

## Kathmandu Then and Now

### Nepali transcript:

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता – आज हामी यहाँ सोनाम जी सगँ छौं। हामी यहाँ शहरको बारेमा कुरा गर्ने हो। हुन्छ अब सोनाम जी नमस्ते होइन...

सोनाम – नमस्ते।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता – अनी तपाईं कुन शहरमा बस्नु हुन्छ?

सोनाम – म अहिले काठमाडौं मै बसीराखेको छु<sup>1</sup>। अनी यहाँ बसेको त धेरै वर्ष भइसकेको छ। लगभग चाहिँ नि बिस-पच्चीस वर्ष नै भइसकेको छ, यहाँ बसेको।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता – अनी तपाईं यहाँ चाहिँ बच्चा बेलादेखी बसेको होइन त्यसो भए?

सोनाम – हो। सानै बेलादेखी बसेको। खासगरी म चाहिँ नि हुर्केको चाहिँ पाचँ वर्ष सम्म उता तिबेतमा भएको थियो। पछि चाहिँ यहाँ नेपालमा आएको अनी म चाहिँ नि सानैदेखी भन्नु पर्यो अहिले सम्म। र बिचमा चाहिँ नि दिल्लीमा गएको थिएँ अनी पछि चाहिँ नि थिम्पु र बिदेशमा पनि गएको थिएँ। तर आखिर चाहिँ नि main कुरा के छ भने म चाहिँ यहाँ, के भन्नु पर्यो भने, अब काठमाडौं मै बसेको थिए। नेपाल मै बसेको।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता – हजुर अनी तपाईंलाई काठमाडौं कस्तो लाग्छ? कस्तो खालको शहर हो यो?

सोनाम – यो काठमाडौं भन्दाखेरी खास गरी के छ भने धेरै यसरी हेर्दाखेरी अब कुन समय हो भन्ने कुरा हो यो। अब बिस वर्ष अगाडी त काठमाडौं चाहिँ नि सानै थियो। घरहरू कम थियो। बाटोहरू पनि कम थियो। मान्छे पनि कम थियो। अनी त्यस बेला देखीको अहिलेको कुरा गर्नु पर्यो भने त धेरै बदलिसकेछ। त्यसमा चाहिँ नि भन्नु पर्यो भने अहिले त जनसंख्या पनि धेरै बडी सकेछ।

---

<sup>1</sup> The Sonam does not pronounce the full phrase 'बसीराखेको छु' / basirakheko chun (nasal tone) but rather pronounces it as 'basirachu'. This is done often while speaking quickly. It is similar to shortening 'want to' to 'wanna' in English.

त्यहाँ मान्छेहरूको चाहिँ के छ भने अब अहिले काठमाडौँमा चाहिँ बिस वर्षको समयमा मान्छेहरू थुप्रो आउँदै गर्थे। आउँदा आउँदा कहाँबाट आउँदो रहेछ<sup>2</sup> भने गाउँबाट आउँदो रहेछ, अरु शहरबाट नेपालको।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता – अनी उनीहरूको आउने कारण के होला?

सोनाम – अब उनीहरू आउने कारण चाहिँ नि के छ भने अब काठमाडौँ भनेको त हाम्रो चाहिँ राजधानी नै भयो। अनी यहाँ निर चाहिँ नि सरकारको चाहिँ नि officeहरू थुप्रो छ। अनी यहाँ चाहिँ नि व्यापारको चाहिँ नि officeहरू पनि सबै यहीं नै छ। यहाँ निर अब भन्नु पर्यो भने सबै चिज यहाँ छ। अब आफु गाउँमा बसिराखेको छ<sup>3</sup> भने गाउँमा चाहिँ नि त्यती सारो केहि पनि छैन। अब त्यहाँ निर चाहिँ नि रोजगार चाह्यो भने रोजगार पनि त्यती सारो चाहिँ नि हुदैन। अब गाउँमा बस्दाखेरी खेतीबारी बाहेक अरु केहि पनि गर्न नमिल्ने। अब अरुहरू सानो-तिनो चाहिँ नि गाउँहरू र शहरहरूमा चाहिँ नि पनि त्यती चाहिँ नि कामको समबन्धी, officeमा काम गर्न समबन्धी, त्यती सारो चाहिँ छैन। So, त्यही कारण मान्छेहरू चाहिँ सबै काठमाडौँमा चाहिँ नि कामको लागी आउने। अर्को चाहिँ के छ भनी, पढाइको लागी पनि आउनेहरू धेरै छ। अब गाउँ र सानो शहरहरूमा चाहिँ नि schoolमा पढने केटाकटीहरू सबै school S.LC (exam) सम्म सकेपछि, अब एउटा collegeमा जानु पर्यो भने, त्यहाँ उनीहरूको गाउँ र सानो शहरमा चाहिँ त्यती सारो राम्रो college नै हुदैन। अनी त्यसले गर्दाखेरी, काठमाडौँमा चाहिँ सबै college भइराखेको<sup>4</sup> हुन्छ।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता – अनी तपाइले भन्नुभएको<sup>5</sup> थियो अब बिस वर्षमा यहाँ धेरै बदली सक्यो, यहाँ काठमाडौँ, तर त्यो बिस वर्षमा विकास भएछ कि तपाइको विचारमा?

