

Sher Singh Ghuman

Interviewer: Okay so pehlan tusi aavda poora naam das deyo? Te tuhadi janam kithey hoi te kadon hoyi, janam kehde saal ch?

Sher Singh Ghuman: English ch?

Interviewer: tuhadi marji aa, it doesn't matter.

Sher Singh Ghuman: Chalo mera naam Sher Singh aa, Sher Singh Ghuman. Mera janam 5 Feburary, 1947 nu... Pind Sanghredi, Jilla [District] te Tehsil Sangroor, Punjab.

Interviewer: Okay theek aa. Te tuhade mummy daddy da naam ki si?

Sher Singh Ghuman: Meri mummy da naam Dalip Kaur te pita da naam Sardar Atma Singh

Interviewer: Atma Singh?

Sher Singh Ghuman: Atma Singh Ghuman

Interviewer: Te ohna di umm janam pata kehdey saal hoyi

Sher Singh Ghuman: no no ...

Interviewer: Tusi aapne pariwaar baare madha jeha das deyo. Tuhade bhain bhra kine aa?

Sher Singh Ghuman: mere mere 3 bhra 3 bhaina. 1 bhain di meri death ho gayi, 2 bhra ne te matlab meri wife, mere 2 bache ne ik beta ik beti. Beti high school teacher aa India ch te beta vi high school teacher si oh ethey rehnda te ik meri nooh [Daughter-in-law] aa, ohda naam Karvir Kaur aa, oh LPN da kaam kardi aa. Te 2 mere... ik mera grandson aa ik granddaughter aa. Grandson da naam Manvir Singh aa te ohnda naam Jaspreet Kaur Ghuman, ohda naam Manraj Singh Ghuman

Interviewer: Theek aa. So tuhadi kudi ik kudi India ch rehndi aa, baaki family tuhadi ethey aa

Sher Singh Ghuman: Bas ik ladka ethey aa bas

Interviewer: Bas ik ladka ei aa ethey okay theek. Te umm tusi kehdey saal ch pehlan Canada aaye te mahina [Month] je date da vi yaad aa tan das deyo

Sher Singh Ghuman: main everything das doonga. Main 2 May, 2005 vich Canada aaya si, after my retirement.

Interviewer: After retirement, okay.

Sher Singh Ghuman: High School teacher, language teacher punjabi language teacher

Interviewer: So tusi umm English sikhonde [taught] si ke language...

Sher Singh Ghuman: nahi Punjabi language metric tak, high school tak.

Interviewer: okay, kehde high school ch?

Sher Singh Ghuman: Senior Secondary School, Gharachon

Interviewer: Okay theek aa, te jadon tusi aaye Canada so 2005 thode saal hi hoye 5 saal ho gaye

Sher Singh Ghuman: 5.5

Interviewer: Te tuhanu kivein lageya jadon pehlan din pahunchey tusi Canada, ke lageya Canada baare, jee lag gaya ke nahi?

Sher Singh Ghuman: Pehlan din tan mera bilkul jee nahi lageya, te main 11 maheene [months] baad chaleya gaya si ethon te mudhke saal baad aaya si. Matlab kyunki eh jehda desh aa ehey naujavana [young people] da desh aa, eh bajurgan [old people] da desh nahi te kyun ke ethey aa ke bande nu koi na koi kaam labour karni paindi aa. Yan

je doosra kam bhaley [search] tan ohnu training aa, training di umar langhi hundi aa, ess karke labour bahut mushkil aa. So hard.

Interviewer: So jaden tusi pehlan aaye si tuhanu labour da kam karna peya

Sher Singh Ghuman: han labour da kam karna peya

Interviewer: te aukha [hard] lageya si kyunki tusi teacher hunde si, thats right.

Sher Singh Ghuman: han teacher si

Interviewer: so 11 maheene [months] magron tusi wapis chale gaye

Sher Singh Ghuman: wapis India chaley gaye

Interviewer: fer wapis kahton aaye?

