

## On Arranged Marriages

### Nepali transcript:

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि अब, यहाँ होइन? अब हाम्रो देशमा विवाहहरु<sup>1</sup> कसरी हुन्छ? अनि भन्दिनुस्न।

बिद्यार्थी: अब बिहेहरुको त आफ्नो-आफ्नै जात अनुसारकै आफ्नो-आफ्नै तरिकाले गर्दा हुन्छ, होइन? अनि हाम्रोमा चाहिँ यस्तो पहिला चाहिँ स्वयम्भर भन्ने हुन्छ, होइन? त्यसमा चाहिँ त्यहि अब घर बाटै त्यस्तो मिलाएर गरिन्छ। होइन? किनभने त्यसो आफैलाई छानेको मान्छेहरुसँग चाहिँ त्यस्तो, घरबाट allow गर्दैन। अनि त्यहि कारणले गर्दाखेरि चाहिँ त्यस्तो गर्छ। अनि स्वयम्भरहरु हुन्छ अनि त्यसमा चाहिँ धेरै त्यस्तो, केटाको sideबाट शगुनहरु ल्याउनु पर्ने हुन्छ होइन? मिठाईहरु त्यस्तो त्यहि कुराहरु ल्याएर अनि त्यसो गरिन्छ। अनि पछि चाहिँ बिहे भनेर नै त्यस्तो हुन्छ।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि त्यसपछि, अब, तपाईंले भर्खर भन्नु भयो, होइन? अब आमा- बाउले आफ्नो छानेको केटा धेरै मनपराउँदैन। अब त्यसैले अब धेरै जस्तो यहाँ देशमा मान्छेहरुले अहिले सम्म यहाँको युवाहरुले अहिले सम्म arranged marriage नै गर्छ?

बिद्यार्थी: त्यस्तो त अब हेरी-हेरी हुन्छ होइन? Allow गरेन... allow नगरेको cases हरूमा चाहिँ अब त्यहि घरबाटै छानेर त्यस्तो गरिन्छ तर कतिहरुले चाहिँ त्यस्तो आफुले छानेको मान्छेहरु सँग पनि बिहे गरिराखेको हुन्छ।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि तपाइको यसमा विचार के छ नि?

बिद्यार्थी: अब मलाई चाहिँ के लाग्छ भन्दा खेरि त्यो दिनुपर्छ जस्तो लाग्छ, होइन? अब condition हेरेर हुन्छ जस्तो लाग्छ। अब, in case, अब राम्रो केटा छ राम्रो familyको छ, त्यस्तो बाट छ भने चाहिँ परिवारले पनि त्यस्तो मान्नुपर्छ जस्तो लाग्छ।

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<sup>1</sup> The speaker pronounces 'विवाह/ bivaha' as 'bya' because when one is speaking fast this word is shortened frequently.

**English translation:**

Interviewer: And now, here, *hoina*<sup>2</sup>? How do marriages happen in our country? Tell me a little about it.

Student: Now marriages can be done with people from your own caste and the way it is done also depends on your own customs, *hoina*<sup>3</sup>? And, in our marriages, first we have something called *swayambhar*, *hoina*<sup>2</sup>? In that, everything is arranged from home. *Hoina*? Because here, people may not be allowed to marry with the people they have chosen for themselves. And because of this, they do that. And in *swayambhar*, *shagun* is brought from the groom's side, *hoina*? They bring sweets and other stuff for this ritual. And then they do the marriage ritual.

Interviewer: And after that, now, you said just now, *hoina*<sup>2</sup>? Parents don't really like the people chosen by their children. So do the youth here usually conform to arranged marriages?

Student: Those are on a case-by-case basis, *hoina*<sup>2</sup>? If they don't allow... In cases where they aren't allowed, another person is chosen for them by their parents, but in so many other cases people do marry the people they have chosen for themselves.

Interviewer: And what do you think of that?

Student: Now, I think that they should be given a chance, *hoina*<sup>2</sup>? But I think it depends on the conditions. Now, in case, now if the man is good, and he is from a good family, then in those cases, I think the family should agree to the marriage.

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<sup>2</sup> The direct translation of *hoina* is 'no.' In this context, it is used as a filler word. It may also be used to confirm a statement in the same way that the word 'Right?' is used to confirm something in English.

<sup>3</sup> In this context *hoina* is used to confirm a statement in the same way that the word 'Right?' is used to confirm something in English.