

Nepali transcript:

यहाँ मणिकृष्ण नेपालको काभ्रेपलान्चोक जिल्ला¹मा पर्ने आफ्नो बारेमा केही र आफ्नो गाउँमा जाने पहिरो समस्याको बारेमा बयान गर्दैछन्।

सनिता: तिम्रो नाम र कहाँ बस्छौ भनिदेउ न।

मणिकृष्ण: म..मेरो नाम मणिकृष्ण। म सूर्यविनायकमा बस्छु।

सनिता: तिम्रो पहिलादेखि घर यही हो कि कहाँ हो?

मणिकृष्ण: होइन। उता गाउँमा हो काभ्रेपलान्चोक जिल्ला।

सनिता: कति भयो काठमाण्डौमा आएर काम गरेको?

मणिकृष्ण: आएको कति...सोह वर्ष भयो। तीन वर्ष चाहिँ अन्तै बिताएँ। यहाँ चाहिँ बाह्र पुगेर अब तेह्रमा जाँदैछ।

सनिता: अनि कति जना छ त तिम्रो परिवारमा?

मणिकृष्ण: परिवार त छैन, सानो परिवार छ।तीनजना मात्रै छ।

सनिता: को को छ त?

मणिकृष्ण: अनि छोरो छ, अनि बूढी, म।

सनिता: अनि तीनैजना यतै बस्छ कि?

मणिकृष्ण: यतै बस्छ। हजुर।

¹ Districts, referred to as *Jilla* (जिल्ला) in Nepali, are administrative regions similar to counties in the US. Nepal is divided into 75 such counties and Kavrepalanchok (काभ्रेपलान्चोक) is one of them.

सनिता: कतिको गाउँ जाने गर्छ त?

मणिकृष्ण: गाउँमा त दशैं²मा एकताल मात्रै हो।

सनिता: तिम्रो गाउँको बारेमा केही भनिदेउ न।

मणिकृष्ण: हाम्रो गाउँ त धेरै विकट छ। पहाड जिल्ला छ होइन। हेर्नमा चाहिँ सुन्दर छ तर दुःख गर्नुपर्छ धेरै। अनि sideमा विश्वको secondमा पर्छ पहिरो ठूलो गएको छ होइन।

सनिता: पहिरो?

मणिकृष्ण: पहिरो।

सनिता: ए। कति भयो गएको?

मणिकृष्ण: त्यो खै पहिलैदेखि गएको हो भन्छ होइन। रोक्नलाइ चाहिँ धेरै त्यसमा धेरै लागत लाग्छ रे, पैसा।

सनिता: अँ।

मणिकृष्ण: झन्डै त्यो...यो तीन-चारवटा गा.वि.स³लाइ पुग्ने पैसाले पनि भयाउँदैन भन्छ।

सनिता: अनि के हरेक वर्ष जान्छ पहिरो?

मणिकृष्ण: अरब-खरब⁴...अँ। पानी पर्ने बित्तिकै जतिखेर नि हिउँद या वर्षा जान्छ।

सनिता: अनि मान्छेहरू त्यो पहिरो जाने ठाउँमा नै घर-सर बनाएर बसेका छन् कि?

² Dashain (दशैं) is the biggest festival celebrated all over Nepal. It is about 10 days long and involves a lot of religious ceremonies, festivities and food.

³ Ga. Wi. Sa (गा.वि.स) or VDC stands for Village Development Committee (गाँउ विकास समिति) which represents rural and small administrative regions within a district.

⁴ Arab- Kharab (अरब- खरब) is numbers based on South Asian Numbering system. One Arab = One billion and One Kharab = One hundred billion.^a Here it is used to indicate a large amount of money.

^a South Asian Numbering System. (2012). In *Wikipedia*. Retrieved December 19, 2012, from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Asian_numbering_system

मणिकृष्णः अहिले छैन यता। यता सबै डाँडा डाँडा sideमा चाहिँ आइराखेको छ होइन। तर नजिक नजिक नै छ घर, त्यति फरकमा छैन। दुइ सय मिटरको दुरीमा पर्छ।

सनिताः अनि कति को मान्छेहरू मर्दैनन् त हरेक साल पहिरो जान्दा खेरी त?

मणिकृष्णः पहिरो जान्दा तीनजना त बगाइ सक्यो पहिरोमा गाडेर। यसो हेर्दा चाहिँ सम्मै देख्छ होइन, त्यो हिलो जस्तो छ होइन। टेकोपछि चाहिँ खुट्टा चाहिँ धेरै तल, यति सम्म नै गाढिन्छ। यति सम्म गाढिसकेपछि चाहिँ माथिबाट ढुङ्गा आएर धलाइ दिन्छ अनि बगाउँछ। थाहै हुँदैन।

सनिताः तिमीले अनि त्यहाँ पहिरो आएको देखेको छ आफैले?

