**First Meeting With Ishfaq Musalli At His House 060810**

**(01:24:03)**

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| **Name** | **Translation** |
| Hasnain | It is seen. Otherwise we can find him by luck *qismat se miltey hn.* They say that the fragrance continued to come for many days. *Koi hisaab nahi.*  When people go there without abulation then the fragrance stops coming.  Light.  Now they have put glass in front. I will take you to *Suhawa* someday. |
| Ashfaq | We have also seen in *Suhawa.* |
| Hasnain | *Suhawa…* there is *Akhtar* hotel there… *Chakwaal mor…* the house is just near it. *Wo Golra Shareef waley peer hn.*  He is *gaddi nasheen.* That is something else. |
| Manzar | Yes. There is a board saying peer ud Deen Shah. |
| Hasnain | That is of *Golra Shareef’s.* |
| Manzar | Yes. |
| Hasnain | My cousin (*mamun ka beta)* told me that fragrance is still comes from there.  Still that soil gives off scent. |
| Manzar | Yes, exactly. |
| Ashfaq | It’s not like *idhar se dekha udhar chala gaya.*  He said I will not let you go… I will go after taking *kunday..* |
| Manzar | Laughing. |
| Ashfaq | Laughing.  You know our *Saabir,* he works in *kothi*. He says..  One of them was *shi’a* and the other was *sunni.* They placed a bet.  Sunni said that you always keep the fire lit and sit by it all the time. Let’s both sit in fire.  Sunni said, “we will get to know that who is truthful.” |
| Manzar | Yes. |
| Ashfaq | They placed the bet. As soon as the *Shia* went near the fire, it started getting huge *bharaknay lagi.* *Shia* stepped back.  Now it was *sunni’s* turn. Sunni did abulation and sat there. Fire didn’t come near him. And he kept on sitting. |
| Hasnain | It was his belief *aqeedah.* Main thing is *Aqeedah.* |
| Ashfaq | Exactly. |
| Hasnain | There was this *molvi,* he used to give speeches and say that say Bismillah and everything will get fine.  Bismillah puts *barkat* in things. One person was listening from the speakers, and he listened intently.  One day he went to *bakrian charana* and he came across a river… he recited *Bismaillah* and stepped into the river. He crossed it.  One day that *molvi* came to that river and started thinking that how can he cross the river. |
| Manzar | And he started looking for boat… laughing |
| Hasnain | That man said that *molvi sahb* why are you worried just recite *bismillah* and cross the river.  He said see I am going too.. And river gave him way.  When it was *molvi’s* turn.*.* laughing  *Molvi sahb* didn’t go.  He said that *molvi sahb* you told about it and you yourself don’t believe in it? And you tell other people about it?  I will demonstrate this for you. It was his belief that he will be safe. He was sure about it.  And *molvi sahb…* laughing. |
| Ashfaq | *Molvi* must be thinkingwhat will happen to me. |
| Hasnain | I mean hilarious things happen. |
| Manzar | This is all about beliefs. |
| Hasnain | Main thing is belief.  I am telling about myself. Else is word of mouth.  Whenever I am in pain, even if it is really minor I recite *darood pak* and blow on myself. That’s it. |
| Manzar | Masha Allah. |
| Hasnain | Should I say because *peer sahb* said that *farmaya he,* whenever you are in pain recite *darood pak* and blow on yourself.,, this is the main thing..  I tell this to my family as well.  He keeps *phakki* for gas. |
| Ashfaq | Yes. This is so. |
| Hasnain | I asked him to place a bet with me.. keep on reciting *darood pak* and the gastric trouble will go away. If it doesn’t then tell me. |
| Ashfaq | Should I tell you my story?  My son had daughter had pimples… A *hafiz* lives over there… he… |
| Manzar | Your daughter had pimples? |
| Ashfaq | Boy and girl both. I have another daughter .. the one who was sitting here.  I had a *tasbeeh* having hundred beads.  I used to read on it hundred times. They both were sleeping.  *Tasbeeh k daaney pe parh kr un pep her deta hun.*  In the morning the pimples were dried. |
| Manzar | Masha Allah |
| Hasnain | This is my *aqeedah.* |
| Ashfaq | This is about *aqeedah.*  I used to do it daily. I bear loss myself but *weham ko nahi cherr deta.* |
| Manzar | Due to reciting it? |
| Ashfaq | It just happens. Problems rise in between.  It is something else if a free person recites it.  Now I have *tasbeeh* with me having 500 beads. Someone told me read it 1700 times. Read *darood pak.* You will get whatever you will ask for.  Recite *Allah ho* 1700 times.  He told me many things.  He said you will get whatever you will ask for. |
| Manzar | Yes. |
| Ashfaq | But now I am afraid. Now I don’t recite for children.  I keep on reciting in my heart.  Wherever I go, I keep on reciting but not because of children.  Because that work comes inside the boundaries of home. |
| Manzar | Okay. |
| Hasnain | Today my aunts *phuphian* came, they were sitting. They were talking about their son. He was stuck in snow.. in glacier.  You know when snow… |
| Manzar | Snow bite.. |
| Hasnain | If it strike them *lag jae to* then whole leg becomes useless.  He fell in snow.. and hurt himself here.  They say that they have gone to every doctor.. *duniya k doctron ko dikhaya he..* but nothing happened.  I said that go to some *Allah k bandey,* I said go to shrine or *peer faqeer…* you are going to doctors?  Doctor said, okay when they will come tomorrow we will send him back.  I said go to some *faqeer.* |
| Manzar | But *Hasnain* good doctors don’t say so. |
| Hasnain | Sometimes it happens.  Hazrat Musa (A.S) was a prophet. |
| Manzar | Exactly. |
| Hasnain | Have you heard the story, the one in which Allah accepted his opinion.  His opinion/request was rejected at that time.  He was such a beloved prophet of Allah. |
| Manzar | Yes. |
| Hasnain | Whose opinion was accepted? That *faqeer’s.*  Because he gave his meat.. *kiyun k us ne apna gosht har cheez par di thi.* |
| Manzar | Allah said you were human too. |
| Husnain | You were human too, you should have given meat as well. |
| Manzar | Yes. |
| Hasnain | *Wo jo peeron k peer hn. Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jilani.* |
| Manzar | *Ghous pak.* |
| Hasnain | When his special follower *khasul khaas mureed,* when he died. |
| Ashfaq | Scolding children and asking them to go out.. |
| Hasnain | When his follower died and angels were taking away his soul. He followed them and took his soul from them.. above in heavens. All the people whose souls were taken, they all came to live.  He went to Allah, and he said to Allah that he came like this and took their lives like this.  Allah said, “For this person’s sake, return all the souls that are taken.”  He said, “I just asked for one soul.” |
| Manzar | Yes. |
| Hasnain | It is just like that that prayer is better than medicines. If the prayer doesn’t get accepted then think… |
| Ashfaq | But you have to recite it from heart. It’s not like that you recite it without any attention of heart. |
| Manzar | No no. *Aqeedah.* |
| Hasnain | Main thing is *Aqeedah.*  If you don’t have faith and call yourself a pilgrim *haji.* |
| Ashfaq | I said the same thing.  Look here and *tassbeeh phero k kb miley ki?*  *Kb miley gi..* (Laughing) |
| Hasnain | Say I love you or the mobile will get off. By God this is off now. |
| Manzar | *Hasnain* this is true love. |
| Hasnain | Hey look what happened.  Look.  This is the message that says I love you or the mobile will turn off.  Laughing.  This is not right. What is this system? |
| Manzar | It seems like a virus… |
| Hasnain | Then it’s better for me to delete it.. I may lose the set I have.  I will delete it after sending it to someone. |
| Ashfaq | Send it to me. |
| Hasnain | Let’s check whether my mobile turns off or not.  Mine turned off. |
