²...

Manikrishna: No, our caste didn't go away. We are just taking in a belief. The caste is not gone.

Sanita: In homes, families, now, all of them might not go towards being a Christian... and in villages, any discrimination between people who are Christians and people who aren't Christians...

Manikrishna: There is no discrimination. Now, in that, like, *hoina*, while doing each and every work, *hoina*, we do the work of a Hindu as well, but we also do the work of a Christian, *hoina*. One thing that won't happen is, Christians don't drink blood¹³, *hoina*, if the blood is given as food offered to the deity... what... which... whatever you give, even if it is said to be food offered to the deity, they won't eat that. That is the main thing. Everything else works. And they give up alcohol. From alcohol to cigarettes to every item... they don't allow people becoming Christians to do any form of drugs, they don't take it. And because of that reason, the number of people has increased. Now, that... some people might have hit their nerves, *hoina*, for them, to leave all of it, it is difficult, so, six months, that deadline is given, in that time... that time is there.

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¹² A caste in Nepal. Newari people either are Hindus or Buddhists

¹³ Blood drinking tradition, in Nepal, is unheard of. When he says 'blood', the best guess can be that he means meat, with blood.

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