Sher Singh Ghuman: Wapis fer ik mera parivaar ethey si, sau samaseyawan [problems] hundiyan aa pariwarik samaseyavan hundiyan, ohna de kaaran mainu aauna pai gaya

Interviewer: te hun tusi retired hi aa? Hun ta nahi kam-kum karde?

Sher Singh Ghuman: Mahda-mota [a little bit] kar laine aa, berry todh laine aa

Interviewer: todh laine aa berry

Sher Singh Ghuman: berry todh laine aa

Interviewer: garmiyan ch [in summer]?

Sher Singh Ghuman: garmiyan ch

Interviewer: okay theek aa

Sher Singh Ghuman: Te main aaye saal India jana aa

Interviewer: harek saal [every year]?

Sher Singh Ghuman: winter ch othey te garmiyan ch ethey

Interviewer: acha acha okay. So jadon tusi actually answer kar tan mahda-mota but jadon tusi pehlan Punjab toh gaye tuhanu kivein lageya si ke main Punjab chad ke jaa rahe aa tuhanu dil tan ghataya tan nahi tuhada ke tusi punjab chad ke jaa rahe ho?

Sher Singh Ghuman: Dil tan bahut ghataya si mera, main ethey aa ke kush nahi si kyun ki main aavde desh nu bahut pyaar karda te main othey jameya paleya. Mainu oh mitti naal moh aa jehdi mitti ch main khedeya, ruleya te ohna mere mitar dost jihna naal chotey hunde khedeya ohna naal kam kitan, jihna naal padheya, jihna naal padhaya, te jehde aavde bacheya nu padhaya. Jehre mere bachey si, mainu aavde bache jehde school student si, oh mainu aavde bacheyan wangu change lagde si. Hun vi lagde ne change.

Interviewer: Acha hun jaa ke milde hundey aa

Sher Singh Ghuman: hanji hun vi milda. Oh mainu mil ke bahut kush ne. Main jehde school ch 5 saal high school padheya, ossey school ch main 30 saal padhaya magron te ess karke mainu os school naal bahut pyaar aa. Jad main India janna huna school nu kuch na kuch de ke aaunda. Kyun ki main jihna chir othey padhaya, meri ik hobby si jehde gareeb [poor] bachey ne ohna di help karni, kisey nu kitaban di lodh aa, kisey nu kapdeyan di lodh aa, matlab vi... khas kar kudiyan nu tan main je hat jaande tan gharon lai aaundey si jaa ke. Kyun ki mera pind si nede othey naal hi, te lok othey mainu proper matlab vi bacha samajhde, matlab aavde bhain bhra samajh de si. Es karke hareek ... jehda kudiyan, mostly kudiyan jihna de gharon problem hundi oh aavde teachran [teachers] kol nahi jaandiyan si mere kol aaundiyan si, kyunki ohna nu pata si ehey hal kar den gaye saadi samaseya [problem] da. Main ohna nu kayi waar puchna vi tusi

madaman [lady teachers] nahi kol, kehnde oh tan saadi sunde hi nahi. jehda sunu ga os kol hi javan gaye.

Interviewer: Umm so jadon tusi pehna pahunchey, so Vancouver ch hi pehlan rehnde si?

Sher Singh Ghuman: Nahi ethey Abbotsford ch si

Interviewer: Abbotsford ch hi sidhey aa gaye

Sher Singh Ghuman: Vancouver toh utrey te Abbotsford aa gaye si

Interviewer: theek aa te tusi kam-kum pehlan ki-kuch kita, jadon ki kam karan lag paye ke thoda chir baad

Sher Singh Ghuman: nahi thoda chir baad 2-3 maheene baad berry todi

Interviewer: berry todi okay theek aa

Sher Singh Ghuman: 2, 2.5- 3 maheene

Interviewer: kehnde farm ch kam karde

Sher Singh Ghuman: Bhajan Kaur da farm aa Mogey Waleyan da

Interviewer: Acha theek aa te aukhan lageya kam

Sher Singh Ghuman: Bada aaukha si main tan matlab oh din kehda jidan roeya [cried] nahi si

Interviewer: thekedar [contractor] de through

Sher Singh Ghuman: nahi sidha, main thekedar de through kam nahi karda, kyunki main othey left wing naal sambandh rakhda, log matlab vi... lokan de hamaiyti ne is karke main thekedari system nu wadiya nahi manda.