| Hasnain | It’s not my mobile otherwise I would have told you.  I sold it… |
| Manzar | Why? |
| Hasnain | I sold it for my son’s desire. |
| Manzar | For how much? |
| Ashfaq | I just gave it.  It was Hungarian, from Korea. |
| Manzar | Weeping. |
| Ashfaq | When I bought it they said it will burn or break.  When my son said this I asked him to sale it out. It doesn’t worth more than you… Let it go… |
| Manzar | Here or in *Malyaal?* |
| Ashfaq | You know *Anjum*? I gave it to him. |
| Manzar | The one that *Anjum* has? |
| Ashfaq | No, he sold it too.  But I used it four years. |
| Manzar | Okay. Due to him?  What happened to him? |
| Ashfaq | He said that I want to buy DVD.  He watches movie on it. |
| Manzar | *O jee oye…* |
| Ashfaq | He use to watch CD at his uncle’s *chacha* place, we went to borrow that once or twice and he refused to give it. He said I want to buy my own.  I asked him to get one.. I don’t know how many films *Anjum* gave us back then. He gave DVD along with it.  I said take it… doesn’t matter…. |
| Ashfaq | I said it is okay *jaan.* |
| Manzar | It’s no big deal. Allah is *waris.* |
| Hasnain | You will get more. |
| Ashfaq | My cousin *mamoon zaad bhai* he says that you will never find that set again in the market even if you look for it in every shop. |
| Hasnain | That’s right. |
| Manzar | Where is *mamoon zaad?* |
| Hasnain | The place where they went… where the man was saying that I just got up.. I was awake whole night. |
| Manzar | *Mehmood Hussain?* |
| Ashfaq | Yes. |
| Husnain | Yes. |
| Ashfaq | He is uncle *mamoon.* |
| Manzar | Ahan he is your uncle *mamoon?* |
| Ashfaq | Yes.  You know *Noori?* She is working in *Poda.*  She is my aunt *chichi.* |
| Manzar | Okay that *Noori* who… |
| Ashfaq | Yes. |
| Manzar | Okay okay. |
| Hasnain | I should delete this message.  This is a problem. |
| Ashfaq | Laughing.  Give me your mobile, I will open it up and will wash it with cold water. |
| Manzar | (Laughing) with cold water?... |
| Ashfaq | Yes. |
| Manzar | Your father then? |
| Ashfaq | My father is near the road. |
| Manzar | Okay what is his name? |
| Ashfaq | His name is *Mohammad Zaman*. |
| Manzar | *Mohammad Zaman..*  Okay, you got separated from him? |
| Ashfaq | I am living separate for a long time now.  I lived in *mughlan* for four years. |
| Manzar | Okay. You live in our area. |
| Ashfaq | Yes I lived there.  *Haji sahb* called me there. He had some work. |
| Manzar | *Haji Nazeer Sahb?* |
| Ashfaq | Yes.  *Me ne apna roz ka kaam kia hua he.* I can’t come from there daily.  I can go there from here. |
| Manzar | In the morning.. |
| Ashfaq | Then he said that arrange a person for me and I said that I will see.  This house is not my own. It is someone else’s. |
| Manzar | Is it on rent? |
| Ashfaq | It’s not on rent but it is someone else’s.  We are here for few days then we will shift in lower floor. |
| Hasnain | There… |
| Manzar | Immediately or after two three months? |
| Ashfaq | No no, in couple of days. |
| Manzar | Okay. |
| Ashfaq | I have permanent work there. |
| Manzar | Okay.  Then how long it has been since you shifted here? |
| Ashfaq | It’s been a month here.  No. We have paid four bills by now. It’s been four months. |
| Manzar | Okay. |
| Ashfaq | Initially I lived with my father and got married there.  But you know what they get to total of 12-13 people.  Everyone doesn’t consider such things. |
| Manzar | Mashaa Allah |
| Ashfaq | We are a total of five people. |
| Manzar | Without any fight, without any reason |
| Hasnain | *Saaf suthra bnda hota he.* |
| Ashfaq | I got married in 1998. |
| Manzar | Masha Allah. |
| Hasnain | No, In 1999. |
| Ashfaq | It was end of 1998. |
| Hasnain | Yes, world cup was in that year.  He got married and we lost world cup. |
| Manzar | *Oye hoye.* |
| Hasnain | When his *baraat* left… |
| Manzar | Where did the *baraat* go? |
| Ashfaq | Just nearby…  You know *Aslam barey waley.* He is my father in law. |
| Manzar | Okay.  Then it is not so far. |
| Ashfaq | It’s been 12-13 years. |
| Manzar | It’s the tenth year. Soon it will be 11. |
| Ashfaq | Yes, it is 11 years.  Insha Allah… till now there is no quarrel or any thing else. |
| Manzar | Very good. |
| Ashfaq | My wife doesn’t make issue of any kind. |
| Manzar | Masha Allah. |
| Ashfaq | I swear.  Now if we go somewhere… she comes along..  It’s alright.  When my heart is content then what to say to others. |
| Manzar | This is a good thing. |
| Ashfaq | When we go outside… I never asked her to wear *burqa* or do *pardah.*  Person becomes more corrupt after wearing *burqa.* |
| Hasnain | Yes. |
| Ashfaq | Even if a person is the ugliest one… everyone tries to see them.  Some watches from here and others from there. |
| Manzar | They want to see what is it? |
| Ashfaq | They peek without any reason.  From here and there… they don’t see the thing from inside. |
| Hasnain | Should I tell you something else?  Our *Moazzin Sahb* had a daughter. She was going with him somewhere and was wearing veil. Her eyes were very beautiful.  She looked very pretty.  I went there couple of times… means to see her… its true.  Once when I went there, someone came from home and I got scared. She said what is your problem? I asked her to send *molvi sahb* from inside.  She didn’t remove her veil in *Poda* as well. She was among girls but still she didn’t remove her veil.  Naturally… My sister and I went there. My younger sister was her friend, there we didn’t not that she wasn’t wearing her veil.  When we entered, she was not wearing her veil.. her eyes were very beautiful but she had beard here. |
| Ashfaq | *Oho…* |
| Hasnain | (Laughing) I said that she does veil because of the same reason. |
| Ashfaq | A lot of women have beard. An old lady *mai* lived here and she had this big beard. |
| Hasnain | (While reading text message)  I will visit you. |
| Ashfaq | Congradulations. |
| Manzar | Let’s move. |
| Hasnain | Now tell me is there my fault? The result is in front of you (laughing) |
| Ashfaq | Who did it? |
| Hasnain | His (*Manzar’s*)… I received his message.  See it’s my fault now. |
| Ashfaq | You got it late. |
| Manzar | You know when I send it to you?  I send it to you when you said that I am going there. |
| Hasnain | Now see. |
| Ashfaq | The service must be low. |
| Manzar | Something is wrong with the mobile. |
| Hasnain | No sir. I received the first message that mobile will turn off then why I received this one late? |
| Manzar | Something is wrong with your mobile. When you said to me that you are at *Ashfaq’s* place and asked me to come there, I came right away. |
| Hasnain | Yes.  It was sent quickly from my mobile, something happened with yours. |
| Manzar | Okay.  Has it been a month since you got separated? |
| Ashfaq | It’s been a long time. |
| Manzar | Where were you living before? |
| Ashfaq | I lived in *Mughlan* for four years. I lived here for five to six years.  It’s been four years here…  Now these roofs give trouble. They collapse. These are unreliable. |
| Hasnain | Yes, these are very old. |
| Ashfaq | These are unreliable… they may collapse on us altogether. |
| Hasnain | Yes… the way there’s were… See.. |
| Ashfaq | Yes. |
| Manzar | At *lateef’s* place? |
| Hasnain | No, where we went. Where we were working. |
| Ashfaq | They destroy it themselves. |
| Manzar | Okay. |
| Ashfaq | They are reconstructing it themselves. |
| Manzar | No I have met them… they were saying that the roof collapsed. |
| Hasnain | Do you know *Qadeer?* He claims that he has taken pictures.  You know what he did? He dressed his kids in small knickers and shirts and he took their pictures there.  To gave them to people from *Poda* and get money. |