मणिकृष्णः छ, अहिले हामीहरू अहिले यस्तो समयमा गयो भने, आजभोलि असार-साउन⁵को बेला गयो भने सबैले देख्छ। यस्तो हुन्छ के-पानी आउँछ होइन, अनि एसो एकतिरबाट भ्यास्स धस्सिएर आउँछ अनि पोखरी जम्छ-जम्छ। ठूलो पानी आइसकेपछि तन्न भएपछि फेरि एकै चोटि हुत्तेर पोखरी फुट्छ अनि फेरि फूल भएर आउँछ।

सनिताः अनि त्यहाँ माथि नै के खोला छ कि ठूलो?

मणिकृष्णः माथि खोला छैन। खोला त सान-सानो हुन्छ। यो पानी आएपछि, आकशबाट पानी पर्यो कि...

सनिताः पानीपरेको पानी मात्रै जमेर नै पहिरो जाने...

मणिकृष्णः पहिरो जाने अनि त्यो पानी जमिसके पछि, दायाँ-बायाँको ढिस्को चाहिँ त्यत्तिकै तान्छ। त्यो ढुङ्गा नि यस्तो माटो जस्तै हुन्छ।

सनिताः त्यहाँको माटो के एकदमै मलिलो छ कि के हो?

मणिकृष्णः माटो होइन कि, ढुङ्गा चाहिँ ढुङ्गामा नसमात्ने माटो भएकोले होला। त्यो जस्तै खै के पो भन्छ, यस्तो घरहरू पनि लिप्छ गाउँतिर, त्यो ढुङ्गा जस्तो। टाकाचा कि के भन्छ। चूना⁶ जस्तै हुन्छ।

⁵ Asar-Shrawan (असार-साउन) are months in the Nepali calendar that correspond to June-July in the Gregorian calendar. This is the peak time of monsoon season in Nepal.

⁶ Chuna (चूना) is a form of limestone used to whitewash walls.

सनिता: नेपालमा त पहाडी क्षेत्रमा धेरैजस्तो पहिरो गइराख्छ।

मणिकृष्ण: अनि त्यसमा त्यहाँतिर हेर्न आउने बाहिरको मान्छेहरू आउँछन् निरीक्षण गर्नलाइ होइन, त्यो पहिरो निरीक्षण गर्नलाइ। अनि विश्वको secondमा पर्छ भनेर पत्रिकाहरूमा निकालेको थियो।

सनिता: ए। अहिलेसम्म सरकारले रोक्नलाइ खासै केही गर्न सकेको छैन?

मणिकृष्ण: सरकारले रोक्नलाइ खासै केही गरेको छैन। बरु त्यहाँ रोक्नुको सट्टा, रोक्नु भन्दा नि त्यो गा.वि.स को बासिन्दाहरूलाइ पैसा दियो भने...त्यो धेरै लागत लाग्छ, खरब-अरब कतिले नि पूग्दैन भन्छ। तलदेखि Dam बनाउँदै लान्दा खेरी माथि कुनासम्म पर्छ होइन। यति ठूलो छ कि, यो भक्तपुर area त पहिरो नै छ। त्यो फेरो छ नि, यस्तो बगेको ठाँउ यस्तो सिधा मात्रै होइन, यसो तेर्सो काट्दा मात्र पनि तीन घण्टा लाग्छ लगभग।

सनिता: ओहो ठूलो रहेछ। त्यसो बरु सरकारले चाहिँ त्यहाँबाट मान्छेहरूलाइ...

मणिकृष्ण: अँ मान्छेलाइ चाहिँ बसोबास अन्तै सारयो भने चाहिँ हुन्छ।

सनिता: अनि गाउँमा पहिरो जाने भएकोले बाटो पुगेको छैन कि?

मणिकृष्ण: बाटो चाहिँ पुग्यो। फेरि पहिरोको last मा चाहिँ बाटो पुगेको छैन, कच्ची रोड मात्रै छ तैपनि। अनि माथि सिरान सिरानमा पनि बाटो छ छन चाहिँ। दुइतिरै बाटो छ छन चाहिँ।

सनिता: तिनीहरू बाटो चाहिँ पहिरोले फरक पर्दैन?

मणिकृष्ण: अहिले पर्दैन, तल बगरमा भएकोले, त्यहाँ चाहिँ सम्म ठाँउमा भएको हुनाले। अनि त्यो अहिले वर्षामा त उता गाडी तर्दैन होइन, यता बगरबाटै फर्काउँछ, पारी जान्दैन। त्यो सबै बिगारी सक्छ, बिगाउँछ।

सनिता: ए। सरकारले नै गर्छ कि बिगार्ने?

मणिकृष्णः होइन, त्यो पहिरो चाहिँ खोलाले बाटो बिगाछे। अहिले कच्ची छ, पीच भएको छैन। पीच भयो भने, त्यहाँ Dam हरू बनायो भने त तर्छे होला सायद।

English translation:

Here ManiKrishna is talking a little bit about himself and the issue of landslides in his village that lies in the Kavrepalanchok⁷ district of Nepal.

Sanita: Please say your name and where you live.

ManiKrishna: I... My name is ManiKrishna. I live in Suryabinayak.

Sanita: Is this your original hometown, or where is it?

ManiKrishna: No. [My original hometown] is my village in Kavrepalanchok district.