Interviewer: Acha theek aa, umm ho kuch tan nahi kam-kum kita tusi?

Sher Singh Ghuman: Nahi bas mere .. farm kam hi kita

Interviewer: Okay theek aa umm okay so jadon tusi aaye Vancouver tuhanu ki kuch aaukha lageya. Ik tan tusi das ta tuhanu kam karna aaukha lageya, labour da kam karna peya, par hor kehdiyan adjustments tuhanu karne paye jehde tuhanu aaukhey lage

Sher Singh Ghuman: nahi ethey na jehda hai na pata ki aa eh matlab pehlan das ke hateya ki eh young person da desh aa

Interviewer: Oh explain kar deyo mada jeha

Sher Singh Ghuman: Ethey ethey jo lok ne, oh ethey matlab social life bilkul nahi haigi, jehde asal ethey lok bahute money minded ne matlab ummm kuch sama pehlan jo jo manukh mashini yug ban gaya ohdu pehlan machinei yug nahi si... jindagi bahut sukhi si odon

Interviewer: Machine gun?

Sher Singh Ghuman: Machinie yug, tusi samajh gaye bhi caran [cars] aa gayiyan, tractoran... pehlan saara kuch hathan naal hunda si. Odon manukh diyan lodhan bahut ghat si: bijli da bill nahi si koi, telephone da nahi koi, koi.... gal da kharcha nahi si. Bilkul simple life si bade araam daar life si te hun jivein jivein machinei jug banda ehde kaaran eh bande diyan lodhan wadh gayiyan, wadh lodhan [needs] waste wadh paise di lodh aa. Pehlan istri [women] bahut ghat kam kardi si hun husband te wife dovien kam karde ne tan roti-paani chalda, par matlab bi es main samjh da vi es samey ch istri badan peedi jaandi aa kyunki ohnu naale brabar kamaunaa painda te ghar da vi saara karna painda.

Interviewer: Te ethey naale senior-programs hain nahi, bahla kuch hai nahi ke seniors vi kuch kar sakde

Sher Singh Ghuman: han senior da nahi han

Interviewer: Oh vi chahida aa

Sher Singh Ghuman: Main vi fer vi ethey specially kam ethey senior citizen
jathaybandiyan banaiyan, ohda main secretary vi reha, hun vi main ethey...

Interviewer: Kahda secretary?

Sher Singh Ghuman: Indo-Canadian Senior Citizen te hun vi ... ethey saada hobby aa
jehde hun center ch certificate karaunde ne ja ke, ohde waste yaan lokan asi jaa ke
lokan Vancouver toh kar laine aa ja ke khate khate collect kar laine aa, form-furm bhar
laine aa te ja ke bana lai aaune aa othon

Interviewer: Jehde consulate toh visa...?

Sher Singh Ghuman: Han hor vi meri jehdi hobby aa, bajurag nu lodh aa doctor de yaan
hor jini k help aa main kar dini aa, hobby aa meri mainu ehdey chon kushi hundi aa

Interviewer: Hanji doosreyan nu madat karan nu

Sher Singh Ghuman: han main ehde badley kisey toh kuch lainda nahi ga, na saari
jindagi pehlan India laye, bahut kuch kita. Lokan, bacheyan wastey hor bajurgan
wastey, meri hobby aa mudh toh

Interviewer: ethey vi koi charity da kam karde aa tusi? Tusi kehndey tusi India tusi nikey
bacheyan nu help karde hunde si

Sher Singh Ghuman: Ethey vi hun, ethe tan hun no enna nahi, othey tan hun sada
school baneya... yan aavdi jeab [pocket] chon yaan mere saathi hunde... mainu dekh ke
oh keh dindey... aah paise mere tan kara de yaan pindan wale jehde... sajan aaunde
kehnde saade bacheyan nu wardiyan paauniyan ne ohvi madat kar dinde hunde si. Oh

ethey eha jeha kuch hai nahi . Os tarah meri non-paiseyan wali jehdi support hai main
oh kar dina jehdi matlab lodhmand hai jinna k main kar sakda aa

Interviewer: aacha theek aa. Te tusi kehnde tusi harek saal jaande sayaal ch india,
umm kahton jaande tusi wapis?