| Ashfaq | They used to go together.  *Sardar jo they.* |
| Hasnain | They were all *sardar.* |
| Ashfaq | *Bhens bhens ki hi behan hoti he.* |
| Hasnain | Yes… it is the same.  I don’t know how many *lacs* they took during the days of earthquake. |
| Ashfaq | Now if we go and say to them.. then I know what they are going to say….  That leave it… what are you going to do with the money… are you poor?  Now are these people poor? Two of their brothers live abroad. |
| Hasnain | Two brothers are abroad… in *America.*  If they were somewhere else then we could have said… this is the situation. |
| Manzar | *Oye hoye hoye..* (with sorrow)  The old man… the one who is tall. |
| Ashfaq | *Aslam.*  The one who has beard. |
| Hasnain | The one who takes *Siddique Sahb* in car.  The one who has white car. |
| Manzar | Yes, I have seen *Siddique Sahb* in mosque today. |
| Hasnain | No no.  The one with whom *Siddique Sahb* goes.  You must have seen him often. |
| Manzar | No… I didn’t give much attention. |
| Hasnain | There.. the car with number 119. |
| Manzar | Honda? |
| Hasnain | No no… it is XLI. |
| Manzar | It is usually parked there. |
| Hasnain | Yes, that one. |
| Ashfaq | Now see, those two brothers live abroad if we go there they will ask that are you poor?  You earn good and eat good… |
| Hasnain | How *Poda* started first… I told you the whole story at night… |
| Manzar | Yes… |
| Hasnain | In the beginning madam *Nazia* came. The one who wears glasses. She ran it… they would have failed.  She came and told everyone that it should be like this… like that… then things worked.  They was she guided was right. Later when they got involved… *Mr. Arif’s* wife… *Toshaba* and everyone else… things got bad due to them.  Though we haven’t seen *Mr. Arif’s* wife in our whole life… She hasn’t seen a single person in *khankah* while alone.  There were holes in the wall. She used to give money through those holes and purchase grossary (*chezen mangwati thi.)*. *Pardah* was so strict.  Now she went to *England* and lived there alone… she went to *India* and lived there alone. |
| Ashfaq | Now she doesn’t wear *dupatta. (ab dupatta bhi utra hua he)* |
| Manzar | *Mr. Arif’s* wife? |
| Hasnain | Yes. |
| Asfhfaq | She has seven eight kids. |
| Hasnain | Her daughter is eighteen years old.  *Pardah* used to be so strict that you cannot imagine. |
| Manzar | When money comes then… |
| Hasnain | Problem is that since *Poda* has established, her *pardah* is gone.  Since the opening of *Poda,* her extravagance *ayashi* has started. |
| Manzar | It means *poday ka poda…* |
| Ashfaq | *Poday ka poda lag giya.*  *Hasnain* must have stopped.. many plants would have been planted.  It’s an obvious thing. (laughing) |
| Manzar | Alone… |
| Hasnain | Then she went to *India* alone. |
| Ashfaq | Now listen.. We are three men over here. She will be alone.. Now we three can live? |
| Hasnain | I will leave… what will you do? (laughing loudly) |
| Ashfaq | And where 18-20 people live? |
| Hasnain | And a foreign country… they want to belittle Pakistanis. |
| Manzar | Yes. This is right. |
| Ashfaq | *Allah hi he.* |
| Manzar | Last time I heard that they placed camp for earth quake victims. |
| Ashfaq | Yes they did. |
| hasnain | Yes they did… it’s a known thing.. From here you gave things and they did too.  *Musalmaan ka… koi…* |
| Ashfaq | They are true Muslims… |
| Hasnain | True Muslims… |
| Ashfaq | We are true Muslims. We will say that why should we take from where we have given?  2.5 million… |
| Manzar | They get it or not.. |
| Hasnain | Yes, no idea.. |
| Ashfaq | They say that they have given 50,000 rupees. |
| Hasnain | We give from our side. Allah is the Acceptor.  When we give then Allah accepts. They pass it on or not…  They can go to *Pindi* from our side and… |
| Ashfaq | All the people of shrine *Khankah..* They don’t lack money.  Maximum… |
| Manzar | Then why aren’t they bringing water… people from *Khankah…* sweet water…  Water pipe line… |
| Ashfaq | They put in the pipes. |
| Hasnian | No no… the effort they are putting in. they are not doing it for water. He wanted to … (p26) his son. |
| Ashfaq | Yes he did. |
| Hasnian | This *subeydaar* done that. Now who is going for water?  Now *mujhy kehna* if *Sarwar* is there in the company. |
| Manzar | *Sarwar* who reads *salam.* |
| Hasnain | Yes, he recites *kalma* as well. |
| Ashfaq | Yes… *Subedaar.* |
| Manzar | Okay. |
| Hasnain | The other one came as well. The one from *Mughlan.* |
| Manzar | Both are *Sarwar.* |
| Hasnain | No. |
| Manzar | Both are *Subedaar.* |
| Hasnain | No… One is captan. |
| Ashfaq | The one from *Mughlan* is captan. Retired… |
| Hasnain | He is *Subedaar.* He is retired. |
| Ashfaq | However… his English is good. |
| Hasnain | He speaks fluently. |
| Ashfaq | I have seen many people who think before writing.  He doesn’t think… He can write a long page in half hour.  Not half hour… in just five minutes. |
| Hasnain | It’s the same thing that back then education was good.  Now education is….  Now they give vacations for three months… this is the fourth month now. |
| Manzar | Yes. |
| Hasnain | What will they teach? |
| Ashfaq | It will re-open after Eid. |
| Hasnain | What will they teach the children.. they have given two offs in a week. What will they teach? |
| Ashfaq | Initially they used to say watchman, watchman. Then they took *Malik’s* son. Now they say that they need ladies too. We said that we will see.  Then they kept someone else. We said go ahead… we don’t go at that side.. *hamari tarf se saat salam…* |
| Manzar | Right..  Okay.. How many brothers are you? |
| Ashfaq | We are four. |
| Manzar | *Masha Allah.*  All of you are married? |
| Ashfaq | No… Two are married. Two are bachelors. |
| Manzar | They are elder than you or are they younger? |
| Ashfaq | Younger. |
| Hasnain | He is the eldest one. |
| Ashfaq | I am the eldest.  But if he stands with me, I may look younger than him. |
| Manzar | Okay… (laughing)  Okay.. What do they do? |
| Ashfaq | They are plumbers. |
| Manzar | Are you the eldest one? |
| Ashfaq | Yes. |
| Manzar | What is the name of younger one? |
| Ashfaq | *Ajmal*… the one younger than him is *Abdul Qudoos*.. The youngest is *Zaheer Abbas*. |
| Manzar | They do their own work? Mashaa Allah…  This is fine then… |
| Hasnain | Yes… everyone stays busy. |
| Ashfaq | We have to earn livelihood… what else can be done… |
| Manzar | Your mother is alive? |
| Ashfaq | Yes, mother and father both.. |
| Manzar | Mashaa Allah… |
| Ashfaq | My mother worked as a *mai* in a government school.  Then I don’t know what she did… |
| Manzar | *Poda??* |
| Ashfaq | No… government school. |
| Manzar | She has been terminated? |
| Ashfaq | I don’t know what they did… terminated her or what…? We didn’t ask… nor did they.  We are… |
| Manzar | Laughing. |
| Ashfaq | Yes. This is true.  Many people they run… sometimes to some people and later towards others…  We didn’t go. |
|  | Once we asked them to give the room on the other side to us… they didn’t give. |
| Manzar | *Mai Noori* is working in *Poda?* |
| Ashfaq | She is working in *Poda.* |
| Manzar | She is your aunt? (*chichi)* |
| Ashfaq | She is my aunt (*chichi)…* Real *saggi*…  I am a poor man but… My heart is…. |
| Manzar | Yes.. I have felt that. |
| Ashfaq | Not here… I used to work in *Chontrian*.. There was a laborer with me.  He said that I need 500 rupees. I said take this…  I didn’t ask him to pay me back. I said go and have fun. |
| Manzar | *Kia baat he g..* |
| Hasnain | Very few people are like this. |