Sanita: How long has it been since you came to Kathmandu and started working?

ManiKrishna: It's been sixteen years since I came here. I spent three years elsewhere. Here, it's been twelve years, entering thirteen.

Sanita: How many people are there in your family?

ManiKrishna: Family... no... I have a small family, just three people.

Sanita: Who are they?

ManiKrishna: I have a son, and my wife, and me.

Sanita: And do all of you live here?

ManiKrishna: We live here, yes.

Sanita: How often do you go to [your] village?

ManiKrishna: Village, only once in Dashain⁸.

⁷ Districts, referred to as *Jilla* (जिल्ला) in Nepali, are administrative regions similar to counties in the US. Nepal is divided into 75 such counties and Kavrepalanchok (काभ्रेपलान्चोक) is one of them.

⁸ Dashain (दशैं) is the biggest festival celebrated all over Nepal. It is about 10 days long and involves a lot of religious ceremonies, festivities and food.

Sanita: Tell us something about your village.

ManiKrishna: Our village is very remote. It's a hilly district. It's beautiful to look at but you have to do a lot of hard work. And on the side [of our hill], there is the second largest landslide in the world.

Sanita: Landslide?

ManiKrishna: Landslide.

Sanita: Ah. How long has it been [since it started]?

ManiKrishna: They say it's been there originally. Stopping it would require a lot of investment, money.

Sanita: Yes.

ManiKrishna: Almost like... they say even the money sufficient for 3-4 V.D.C⁹s would not be enough.

Sanita: So do you have landslides every year?

ManiKrishna: Millions-billions... Yes, whenever it rains, whether it is winter or summer, landslides occur.

Sanita: So are people building houses and living in places where these landslides occur?

ManiKrishna: [The landslide is] not here right now. Here near the sides of hills there is some landslide. But the houses are [fairly] close, not so distant. They are at a distance of 200m.

Sanita: So don't a lot of people die every year when the landslides occur?

ManiKrishna: Three people have been drowned when landslide occurred, buried in the landslide. When you look at [the ground], it looks flat, it's like mud. But when you step on it your legs go very deep, up to here is buried. After you are buried up to here, stones coming from above topple you and you get [overtaken]. You don't even know it.

Sanita: Have you seen the landslide yourself?

ManiKrishna: Yes. If we go right now, if you go at this time, today-tomorrow in Asar-Shrawan¹⁰, everyone can see it. Here is what happens: water falls down,

⁹ *Ga. Wi. Sa* (गा.वि.स) or V.D.C stands for Village Development Committee (गाँउ विकास समिति) which represents rural and small administrative regions within a district.

and then it falls hard on one side, thrusting into the ground, and collects into a pond. After there is a lot of inflow of water, the pond gets completely full and it bursts. Then again it starts filling up.

Sanita: Is there a big river upstream?

ManiKrishna: There is no river upstream. Also, the rivers are so small. It's after the rainfall, after the water comes.

Sanita: So just the water from rain collects to create a landslide?

ManiKrishna: Landslide occurs and while the water collects, land masses on the left and right are simply pulled into it. Even the stones are like soil.

Sanita: Is the soil there very soft?

ManiKrishna: Not the soil. Stones, it might be because the soil there cannot stick to the stones. [The soil] is like... I don't know what it is called. It is used to paint houses in the village, like that stone called *Takacha*, it's like *Chuna*¹¹.

Sanita: In Nepal, landslides usually occur in the hilly region.

ManiKrishna: Then there are people from outside who come to monitor, to monitor the landslide. They published in newspapers that this [landslide] was the second largest one in the world.

Sanita: Okay. Has the government not been able to do anything to stop this?

ManiKrishna: The government has not done much to stop [the landslide]. Instead of stopping it, better than stopping it, if they give money to local in the V.D.C... [Stopping the landslide] takes a lot of investment, even million and billions will not be enough. You have to build dams from the bottom and reach the corner on the top. It is so big that the area of Bhaktapur is like the landslide. If this is the base of the hill, there is the washed away part straight here. Just walking across this takes about three hours.

Sanita: Oh, that is big. So instead the government but [remove] people from there...

ManiKrishna: Yes, it will work if they just moved the residential areas of people.

Sanita: Because of the landslides have roads reached there?

¹⁰ Asar-Shrawan (असार-साउन) are months in the Nepali calendar that correspond to June-July in the Gregorian calendar. This is the peak time of monsoon season in Nepal.

¹¹ *Chuna* (चूना) is a form of limestone used to whitewash walls.

ManiKrishna: Roads have reached there. But again, there is no road at the end of the landslide, there is only a dirt road. Then on the top of the hill as well, there are roads. So there are roads on both sides [of the landslide].

Sanita: The roads, aren't they affected by the landslides?

ManiKrishna: Right now, no. [The road] is at the base near flat area. Also in monsoon, vehicles cannot reach the other side. They are returned from the flat side, they don't go across. It's all destroyed.

Sanita: Okay, the government destroys it?

ManiKrishna: No, the river from the landslide destroys the road. Right now it's all dirt road. Maybe if the road is pitched and dams are built around it, vehicles might be able to pass.

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