Sher Singh Ghuman: Mera ethey dil nahi bahuta lagda

Interviewer: Haje tak vi nahi, dil nahi lagda? no. Umm.. tusi Canada ch kithey rahey aa
te tusi hun kehde naal rehnde aa

Sher Singh Ghuman: main matlab ethey hi reha aa Abbotsford. Te main, mera beta,
meri nooh, meri wife, te bacheyan naal rehna

Interviewer: te pota- poti?

Sher Singh Ghuman: Pota-poti vi

Interviewer: donney [both] pota-poti

Sher Singh Ghuman: han

Interviewer: okay good. Jadon tusi aaye tuhanu koi discrimination face kita like racism?

Sher Singh Ghuman: nahi mainu racism kade nahi no. No no never

Interviewer: Tusi jivein bahar boohar jaane hune aa? mall ch firde hunde aa, jithey
gorey hunde aa othey jaande hunde aa?

Sher Singh Ghuman: Main har than janda

Interviewer: Te kade vi nahi koi,

Sher Singh Ghuman: main ohna naal galan karda bacheyan naal bahut. Jithey
mainu student mil jaande othey main bahut galan kardan te bachey kush hunde ne
bahut

Interviewer: Storan ch vi ... tusi jaande hunde aa, te koi nahi tuhanu kade feel nahi hoeya

Sher Singh Ghuman: Storan ch lodh unsaar, u bahuta nahi aayien vii, matlab je naa lodh hovey fer nahi. Lodh aa koi cheez laini aa yaan koi cheez dekhni aa khareedni aa fer jaane aa

Interviewer: So tuhani ayein lagda ke loki change aa vaise like racist ghat loki aa

Sher Singh Ghuman: Punjabiyan nalon ure wadhiya ne. Jehde saade ure Punjabi ne, ethon jehde ethey de lok the best ne. Saade punjabiyan nalon

Interviewer: acha okay its good.

Sher Singh Ghuman: nahi reality aa ehe

Interviewer: te umm so tuhadi social life kaise aa. Tusi gurudaware bahla chir rehnde aa, gurudaware kam kum karde aa, eh tuhadi social life aa ke tusi hor kuch vi karde aa

Sher Singh Ghuman: hor kuch main dasda je kisey nu dawayi dawauni aa ...je kisey nu dasna je doctor kol jaana yaan hor kuj cheej ... kayi bande anpadhan nu khareedni nahi aaundi store jaa ke naal khareed leaune ohde

Interviewer: tuhade kol license hai gi aa

Sher Singh Ghuman: no, bus da pass

Interviewer: Oh acha bus tusi dekha dinde hunde bus ch jaa ke

Sher Singh Ghuman: Okay ethey main touran te ethey aapne kabadi ch kudiyan ne 2-3 kabadi ch tour lava ...

Interviewer: Kehdi tour gurudaware di?

Sher Singh Ghuman: no no community center nahi aapne

Interviewer: community center?

Sher Singh Ghuman: downtown ch

Interviewer: Abbotsford Community Center

Sher Singh Ghuman: Han han othey aapniyan kudiyan de 2-3 tour vi lava te, main Victoria vi jaa ke ... ethey kyun ki main ghumeiya mera friend aaya si Victoria gurudawara ethon phone kara ta. mere mera matlab main bande nu thode chir ch hi avada matlab ghul-mil jana. Othey asi 1 hafta rahe ke bada aanad leya

Interviewer: okay chalo wadia. Te jehda purana gurudawara historic site gurudawara tusi jaande hunde aa te kadon kadon jaande hunde aa tusi?