| Ashfaq | Should I tell you the truth… You know *Haq Nawaz…*  How wealthy he is… He owes me 500 rupees… *Siddique* owes me 500 rupees as well.  I didn’t ask anyone to pay me back… I came home and left it there..  I said you are poor people.. eat… enjoy.. *kia yaad karo ge kisi bndey se pala para he..* |
| Manzar | This is a good thing. |
| Ashfaq | My house is a bit old.. |
| Hasnain | This is not the thing… it is mainly about good nature. |
| Manzar | This is true. |
| Hasnain | If you talk in a good manner now.. but later you start talking… There is no benefit. This is the main thing. |
| Ashfaq | I am kind of a person that if anyone does anything bad to me… I say its nothing.  I stay away from fights. |
| Hasnain | Like me. |
| Ashfaq | They used to accuse me a lot.. a lot… But I used to come out of it *jese makhan se baal nikalta he.* I used to come automatically. |
| Manzar | When heart and intentions are clear then a person is not trapped. |
| Ashfaq | I used to live in *Mughlan,* I lived there for four years.  I don’t know with whom the girl ran away… |
| Hasnain | He was blamed. |
| Ashfaq | Whose picture *Hasnain* was showing. |
| Manzar | Show me too… |
| Hasnain | These two were blamed that they made her ran away. A huge scandal was made of these unfortunates. |
| Ashfaq | Yes.  If I call them now *bismillah bismaillah iski maan krti he…*  She says just meet me once. |
| Manzar | Who is this *molvi sahb?* |
| Ashfaq | He is *hafiz Nasir Sahb.* He was a worker *khadim* of a mosque in *Mughlan…* he used to give water. |
| Manzar | Our mosque? |
| Ashfaq | No… in *Mughlan.* |
| Manzar | Okay… I didn’t go to the mosque in *Mughlan…* Now I will. |
| Ashfaq | When ramzan came… *Hafiz sahb* couldn’t find bread to eat… so I used to cook and feed him myself… So that he could observe fast.  *Hafiz Sahb* used to wake people up. I used to be there before he would wake people up.  *Hafiz g* … wake up.. I used to make him observe fast. *Jaga k unko roza rkhwata.*  When the *roti* was cooked I used to give it to *Hafiz Sahb* first so that he could eat and observe fast…  I will see later..  Then I used to ask him that *Hafiz Sahb* are you fine? Can I leave? He would say you can go… eat and drink..  I used to pray after my meal… and get into my work. |
| Manzar | Okay they let you go after accusing you? |
| Ashfaq | I left… they asked me to stay a lot… I said that I don’t want to live here… after facing so much disgrace. |
| Hasnain | Today you have accused me of this later you will blame me with something else. |
| Ashfaq | I used to make fun with the whole village.  With girls and women… with old and young.. With everyone.  I never left kidding around.. no matter the other person gets angry. |
| Hasnain | It is the justice of Allah. |
| Ashfaq | *Bs g..* |
| Manzar | They are the same whose names you asked to write?  These brothers… *Shakeel*… etc |
| Hasnain | No… |
| Manzar | We will go to his father’s place someday.. |
| Hasnain | We will go tomorrow.  We will go together. |
| Manzar | Yes… Sure..  See we were talking about *Mughlan.* A man has come from *Mughlan.* |
| Hasnain | It’s attraction… |
| Ashfaq | Its attraction… I have worked there for four years…  Come here… come here… |
| Manzar | Who are they? |
| Hasnain | This lady is our aunt (*phoophi*). |
| Manzar | What is the name of this old man? |
| Hasnain | *Ghulaam Deen*…  First ever song of *India.*  When music started in *India…* He remembers the first song that was released there.  His house is in back street. Sometimes they both sing at night together. He was telling about one song that that was started in *India*. He was telling someone’s name. I don’t remember that name now… he sang that song.  He remembers that one.  We all become singer at that time. When someone gets married… then everyone.. |
| Manzar | Who is getting married? Is someone getting married before eid? |
| Hasnain | Ramzan is coming… after ramzan. |
| Manzar | Many people do arrange weddings in ramzan. |
| Hasnain | Yes they do… but majority does not.  Call him here… What is the matter? |
| Ashfaq | They are gone…  They were asking for a goat… I said that I won’t give one… They were asking why you aren’t giving.  They said sale it to us. |
| Hasnain | Did you sale it? |
| Ashfaq | Yes, I took the money. |
| Manzar | Goat? |
| Hasnain | That old man came for the same reason? |
| Ashfaq | Yes.. He gave thousand rupees. |
| Manzar | For how much? |
| Ashfaq | For 3500…  Still I left 500… I said go and enjoy.  He had given me 1000 before, now he gave remaining 2000.  I said go.. I thanked Allah. |
| Hasnain | *Ye qurbaani lgta he?* |
| Ashfaq | Yes.. He was born two days before eid.  My doe is very clever *siyaani.*  She gives birth two days before eid.  Currently she didn’t give birth..  She gives birth only once a year.  This time she gave birth to two babies. Doe died and billy goat survived. |
| Manzar | Okay.. okay.. |
| Hasnain | Early morning… *Chaudhry* went… |
| Ashfaq | I said… We get meal from our luck. |
| Hasnain | Life is unpredictable. |
| Manzar | Yes. |
| Ashfaq | Everything is with life… otherwise there is nothing..  It is possible that I die before the goat. Do you know? |
| Hasnain | Life is unpredictable… |
| Ashfaq | I must say that bursting of balloon and death of a person is same. |
| Hasnain | Yes.  You see… that *Ghous..* He was near death (*iska ye tha k aj mar jae gay a kal mr jae ga*)… He was almost finished. |
| Ashfaq | He is all right now.  Have you seen his beard? It was this small. Now if you see he has a full beard. |
| Hasnain | He had Tuberclosis… Hepatitis C.. every disease. |
| Ashfaq | He had Cancer too. |
| Hasnain | Hepatitis too.. means there was no disease he hadn’t had… He didn’t has AIDS. Else he had every disease. His kidneys were finished too. |
| Manzar | What is his name? |
| Hasnain | *Mohammad Ghous.* |
| Manzar | He lives here? |
| Hasnain | Here on our side.. His house is in front of the board of *Labbaik Ya Rasool Allah…* With large gate.. |
| Manzar | Okay.. Okay. |
| Hasnain | Now see the Greatness of Allah… Four months earlier doctors said that he cannot be treated. They said that he is near death…  They said that he will die…  And see now.. |
| Ashfaq | He practiced *hakeemi* himself and used to give powerful medicines.  No matter how high the fever was, he used to give medicine just once. It would cause sweat and fever would go away… that’s it. |
| Manzar | How amazing. |
| Ashfaq | He used to do the other work too. *Likhat Parhat bhi…* he used to give *taweez dhaga* too. |
| Hasnain | Now see..  He was empty from inside… one case is that something is there. There was nothing..  They would say that he will die now…  When people mourned over someone else’s death others would think that he died… Now he is fit and fine. |
| Ashfaq | I will tell you something about myself. My child was born… He stayed alive for four to five days… At night he stopped taking milk… In the morning he turned blue.  We took him to doctors… no effect.. After one hour… He was finished..  Then my daughter was born.. And we struggled a lot to save her life. |
| Hasnain | It’s fine, it depends on doctors too.  (*doctron ka bhi hota hota he*) |
| Ashfaq | No no… she was possessed (*parchawan*).. |
| Manzar | Okay. |
| Ashfaq | Then we went there… |
| Manzar | Is *Ghous Sahb* all right now? |
| Hasnain | Yes.. Exactly.. |
| Manzar | What’s the matter? |
| Hasnain | Nothing is inside… |
| Ashfaq | Nothing is inside…  So many sofas… and so many drawing rooms *bethaken…* |
| Hasnain | Oh nai yaar… not inside the house.. Inside the body… |
| Ashfaq | Nothing is inside… His son is abroad. Still there is nothing inside. |
| Hasnain | That is inside the house.. |
| Ashfaq | So you are saying that nothing is inside. |
| Manzar | Where is he living abroad? |
| Hasnain | *Dubai… Sharjah…* |
