

## Comparing Architecture and Temples

### Nepali transcript:

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: तपाईंले भनेकोथ्यो, त्यहि, थिम्पुमा चाहिँ उनीहरुको भुटानी *architecture*, भुटानी कला घरहरु मात्र हुदो रहेछ, अनि काठमाडौं मा कस्तो हुदो? घरहरु कस्तो हुन्छ? मन्दिर कस्तो हुन्छ?

सोनाम: हो, अब त्यो पनि कस्तो गजबको कुरा! काठमाडौं चाहिँ सबै बीचमा परिराको छ। कसरी बीचमा परिराखेको छ<sup>1</sup> भने- जनसंख्या पनि बीचमा, सहरको साइज अनुसार हेरे पनि, थिम्पु र दिल्लीको बीचमा परिराको छ। अब जब थिम्पु मा चाहिँ उनीहरुको पुरै चाहिँ पोशाक र घरहरु चाहिँ पुरै Bhutanese cultureमा चाहिँ गर्दा खेरि हाम्रो यहाँ काठमाडौं चाहिँ फेरी थिम्पु र डेल्लीको बीचमा नै परिराखेको छ। यता तिर चाहिँ नयाँ-नयाँ घरहरु पनि बन्ने, तर हाम्रो चाहिँ, पुरानो आकारको, हाम्रो नेपालीको घरहरुको स्थान र चाहिँ मन्दिरहरुको पनि बीच-बीचमा चाहिँ देख्दो रहेछ तर पुरै चाहिँ थिम्पु जस्तो चाहिँ छैन।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: किन?

सोनाम: आजकल त के भन्नु अब यहाँ निर चाहिँ, भन्छन् नि सिमानतिको घर बनेको चाहिँ, त्यस्तै खालको चाहिँ थुप्रो बनिराखेको<sup>2</sup> हुन्छ। अनि त्यसैको बीचमा चाहिँ मन्दिरहरु सबै चाहिँ हराएको हुन्छ; कहिले देख्ने, कहिले नदेख्ने। त्यस्तो चाहिँ भइराखेको छ<sup>3</sup>। डेल्लीमा भयो भने, त्यती साह्रो चाहिँ मैले चाहिँ देख्दै देख्दैन। सबै चाहिँ नयाँ घर हाम्रो चाहिँ, के भन्नुपर्यो, Indiaको *architecture* फाटफुट मात्र देख्ला, so, यनीहरुमा चाहिँ, तिनटामा चाहिँ यसरी फरक देखिराखेको छ।

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<sup>1</sup> The interviewee does not pronounce the full phrase 'परिराखेको छ/ parirakheko cha' but rather pronounces it as 'pariracha'. This is done often while speaking quickly. It is similar to shortening 'want to' to 'wanna' in English.

<sup>2</sup> The interviewee does not pronounce the full word 'बनिराखेको / banirakheko' but rather pronounces it as 'baniracha'. See footnote 1.

<sup>3</sup> The interviewee does not pronounce the full word 'भइराखेकोछ / bhai-ra-khe-ko-cha' but rather pronounces it as 'bhairacha'. See footnote 1.

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि, काठमाडौंको धेरै चिनेका मन्दिरहरुको बारे अलि कुरा गर्न, जुन चाहिँ पर्यटकहरुले हेर्न मन छन् ।

सोनाम: Oh...Okay...हस त...Okay...अब यसमा चाहिँ के छ भने धेरै जस्तो पर्यटक हरु हेर्न आउनु पर्ने सहर चाहिँ काठमाडौंमा आउने त्यसपछि भक्तपुर मा जाने, भक्तपुर भनेको चाहिँ त्यहाँ ठाउँमा चाहिँ घरहरु चाहिँ सबै चाहिँ पुरानो खालको चाहिँ घर बन्ने, धेरै जसो, लगभग अनि बासिन्दाहरुको पनि, पहिला जसरि बसिराखेको छ धेरै जसो त्यहि अनुसार चाहिँ, त्यति सारो चाहिँ बदलेको छैन। अब त्यहाँ निर चाहिँ मन्दिरहरु भयो, दरवारहरु भयो, यिनीहरु पनि धेरै चाहिँ स्पष्टसंग देख्दो रहेछ। अनि काठमाडौं भित्र नै अनि के छ भने यहाँ निर चाहिँ मन्दिरहरु पनि, दरबारहरु चाहिँ देख्दो रहेछ। So भन्दा खेरि, यसरी हेर्दाखेरि ठाउँ-ठाउँमा चाहिँ भन्नुपर्यो भने काठमाडौंमा चाहिँ त्यहाँ निर चाहिँ स्वयम्भु भन्ने ठाउँ छ, त्यो चाहिँ हाम्रो चाहिँ Buddhistको चाहिँ मन्दिरहरु चाहिँ एउटा सानो पहाडको माथि नै परिराखेको<sup>4</sup> हुन्छ। त्यसपछि बौध जनपर्यो भने त्यहाँ निर चाहिँ Buddhistको चाहिँ के भन्नुपर्यो भने हाम्रो stupa भन्छ नि त्यस्तो ठूलो एउटा चाहिँ संसारको सबभन्दा लगभग ठुलै खालको स्तुपा पनि भइराखेको छ। अनि चाबहिलमा गयो भने, हाम्रो चाहिँ यहाँ पशुपतिनाथको चाहिँ, हिन्दू धर्मको चाहिँ मन्दिरहरु चाहिँ त्यहाँ भइराखेको हुन्छ। अनि यहाँ धेरै जसो के आउँछ भने Indiaको पर्यटकहरु चाहिँ थुप्रो आउने। अब विदेशीहरु चाहिँ अरु देशबाट आउने मान्छेहरु सबै चाहिँ, यो सबै ठाउँमा घुमघाम जान्छ।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: हजुर, यो तिनटा-तिनटा सहरमा चाहिँ तपाइको बिचारमा तपाइलाई कुन धेरै मनपर्छ?