सोनाम – अब विकास त हुन त भइसकेको छ किनभने विकास भन्ने के हो भन्दाखेरी, अब अहिले चाहिँ हामीले यहाँ बाटो बनेको र घरहरू थुप्रो बनिराखेको<sup>6</sup> भने

---

<sup>2</sup> here too, the Sonam does not pronounce the whole phrase 'आउँदो रहेछ/ aa-un(nasal tone)-do rahecha'. He shortens it and pronounces it as 'aa-un(nasal tone)-do-re-cha'.

<sup>3</sup> See footnote 1.

<sup>4</sup> here too, the interviewer shortens 'भइराखेको/bha-i-ra-khe-ko' to 'bha-i-ra-ko'. See footnote 1.

<sup>5</sup> The interviewer shortens the word 'भन्नुभएको/ bhannu-bha-ye-ko' to 'bhannu-bha-ko'. See footnote 1.

<sup>6</sup> The interviewer shortens the word 'बनिराखेको/ bani-ra-khe-ko' to 'bani-ra-kha'. See footnote 1.

त्यसलाइ विकास भन्नु पर्यो भने त्यसलाइ विकास भयो भन्नु पर्यो। अब त्यो जस्तै पहिला दुइ-चार officeको सट्टा अहिले हजार वटा office खोली सकेछ। त्यो जस्तै पहिला-पहिला school मात्र थियो काठमाडौंमा... त्यती सारो college, एक- दुइ वटा college थियो। अब त्यो एक- दुइ वटा collegeको सट्टा अहिले यहाँ कती छ कती छ, मेरो विचारमा। मैले गनेको त छैन तर ६०, १००, २०० जति होला college, हुन पनि सक्ला<sup>7</sup>। त्यो एउटा भयो। अर्को एउटा के छ भने officeहरू त धेरै बडी सकेको छ। अब अर्को कुरा bankingमा कुरा गर्न पर्यो भने bankingमा पहिला-पहिला हाम्रो काठमाडौंमा दुइटा bank मात्र थियो, नेपाल राष्ट्र bank र बानिज्य bank, त्यो बिस वर्ष अगाडी। अब हुँदा-हुँदा पछि के भयो भने, अहिले चाहिँ लगभग १००, २०० bank र finance company पनि भइसकेछ। भन्दाखेरो, त्यो दृष्टिकोणले हेर्नु पर्यो भने यहाँ निर चाहिँ प्रगति त धेरै भइसक्यो होला।

### English translation:

Interviewer: Today we are here with Sonam *ji*<sup>8</sup>. Today we are going to talk about cities.  
Okay then, hello, Sonam *ji*.

Sonam: Hello.

Interviewer: So, which city do you live in?

Sonam: At the moment I live in Kathmandu. I have lived here for many years. I have lived here for about 20-25 years.

Interviewer: So that means you haven't lived here since you were a child?

Sonam: Yes, I have lived here since I was a child. Till the age of five I grew up in Tibet. After that I came to Nepal, so I have to say that I have lived here since I was young till now. In between I went to Delhi and later I even went to Thimphu and the West. But ultimately the main thing that I have to say, is that I have lived in Kathmandu. I have lived in Nepal.

Interviewer: Yes, and how do you find Kathmandu? What kind of city is it?

---

<sup>7</sup> 'सक्ला/sakla' is not a word, instead during speech it has been shortened from the phrase 'सक्छ होला/sakcha hola'.

<sup>8</sup> *Ji* is sometimes used to address people with respect. It is like using Mr. or Ms.

Sonam: Well, when we look at Kathmandu, we have to think about what time period we are talking about. Twenty years ago Kathmandu was small. There were few houses. There were few roads as well. There were few people as well. Since then, if we talk about now, things have changed a lot. With regards to this, the population has also increased a lot. With regards to population, in the past twenty years many people have come to Kathmandu. They have kept coming from villages and other cities in Nepal.

Interviewer: What do you think is their reason for coming?

Sonam: Well, their reason is that Kathmandu is the capital city. Here there are many government offices. Also, all of the business/trade offices are here. I would have to say, everything is here. If one is staying in the village, there really isn't much in the village. There if you need employment, there isn't much employment. When you are living in the village, there isn't much you can do apart from farming. Now, in other small [places]...villages and cities, work-related and office-related opportunities are lacking. Due to this, people come to Kathmandu to work. Others come for education. After boys and girls in villages and small cities have completed their S.L.C.<sup>9</sup> at their school, if they need to go to college, there aren't many good colleges in villages and small cities. As a result, all of the colleges are in Kathmandu.

Interviewer: You said that a lot of change has occurred in [the past] twenty years here in Kathmandu. However, do you think development has occurred?

Sonam: Well, development has occurred because when we talk about development... when we see the building of many roads and houses, then we have to call that development. Now, similarly, instead of having two to four offices, a thousand offices have opened. Similarly, earlier we only had schools in Kathmandu... there weren't many colleges, only one or two. Now, instead of those one or two colleges, in my opinion, we have an uncountable number of colleges. I haven't counted but there must be sixty, one hundred, two hundred colleges, there is a possibility. That's one thing. Another thing is that the number of offices has greatly increased. Another thing, if we talk about banking, earlier, twenty years ago there were only two banks in Kathmandu: Rastriya<sup>10</sup> Bank and Banijya Bank. As time passed, now there are approximately 100-200 banks and finance companies. Thus, through this perspective, a lot of progress has probably occurred here.

---

<sup>9</sup> S.L.C. stands for School Leaving Certificate. It is a series of exams that marks the completion of tenth grade, equivalent to the British system O-levels or IGCSEs. After this students normally go to eleventh and twelfth grade colleges.

<sup>10</sup> Rastriya means "National."

**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.

© 2013 Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and Five Colleges, Incorporated