| Manzar | Okay… The one who came on his mother’s death? |
| Hasnain | That was his brother. *Iftikhar* came here… He booked airplane.. |
| Ashfaq | He booked airplane? |
| Hasnain | Yes.. They have no shortage of money. |
| Ashfaq | If someone goes to them, he gives 50 rupees… Says that you came for the first time. |
| Hasnain | This is their condition… they can buy bungalows. When poor or a person from mosque go to them they say that he came for the first time. How do we know about him? This is their condition…. |
| Manzar | Okay.. |
| Hasnain | The thing is the heart of a poor man is big.. First thing…  Secondly, he can sleep with peace at night  That is life.. Life with money is nothing. Because… there will be a constant fear that someone is coming.. |
| Ashfaq | Do you remember *La’al* who used to come here. Have you seen him? |
| Hasnain | Who? |
| Ashfaq | You haven’t seen him… He used to say that  *Jo khaa gae wo rung lga gae..*  *Jo chorr gae wo chorr gae..* |
| Manzar | *Kia baat he g..* |
| Hasnain | It is obvious. |
| Ashfaq | I swear he used to say this.  *Jo khaa gae wo rung lga gae..*  *Jo chorr gae wo chorr gae..*  Now we remember these things. |
| Hasnain | Truly this is the right thing. |
| Ashfaq | He sold a lot of *pakoray…*  And he used to make delicious *pakoray.* Now they put in potatoes… and make it. |
| Hasnain | I have heard the name. |
| Ashfaq | Now *pakoray* are 120 rupees per kg.  We used to get five *pakorya* for one rupee. |
| Hasnain | Tomorrow is seven? |
| Ashfaq | Yes. |
| Hasnain | Utility store will open tomorrow… Tomorrow is not Sunday? |
| Manzar | Tomorrow is Saturday. |
| Hasnain | Go to utility store tomorrow.. You may get flour. |
| Ashfaq | No one gives to us poor. |
| Hasnain | No… Government has announced that action will be taken right away… if anyone files complain.  300 rupees per bag.. |
| Ashfaq | For 300…? |
| Hasnain | Yes.  And sugar is 56 rupees per kg… |
| Manzar | Do they give on the card of Punjab government? |
| Hasnain | Even if you don’t have the card… |
| Ashfaq | He is saying right that you can get it on card as well. |
| Manzar | I have my card. Of Government of Punjab… |
| Hasnain | You can get it without card even. |
| Ashfaq | He is right that you get to know that he is from government. |
| Hasnain | Yes. I got it now…  (*Hasnain* and *Mushtaq* are making fun together) |
| Ashfaq | How much you have studied? |
| Hasnain | I have done matriculation. |
| Ashfaq | And what I have studied? |
| Hasnain | What I have told you about *Ashfaq?* That is true right? |
| Ashfaq | (laughing) |
| Manzar | Yes.. (Laughing) |
| Hasnain | I am out of my mind.  Now see how much this poor man is burdened? |
| Manzar | I had faced the burden and I endured it. (laughing) p44 |
| **Ashfaq** | The *khelney waly bachey* don’t come now, what would he do if they come? |
| Manzar | What will happen to you *Hasnain.* |
| Hasnain | (laughing)  We are old friends… oldest… the one I was telling you before. |
| Ashfaq | *Yaar* talk… Leave the individual. |
| Manzar | Eight to ten years. |
| Ashfaq | I got it. I reached there when you asked me to. |
| Hasnain | He texted me late yesterday. When I get of the rickshaw, I was standing at the *chowk*. When I told you that I am at the *chowk.* |
| Manzar | Yes. |
| Hasnain | At that time I got off the rickshaw…. When I saw like this…  Then I texted at night.  (*Manzar, Ishfaq* and *Hasnain* are laughing)  He called at 11 at night. He asked me to come there…  I said it is matter of night.. At that time thefts were started in the area.  *Me ne kaha k raat ka masala he.*  He said, “Are you coming or not.” |
| Manzar | Where the theft did took place. |
| Hasnain | You know *Shafee…* his shop was robbed. |
| Manzar | When? |
| Hasnain | It’s been long.. A year now. |
| Ashfaq | It’s been a year. |
| Hasnain | It’s been two years. |
| Manzar | Who was the thief…? |
| Hasnain | Theif was one of them and they blamed the rickshaw driver. In those days he asked me to come at night.  I said it’s the problem of coming at night… He said come now or I will not text you tomorrow. |
| Manzar | *Anbreen?* |
| Hasnain | No… he was someone else. He was someone old.  I went at night… We sat in the drawing room whole night.  Then I said no.. It would be a problem if someone wakes up. How will I sit among the men outside? |
| Manzar | Okay. |
| Hasnain | I said that it will create a problem here.. One should sit a bit farther.  We sat there… Till 1:30-2:00 at night.. Whereas if someone else was there… What was at night? Right? It could happen. But I said no… Then I dropped them at home.  Then I called her again. She said..  You are the first man I have seen. Who… Didn’t…  I said that I didn’t keep such faith.  Otherwise it wouldn’t be friendship..  If you are making friends then keep it clean. |
| Manzar | Yes. |
| Hasnain | There was another one… she was my friend too. I went to meet her three four times. And we came back in rickshaw together…  When we sat together, I kept distance… she moved her hand like this… I said no….  I said that if we touch hands today, then we won’t remain friends… |
| Manzar | *Hasnain…* That’s great… |
| Hasnain | Yes.. This is friendship…  Now she said it… herself….  Means when uncle *mamoon* asked her. She should have denied. She told that I have been doing this and that. They called or went to their place. I don’t know the inside story. |
| Ashfaq | She told the truth. |
| Hasnain | She told the truth. She said that I have been sending messages myself.  She told this clearly. |
| Manzar | Okay they got to know at her home. |
| Hasnain | They knew… everyone knew. |
| Ashfaq | Then we came to know as well. |
| Hasnain | Whole family came to know that they both used to meet.  They came to know because I used to send messages. I used to write *Hamza* or come outside. *Hamza* is her younger brother. Even if someone read the message, her younger brother would have come out.  It is said that *jb geedar ki mout ai ho tou shehar ki tarf jata he..* It was the same.  That day I wrote that come on the roof. *Hamza’s* name skipped out of my mind.  I thought that she will come on roof… I just have to see her… *chalo…*  I wrote that come on roof… her *maasi* read that message. |
| Manzar | *Maasi?* |
| Hasnain | Yes… her aunt *khala.* |
| Manzar | Yes… |
| Hasnain | She saved my number in her mobile when she read my message.  She saw that.  Few moments later when she went out, she texted me that my aunt *khala* has saved your number.  I asked which one? She said the one from the *chak.*  I said let her call me… the rest is well.  She didn’t call me. You know what she did?  She texted me. She is very clever. She texted me… How are you?  I said I don’t know whose number is this.. I never receive new numbers.  She texted again… I wrote who are you?  She said that your aunt.  I said that all my aunts have PTCL phones at their homes.  None of them has cell phones.  She said, I too am your aunt… I asked from which relation…? She said that *Bilal’s* aunt.  I said that you are *Bilal’s* aunt… not mine.  I knew it. Whole thing came into my mind.  I asked that from where you got my number.  She said like this…  I said no…  I will talk when you’ll answer my question.. |
| Manzar | Through texting? |
| Hasnain | Yes… only texting…  She said that you texted on *Zoya’s* cell phone. I asked what message..? she said “come on roof”.  I said, “yes, I did”.  She asked, “why?”  I said that ask her… Why are you asking me? Ask her why she received that message on her mobile? |
| Manzar | Yes. |