सोनाम: खास गरि भन्नु पर्यो भने, भेट्न, त्यहाँ हेर्न एक-दुई महिनाको लागि डेल्ली जान चाहिँ अलि रमाइलो नै लाग्छ अनि थिम्पु पनि जान लाग्छ तर बस्नलाई मलाई यहाँ काठमाडौं मै किनभने मौसमको अनुसार हेर्नु पर्यो भने यहाँ जाडो नि त्यति साह्रो जाडो छैन, गर्मीमा पनि त्यति सारो गर्मी छैन। अब यहाँ डेल्ली हेर्नु पर्यो भने उता चाहिँ धेरै गर्मी छ, बस्न नहुने, अब थिम्पु मा भयो भने क हुदो रहेछ भने जाडो महिनामा चाहिँ निक्कै जाडो रहेछ। So, भन्दाखेरि बरु चाहिँ ठीकै मौसममा भएको चाहिँ काठमाडौंमा त्यस्तो परिराखेको<sup>5</sup> छ। अनि त्यसमा चाहिँ

<sup>4</sup> See footnote 1.

<sup>5</sup> See footnote 1.

काठमाडौं शहर हेर्दाखेरि डेल्ली जस्तो त्यति ठूलो नभएर ठिक्क परेको हुनाले  
अनि थिम्पु अलिकति सानो भएर यता उता घुम-घाम गर्नुपर्यो भने घुमघाम गर्ने  
ठाउँ नभनेर सो भन्नाले मलाई चाहिँ काठमाडौं मै बस्नु मन लाग्छ।

**English translation:**

Interviewer: So you mentioned that in Thimphu we find houses only in Bhutanese architecture and Bhutanese culture. How are they [the houses] in Kathmandu? How are the houses? How are the temples?

Sonam: Yes, this is also very fascinating! Kathmandu is in the middle when it comes to everything. It is in the middle because its population and its size are in the middle when compared to Delhi and Thimphu. Whereas in Thimphu, all clothes and houses are rooted in Bhutanese culture, once again Kathmandu is in the middle between Thimphu and Delhi. Here [in Kathmandu] there are new houses being built, but we can also find places with old Nepalese style houses and temples. However, not all houses are completely traditional like in Thimphu.

Interviewer: Why?

Sonam: Nowadays, there are a lot of... how to say... “cemented” houses being built. Amidst these new constructions, old temples are getting lost; sometimes they are visible and other times, they are not. This process [urbanization] is happening, whereas in Delhi, I haven't seen a lot. Most houses are new. We can say that the [traditional] Indian architecture is hardly visible. So in between these three, these types of differences exist.

Interviewer: Then, can you talk more about popular temples in Kathmandu, the ones that the tourists like to visit?

Sonam: Oh, okay then. So the way it works—most of the tourists come to visit Kathmandu first and then they go to Bhaktapur. In the place called Bhaktapur, most of the houses are still built in traditional way. People who live there also adopt the same old style of living. Not much has changed. Here [in Bhaktapur] we can clearly see temples and palaces. Even in Kathmandu we find temples and palaces in different places. In Kathmandu, there is a place called Swoyambhu. It's a Buddhist religious place/temple which is located at the top of a small hill. Again, there is also Bouddha, a Buddhist stupa. It is one of the biggest stupa in the world. Again, if we go to Chabahil, we can find Pashupatinath, a religious Hindu temple. Mostly Indian tourists come in huge numbers. Most tourists who come from different countries visit all these places.

Interviewer: Among these three cities, which one, in your opinion, do you like most?

Sonam: To tell you the truth, to visit for one or two months, going to Delhi will be fun. Also, I will like to go visit Thimphu [for one or two months] too. But I prefer living in Kathmandu because if we look at the weather, it isn't too cold here in the winter and not too hot in summer. On the other hand, it is extremely hot in Delhi during summer. One can't even stay there. Thimphu is also too cold during the winter. So the place with the best climate is Kathmandu. On top of that, Kathmandu city is smaller [not as crowded]<sup>6</sup> compared to Delhi, which is better. Also, since Thimphu is smaller [than Kathmandu], there aren't a lot of places to go around and visit there. So, I prefer living in Kathmandu.

**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>6</sup> I have inserted "not as crowded" here because Mr. Sonam likes the fact that Kathmandu is smaller and less urbanized than Delhi. He implies benefits like it being less crowded because of smaller size and sees the smaller size of Kathmandu as a positive attribute rather than a negative one.