Sher Singh Ghuman: haan beta jaanda. Kade kade jaande aa, nit nahi

Interviewer: So gurudawara nit hi khula hunda,

Sher Singh Ghuman: han nit khula hunda

Interviewer: acha kyun ki asi kehnde si jaan nu par saanu pata nahi si ke khula hunda.

Kafi loki jaande hundey ke tusi jaande hunde dekhon

Sher Singh Ghuman: nahi jehde baharon lok aaunde ne oh jaande ne. Ethey na matlab hareek apne jide hunda aapne ummm ke kehde ne matlab aapna mahene da pehla din?

Interviewer: Sangrandh

Sher Singh Ghuman: Sangrandh aale din othey path da bhog paya jaanda aa

Interviewer: Acha othey painda

Sher Singh Ghuman: Othey painda, savere othey painda sham nu ethey painda

Interviewer: acha

Sher Singh Ghuman: te bahron dekhon waleyan nu dikhonde vi aa tuhade university deyan jehdiyan kudiyan aaundiyan ne cha paani peya dine aa bajurgan nu char k

waje cha bana ke peya dina do k waje vi peya dae dia. Ehna naal gurudaware saahib naal vi help parchiyan purchiyan katan di yan hor kam di yan bhande thon di, oh vi kar laina aa madi-moti bahuti nahi. jina k matlab vi kar laine aa ... ohde ch matlab mainu sakoon milda

Interviewer: Acha te tuhanu ki lagda ke pehlan di gal, like past jivein kidan hunde si jivein India even Canada kyunki Canada bahla chir hoeya nahi aayan nu par India ch for example jodan tusi chotey hunde si hun farak ki pai gaya jivein..

Sher Singh Ghuman: India da?

Interviewer: India da hovey yaan ethey da hovey kyun ke tusi ethey hunde nahi si jadon...

Sher Singh Ghuman: nahi oh tan mainu pata ... main padheya likheya aa, gadar party baare padheya, mera gadri babe ethon gaye si desh aazaad karaun waste.. ohna da jeewan main saara padheya aa... main kafi kuch jivein ethey padheya Canada de jeewan baare Canada di... Jehda na India pehlan ... kyun ki lok ginti ik tan aabadi ghat si

Interviewer: ginti?

Sher Singh Ghuman: abadi ghat si, population ghat si India te us karna... lodan ik dooje parati sambhandit si jis tarah pind ik ... jutiyan ghat lainde si chamiyaar te oh matlab kheti badi di madat, jalaye kapade bunde hunde si, chor pani bharde hunde si. Jis tarah na samajik nirbhar si iss kar ke moh si, hun oh... machinei na ta vi ghar da kapda jalai kapda bunde hunde si na oh system rahe hi nahi hai ik abadi wadh gayi ik lodan wadh gayiyan jehde kaaran matlab lokan ch matlab na pyaar bhavna khatam ... bahuti hundi hai

Interviewer: ki hundi hai?

Sher Singh Ghuman: matlab khudgarji bahut hundi aa. Main tuhanu choti ji gal dasan lage aa, jehnu tusi jindagi ch yaad rakhon gaye eh jehda money haiga ehey bande waste lodan waste baneya par es jamane ch bahute lok paise waste ban gaye, paise magar bhaj de ne..... kudiyan munde viaah kara lainde ne paise lai lainde ne very bad eh saadi jehdi community aa na babe nanak di diti thirak gayi oh ton so many matlab jehda dharam bandeya nu ki sihkonda aa umm wadiyan jeewan jeaun da tangh sihkonda parantu hun lokan da dharam tan ik kagji karwai reh gayi ... bura haal aa. Mainu jivein ik din community center waliyan kudiyan safai kardiyan si mill lake te main sair karda si mere nal gali pai gaiyan mainu kehndiyan oh kida vi ... jehde India jaande ne main ohnu daseya ki oh paise de ke viaah karon -- very bad. Ehe gallan bahut madiyan gallan ne

Interviewer: Hanji sahi gal aa. Okay well eh saare question puchane si, je tusi hor kuch kehna das deyo

Sher Singh Ghuman: nahi bas.