| Hasnain | She said that I she had asked her. Then I said that whatever she told you is the reason. I cannot tell in detail any further.  She told her uncle *mamoon.*  Means she told her brother. Her uncle called me and asked that you went to meet *Zoya?* I said, “No”. He said that you went.  I said that who said this and what is the proof?  He said that He saw me.  Now my brain worked too… I said that when you saw… and she was alone at home.  Do the math… You were inside.  And you are uncle *mamoon… Mamoon* is like father. |
| Manzar | Yes. |
| Hasnain | Front-runner of the house… friendship or *Yaari* is something else. Why didn’t you stop her?  I am a stranger… You let me go inside.  Then… I asked, “Did we go inside?”… he said, ”Yes you did.”  See he is answering too.  Then I said that what did we do inside… he said that he has no idea.  What is our relation… brother and sister? Friendship or affair.. No idea…  Then I asked, “In which room did we sit inside?” He said that one.  I said, “What we did inside?” He said that he had no idea.  I said that you had so much honor that you let me in. You let me sit with your young and alone niece in there.  You should have beaten me right there… You should have asked that what I was doing there?  Your niece was alone… He disconnected the call… and didn’t receive my calls either.. |
| Ashfaq | He knew that he was defamed. |
| Hasnain | I put so much pressure on him.. I was truthful though… |
| Ashfaq | He would know… if he got caught… |
| Hasnain | At the same time I called her aunt, who saved my number.  I said that you have created an issue (*teeli laga di he*) already. She said this and that… she talked a lot.  I said when Allah blesses someone, He does with a reason. And when He puts someone in trial, He does see.  I asked that why you don’t have any kids?  She has been married for a long time.. It’s been nine to ten years approximately… she didn’t have kids. |
| Ashfaq | You should have sent her here. |
| Hasnain | (Laughing)  Allah kept you like this because of this behavior. You treat people like this.  I said that you put your effort… I will keep my friendship.  And she will keep the friendship too. And really this is the case. She is keeping the friendship till now.  Whenever I call… or send message… we meet at night. At day time… she has no restrictions.  I text her… she comes out before I receive the delivery report.  One day I texted her that *Hamza* come outside please… Her grandfather *dada* came out..  I ran from there.. (laughing)  I turned back from there. |
| Ashfaq | Brain of illiterate person is sharp. |
| Hasnain | You have seen my drawing room… Our drawing room opens in the street.. We both were talking. Her mother came from backside. Her face was towards me. As soon as I saw her mother’s shadow, I changed the subject. I said where is *Hamza?* She said, “He is outside.” I asked her to send him outside and moved away.  At night I asked her to call me..  She called… I said, “What did you do, you opened the door of drawing room.. What if someone see us? Door is in the main street.  Meet me at night if you want to…  Otherwise if you want to meet in the day, there is a shop near my house, make an excuse that you are going there. |
| Ashfaq | Come there after leaving five to six shops. |
| Hasnain | She came too… At *Abrar’s* shop…  A person can make hundreds of excuses.  Like my excuse. When I was going… then..  When all of this is happening… All of this happens too.  (*Hasnain* and *Ishfaq* are talking)  Are you tired? (Text message)…  *Nahin oye…* I am not replying.  She texts a lot.  I will make friends with her too… I will make her come out… I wonn’t leave her.  Have you seen this? |
| Ashfaq | *Madeeha Shah…* |
| Hasnain | Have you seen this? |
| Ashfaq | You have to do every task. It is obvious.  When you have seen it… then you have to do all the work. |
| Manzar | Laughing |
| Hasnain | Listen to me… |
| Ashfaq | Right now… Listen to me..  Right now if she says come down… then you’ll do that too. |
| Hasnain | It’s about the night before yesterday. I asked her to give me her picture…  She said that I’ll give you. I will give you when I will come out. Yesterday, I couldn’t go out naturally.  I told her that I cannot come.  Yesterday she met me here… She said that I’ll give… At night she said that I won’t give… initially she kept on saying that she will. I got angry. |
| Ashfaq | What? |
| Hasnain | Picture…  I said that now I do what you say…  How much you tease me. It will create a big problem if I start teasing you.  She said what will you do? |
| Manzar | He will tell. |
| Hasnain | (laughing) |
| Manzar | *Lo g… Chaudhry…* (kid)  He is the eldest? |
| Ashfaq | Yes. |
| Manzar | What is his name? |
| Ashfaq | *Zoo e Noor e Hussain…* |
| Manzar | She was a girl? |
| Ashfaq | *Imaan Yusra…* |
| Manzar | Ma shaa Allah… and the younger one? |
| Ashfaq | *Zunaira Sadaqat.* |
| Manzar | Masha Allah… |
| Ashfaq | I mixed this name with mine. |
| Manzar | Your name is *Ashfaq Sadaqat?* |
| Ashfaq | My full name is *Sadaqat Hussain.* |
| Manzar | You didn’t register *Ashfaq?* |
| Hasnain | He writes *Ashfaq* majority of time. |
| Ashfaq | No no.. My name is *Sadaqat Hussain.* Real… Complete… |
| Manzar | Look *Hasnain…* Identity card.. *Hasnain* what do you do?  These signs are of *Sadaqat Hussain* as well.  *Sadaqat Hussain* son of *Mohammad Zaman…* |
| Hasnain | Why did you write *Zaman?* |
| Ashfaq | *Zaman* is my father’s name. |
| Manzar | So where the young girl was born? |
| Ashfaq | She was born in *Mughlan.* |
| Manzar | Does she come to her father’s place here? |
| Ashfaq | No no… |
| Manzar | She was born there? |
| Ashfaq | Yes. |
| Hasnain | He was born in *Nara* right… |
| Ashfaq | He was born in *Nara…* and he as well. |
| Manzar | They were born at their grandfather’s *dada* house? |
| Ashfaq | Yes…  This son and daughter were born there. One son died. |
| Manzar | They were born at home or in hospital? |
| Ashfaq | Hospital. |
| Manzar | Which one? |
| Ashfaq | *Kaas* hospital. |
| Manzar | All three kids were born there? |
| Ashfaq | No… He was born in *Sohawa.* He was born at home. |
| Manzat | Mashaa Allah… And he was born there…? |
| Ashfaq | Yes. |
| Manzar | Okay. |
| Ashfaq | Three kids died as well.. |
| Manzar | Okay… Three kids died as well? |
| Ashfaq | Yes… A boy and a girl. |
| Manzar | Okay.  He was younger than him or older? |
| Ashfaq | He was the eldest. His name was *Adeer Saman.* |
| Manzar | Mashaa Allah… *Adeer…* |
| Hasnain | He chooses very difficult names. |
| Manzar | How old was he? |
| Ashfaq | He was one year old. |
| Manzar | What happened to him? Was he ill? |
| Ashfaq | He wasn’t ill. There was some problem with his eyes.  We were from other line… We kept joking around.  Then… He didn’t survive.. |
| Manzar | Eyes were not straight? |
| Ashfaq | They were straight… There was some other problem.  There was an extra membrane in front of his eyes *agey pardah sat ha.* They were squint. |
| Manzar | Okay.  You didn’t take him to any doctor… |
| Ashfaq | We took him to *Al-Shifaa.* They said that it will not get fine.  They were squint.  Then a man advised us to put homemade *ghee* and another thing in his eyes. He said that his eyes will get clear.  His eyes got clear. But he didn’t survive. |
| Manzar | Whatever Allah wills..  And our sister was fine… |
| Ashfaq | Yes… Absolutely… |
| Manzar | Then this *Chaudhry* was born? |
| Ashfaq | Yes… him.. |
| Manzar | How later? |
| Ashfaq | He was born after a year. |
| Manzar | Mashaa Allah… |
| Ashfaq | He was supposed to go, then he came… to take his place.. |
| Manzar | Yes… |
| Ashfaq | Everyone started crying then… we forbade them from doing so. |
| Manzar | After that? |
