

CultureTalk Nepal Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Selling *Thankas*: Significance, Prices, and Business Arrangements

Nepali transcript:

नेपालीमा यहाँ अंतरवार्ताकर्ता थान्का बेच्ने एउटा पसलेसँग थान्काको महत्त्व र थान्का बनाउने artistहरूको कुरा गर्दैछन्।

पसले: मुख्य लामाहरूले बनाएको यो artमा शक्ति हुन्छ यसमा। अनि यो शक्तिमा चाहिँ¹ मान्छेले meditation गर्छ। त्यो ध्यान गरिसकेपछि त्यसमा एउटा शक्ति प्राप्त गर्छ। त्यसले मान्छेमा एउटा दीर्घजीवि प्राप्त गर्न सक्छ अनि मान्छेमा अनावश्यक विकारहरू आउँदैन, अनावश्यक सोचाइहरू आउँदैन। यसले गर्दाखेरी मान्छेहरूमा एउटा balance, के भन्छ, मनोवृत्ती विकास हुन्छ। अनि यसले मान्छेमा दीर्घजीवि बनाउँछ।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि एउटा थान्काको कति जति पर्छ?

पसले: यो थान्कामा साधारणतय एक हजारदेखि दुइ लाखसम्म जाने छ।²

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: दुइ लाखसम्म?

पसले: दुइ लाखसम्म जाने छ।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि हजुरले³ नि आफै बनाउनु हुन्छ?

पसले: होइन, हामी त अब खालि बेच्ने मात्रै हो, किनभने हामी व्यापारी मात्रै हो। बनाउने मान्छे चाहिँ artistहरू नेपालमै बस्छन्। उनीहरू चाहिँ एउटा team work मा बस्छन्। अनि त्यसमा चाहिँ १२-१५जना artistहरू हुन्छ, त्यसमा एकजना ठेकेदार हुन्छ। अनि उसले

¹ Words like 'चाहिँ/Chahi', 'अनि/Ani', 'न/Na' are 'निपात/Nipat' which are space filler words that appear frequently in Nepali. They tend to take on different meanings or no meaning at all based on the context and tone of voice when they are used. Especially in Nepali language spoken outside of the capital, 'निपात/Nipat' are everywhere.

² The prices are in Nepali Rupees (NPR), which is the Nepali currency. 1 USD ~ 80 NPR

³ Here, 'हजुर/hajur' is used by the interviewer to address the older interviewee.

सम्पूर्ण चाहिँ व्यवस्थापन गरेको⁴ हुन्छ। अनि एउटा थान्का बनाउँदा १५-२० दिनदेखि एक वर्षसम्म पनि लगाउँछ। अनि दुइ लाख पर्ने थान्काहरू चाहिँ झन्डै एक वर्ष लगाएर थान्काहरू चाहिँ गोडेको⁵ हुन्छ।

English translation:

Here the interviewer is talking to a shopkeeper selling *Thankas* about the importance of *Thankas* and the artists who make *Thankas*.

Shopkeeper: Mainly this art, made by the Lamas, contains energy. And people meditate in this energy. After people meditate, they get energy. This way people can get a longer life and they will not have any unnecessary negative behavior and unnecessary thoughts. This way people develop balance, or what do they say... a balance in the emotions of the mind. This makes people live longer.

Interviewer: And how much does a *Thanka* cost?

Shopkeeper: Generally a *Thanka* can cost from anywhere in between one thousand to two *lakhs*^{6, 7}.

Interviewer: Till two *lakhs*?

Shopkeeper: [Yes, the price of *Thankas*] goes up to two *lakhs*.

Interviewer: So do you make *Thankas* yourself too?

Shopkeeper: No, we just sell them, because we are just businessmen. The people making them are artists who live in Nepal. They stay together in a team. There are usually twelve to fifteen artists [in a team] and there is one contractor who manages everything. It takes [them] from fifteen or twenty days to almost a year to finish a *Thanka*. *Thankas* costing two *lakhs* take almost an entire year to make.

⁴ The speaker does not say the full word 'गरेको / gar-eko', but rather only pronounces half of it as 'gar-ya'. It's like shortening 'want to' to 'wanna' in English. The prefix '-ेको/ eko' is often shortened to '-या/ya' in colloquial Nepali. In formal Nepali writing, this would be considered an error.

⁵ The speaker does not say the full word 'गोडेको / god-eko', but rather only pronounces half of it as 'गोइया/god-ya'. See footnote 1.

⁶ 1 *lakh* = 100,000. So here, 2 *lakhs* = 200,000

⁷ The prices are in Nepali Rupees (NPR), which is the Nepali currency. 1 USD ~ 80 NPR

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