| Ashfaq | Yes, I brought her picture.. I don’t know where it is… I don’t remember where it is.  I am unable to understand what actually happened… When he dies… There was an amulet tied to his arm. A person gave that to us to tie on his arm. When I tried to hold that amulet, I felt a jolt… the way something catches.. In the same way…  My body started to shake. I felt as if I have reached somewhere else. |
| Manzar | You buried the kid along with the amulet? |
| Ashfaq | No… We opened that. |
| Manzar | Okay. |
| Ashfaq | It happened when… I was trying to untie it… |
| Manzar | From where did you get the amulet? From whom? |
| Ashfaq | From *Golra Shareef.*  We go to *Golra Shareef* only. |
| Manzar | Masha Allah he is such a personality… I have been there.  Okay then *Chaudhry* was born… |
| Ashfaq | After him daughter was born. Then the *Nehar bibi* came. |
| Manzar | That one? |
| Ashfaq | No she died. |
| Manzar | How old was she? |
| Ashfaq | She was also one and half years old. She was all fine.  She was in *chilla* when she started playing.  She used to laugh when she was ten days old… We all said that she is not going to survive. Whatever you do.  *Baba. Dada…* |
| Manzar | She too was born at home? |
| Ashfaq | Yes at home.  When she died everyone… *bus…* |
| Manzar | You didn’t know? |
| Ashfaq | She was possessed *kasar*.. However everyone wept..  *Use bhi parchawaan lg gaya tha. Parchawaan* that of women.. |
| Manzar | Yes. |
| Ashfaq | After that *Saaqib Sahb* came. Then this girl…  We struggled a lot… what is the cause? What is the problem…  Then we… a man… You know *Adil* who came here.. |
| Manzar | *Saaqib* died too? |
| Ashfaq | Yes. |
| Manzar | After one year? |
| Ashfaq | Yes. |
| Manzar | Means they died within a year? |
| Ashfaq | He used to drink milk at night and in the morning ho would turn blue.. We tried a lot to save him. We brought *Dr. Ishtiaq…*  That he would insert a tube… and suck the water out.  He was having seizures. But he wasn’t supposed to live. |
| Manzar | You took him immediately as he turned blue? |
| Ashfaq | Then we would bring him back home. We said whatever is there.. What should we do…  What a poor man can do? |
| Manzar | This is true. |
| Ashfaq | Then we struggled a lot.. Then we went to a village near *Gojar Khan.*  I don’t remember the name… We went there… |
| Manzar | *Baba?* |
| Ashfaq | No, there was a woman.  We went there… We took seven types of leaves and water from seven wells along with us. *Wo dam kr k diya.*  We took a car… for 700.. |
| Manzar | You stayed there for night? |
| Ashfaq | He said that don’t talk to anyone over there. Not during the journey as well. He said go home, take bath, put some sugar in mouth and then talk to others. And come again. Then we didn’t go there again. Then daughter was born and she is all right with *Allah ka shukar.* |
| Manzar | Mashaa Allah..  *Bs kasar ho jati he.* |
| Ashfaq | Yes… it happens. You know about women, when they go to fetch water.. Something or other happens to them.  Then Allah gave us three kids… Thanks to Allah.. |
| Manzar | Thanks to Allah.. |
| Ashfaq | I didn’t become unthankful… |
| Manzar | No... |
| Ashfaq | I thanked God.  Now this girl is born… People say that it was about son.  I said that Allah gave me a daughter… She is all right..  Thanks to Allah.  We pick her up… Play with her.. Enjoy with her.. We thank Allah. |
| Manzar | Thanks to Allah… |
| Ashfaq | I go to work, she sits here. She says.. *abbu.. abbu..* (She asks for something to eat) I say that I didn’t bring anything. I will bring later.  (*Manzar* is becoming happy)  We work hard as much as we can. |
| Manzar | Our matter as well that we have to write. All the kids who died till 10 years before, what was the reason? Whether it was doctor’s mistake or there was some other problem?  Or something happened at the time. We have to take whole report according to this. |
| Ashfaq | They women get possessed *parchaawaan.* It was that kind of a problem. |
| Manzar | There are ladies along with us. They are gone to Islamabad. I will bring them myself as they come back… They will talk to *baji* themselves. |
| Ashfaq | Now it’s different with the decree of Allah.  Now they say stop the kids (tubal ligation).. I said, “No, don’t stop it.” |
| Hasnain | It is up to Allah. He gives or not. |
| Ashfaq | I will tell you. You know *Arif sahb…* He got it done.. After one year they had another kid. |
| Hasnain | They used to get it stopped from their side |
| Manzar | Yes… They give injections. |
| Hasnain | Yet it happened again. (laughing loudly)  This is up to Allah. Whoever He wants to give…. |
| Ashfaq | We think who has to come… They come.  Yes… Take precautions from your side. |
| Manzar | Yes.. Exactly… |
| Ashfaq | But if a soul comes…  *Shukar Alhamdulillah…*  Don’t say that get this done.. get that done… |
| Manzar | Get it cleaned… do this… do that.. |
| Ashfaq | No… this is wrong.  This is absolutely wrong. I don’t accept it.  Now there are every type of treatment available. Some injections.. Get anything done…. |
| Manzar | Yes.. There are condoms.. Tablets… |
| Ashfaq | I used them too. I used them a lot.  Then a man told me about syrup. I said, “okay let’s try that too.” I said that I don’t want to stop it… |
| Hasnain | This is a sin… They ask to do ultrasound… this is the greatest sin. |
| Manzar | Looking for what it is and what it’s not.  How can you know? |
| Hasnain | Allah gives what he plans to give. |
| Ashfaq | This is disgrace to women.  Men do the ultrasound, women don’t do it.  A man does it in *Gojar Khan*. There is a lady over here so you can say that it is permissible. |
| Hasnain | We shouldn’t get it done. It is what Allah has done. |
| Manzar | There is *pardah.* The thing which remains in *pardah…* |
| Hasnain | The people of old times tell that there was a system here in old times..  Then people said to Allah that it is not good…  Then there used to be lid over here.  Once a woman went to her mother’s place, she said, “What should I do? Everyone is watching me…. They used to pick up the lid and put food inside.  Then people told Allah that this system is not right, it should be stopped.  Then it was stopped from there. |
| Manzar | Yes.. |
| Ashfaq | When baby is in womb, its food goes from here.. It doesn’t go from mouth. |
| Manzar | Yes. |
| Ashfaq | Tell you what.. We are illiterate but we do know science. |
| Manzar | No, it’s a good thing. |
| Hasnain | The thing which is here.. Umbilical cord *naroo..* They cut it off. Everything depends on that. |
| Manzar | Now who gives the advice to stop it (tubal ligation)? |
| Ashfaq | Many people come.  I said no…  My wife has firm intentions to stop it.  She asks me as well…  I said that we won’t do it… Whatever you do…  We won’t stop it. Who has to come, will bring his provisions along with him. |
| Hasnain | It comes… |
| Manzar | Yes. |
| Ashfaq | I tell you what; my younger daughter was born in *Mughlan.* I worked there in five weddings. |
| Manzar | Mashaa Allah… |
| Ashfaq | I was about to come… it was *Haneef’s* brother’s wedding.  I was about to come and he gave me 2000 rupees… You may need it.. We will see it later..  We went there… There they asked for money for sweets…  I gave those two thousand rupees to aunt *chichi.*  I kept 50 rupees with myself.  I kept 100 here and 50 here.  Nurses insisted a lot *jaan kha li k nikalo.*  I asked what should I bring out? Say something… What should I bring out? |
| Manzar | When your girl was born? |
| Ashfaq | They said… bring out… I said that what should I bring? Make me understand… (Laughing)  I put my hand here and there that what should I bring out.  They started saying.. No no… give us money.  I said, “Say like this then.”  I said let me check what I have… I am a poor man…  I put hand in my pockets.. There were fifty rupees; I asked that fifty is enough?  They said no… at least 200… Then I gave them 100 rupees from this pocket… I said, “Are you happy now”… they said yes.  (*Manzar* is happy) |
| Manzar | Okay when you booked the car? |
| Ashfaq | No, we took our personal car with us from home. |
| Manzar | This taxi… |
| Ashfaq | But girl was born when we reached there. |
| Manzar | Do you take this taxi with you? |
| Ashfaq | Van *carry dabba…* |
| Manzar | In how much does it go? |
| Ashfaq | In two or three hundred rupees… |
| Manzar | *Peer Palai?* |
| Ashfaq | *Kaas.* |
| Manzar | On *Doltala’s* side? |
| Ashfaq | Yes… it is a government hospital. |
| Manzar | Okay.. Then it is fine. |
| Ashfaq | We used get our delivery cases done at *Sohawa.* |
| Hasnain | Because there was no one here before.  Now there is one in government hospital. |
| Manzar | He was fine. That man was fine too.  If you didn’t have money for the time being then she would say that it’s no problem, give it on that day. |
| Manzar | That’s amazing. |
| Ashfaq | And really people would return the money. |
| Manzar | Is there a lady doctor here? |
| Ashfaq | Yes… there is a lady doctor. |
| Manzar | So how much does it cost? |
| Ashfaq | Not much.. Not that much. |
| Manzar | Yes… It doesn’t cost much in government hospitals. |
| Ashfaq | In *Sohawa* it costs almost six to seven hundred… for medicines… It was not government account *khata*. Still she used to do justice… She would consider if someone is poor. |
| Hasnain | She would see the person. |
| Ashfaq | She would inject drips… injections too. |
| Manzar | Yes…  It’s okay. These all are Allah’s work… These things get all well… |
| Ashfaq | Thanks to Allah.  There was a person in our town. They had a girl and we had boy.  He said that *musalli* had a boy..  Now we are *musalli* by profession… Otherwise we are *Khokhar..*  And they said that they had a boy and we had a girl.  I said it is Allah’s blessing… It’s not our hands.  He says that Allah doesn’t give you bread but he gives you sons.  He said so.. He is a kid.. He took him in to his treasure. *Apney khazaney me le gaya.* |
| Manzar | Yes. Okay people call them to weddings… to do work? |
| Hasnain | Yes. |
| Manzar | Whatever the profession is… Prophet (pbuh) didn’t prohibit from it. |
| Ashfaq | Exactly. |
| Hasnain | Prophet (pbuh) didn’t say that he is this and he is that…  Prophet (pbuh) used to mend his shoes himself. |
| Manzar | Yes. |
| Hasnain | Prophet (pbuh) used to stitch his clothes himself. Look at that…  He didn’t say that he is *musalli* and he is *raja.*  Where do *musalli* and *raja* go when they enter the mosque? |
| Manzar | Yes. |
| Hasnain | They don’t say that  *Ek hi saf me kharay ho gae Mehmood o Ayaaz.* |
| Manzar | *Na koi bnda raha na koi banda Nawaz.* |
| Hasnain | *Mehmood* was greater in status and *Nawaz* was a bit lower in status.  They were like master and servant.  They were standing in the same row for prayer. Where did it go there?  It’s just like you are offering prayer in *Pindi…* and a *peer* comes.  You know that people who have *peer* they ask other people to get aside.. *Peer sahb* is coming. |
| Manzar | Okay. |
| Hasnain | My uncle *mamoon* was there too.. We were standing together.  My uncle was standing at *peer sahb’s* spot.  *Peer sahb* was to stand behind the *imam.*  They said get aside *Peer sahb* is coming.  My uncle works where missiles are assembled. |
| Manzar | In Atomic Energy? |
| Hasnain | Yes.. In there…  Initially he stood there quietly.. Then they made the announcement again.  My uncle asked *Peer sahb* that which place is this? No one is *Peer* or *faqeer* here…  *Peer sahb* asked who said so. *Mamoon* told him that these followers *chailay*.. Moved me from there.  Now *Zardari* himself is good but *Rahmaan Malik* and others… They are corrupt. |
| Manzar | Yes. |
| Hasnain | Who is defamed then?... That *Zardari* is *haraami.* |
| Ashfaq | Now see *Chadhry Pervaiz* is building so many bungalows. |
| Hasnain | You have seen right, he is building a big bungalow. |
| Manzar | Yes… On *Chakwal Road.* |
| Hasnain | That bungalow is huge… Whose money is being used there? All the money is ours. |
| Manzar | Yes. |
| Ashfaq | Now I’ll tell you another thing.  They give one or two thousand rupees per month…  How many people get it? |
| Manzar | Yes. |
| Ashfaq | I tried to register my name in *Mughlan*. I didn’t have identity card at that time.  Now people over here, who own lands and property, they get money but we don’t.  (*Manzar* is feeling sorrow). |
| Manzar | This is the difference of caste. |
| Hasnain | Yes.. They keep the difference. Otherwise according to Islam there is no difference. |
| Ashfaq | In the past, the system offered by *bait ul maal*.. ot that one. |
| Hasnain | The *Benazir* scheme which is introduced. Who is benefitting from that… Well off people. |
| Manzar | Now it’s not written on your card that you are *musalli* or someone else. |
| Ashfaq | No. It is not mentioned.. |
| Hasnain | Caste is not mentioned. |
| Ashfaq | We are *khokhar* by caste. But it is not written on the card.  It is not mentioned on the card even now. |
| Hasnain | In reality, people of higher ranks do all the corruption.  For instance *Zardari* is fine. There were terrorists.  Since he has gone to jail… He is acting like a man now.  Now even if that poor man does good things, he is defamed… They say he is *harami.* |
| Ashfaq | Yes. |
| Hasnain | There is a person named *kaka* in our village. He would do minor acts of thefts. He used to break the money boxes of mosques and shrines. Now he has left this work. Initially he used to drive a taxi. Now he has bought a rickshaw. |
| Manzar | Who? |
| Hasnain | The one who drives rickshaw. He lives near your house.. His uncle *chacha* bought him a rickshaw.  Now he drives a rickshaw. |
| Manzar | Okay. He used to do all this. |
| Hasnain | For the sake of fun. He would break moneyboxes. |
| Ashfaq | He didn’t have anything to eat. So he used to do this. |
| Manzar | It is the saying of Prophet (pbuh) that “*ho skta he k muflisi tumhen kufr tk le jae.”* |
| Hasnain | Yes. |
| Manzar | Poverty makes a person helpless. |
| Hasnain | Now if there is any robbery in village, people blame him for that. Even if he is not involved.  *Pakro g kakey ko.* |
| Manzar | Yes… Catch him… Although he is driving rickshaw. He is working hard. |
| Hasnain | It is because he has been a wanted criminal.  He used to break moneyboxes… He tells himself. |
| Manzar | Now even with closed eyes his name comes in the mind. That maybe he is the one. |
| Hasnain | No matter if he was sitting somewhere else. |
| Ashfaq | Should I tell you about *Haji Sahb…* |
| Manzar | *Siddique Sahb?* |
| Ashfaq | No, the other one. His father… *Haji Yousuf sahb..* |
| Manzar | He is *Siddique’s* father? |
| Hasnain | Yes he is his father… *Yousuf sahb.* |
| Ashfaq | Guaranteed…  If you go to visit him alone, it is guaranteed. If you lift his beddings and see… There will be many packets there.. Whose.. |
| Manzar | Packet of what? |
| Hasnain | You are simple… I used to say that I am simple.. You are simpler than me. |
| Hasnain | Balloons… |
| Manzar | Okay… Condoms…  Under his bed? |
| Hasnain | Yes… |
| Manzar | That old man deserves this… |
| Hasnain | He is all fine.  He cannot walk but… He sits on a chair..  He walks with a lot of effort. And look at his condition.  This is the situation. And he is *Haji Sahb.* (Laughing) |
| Ashfaq | And he has been a *thanedaar.*  He kept an old lady. She used to bring and tie his *dhoti* at night. At night.. Amazing… |
| Hasnain | Then she didn’t suit him… The servant that he kept. |
| Ashfaq | She took everything.. |
| Hasnain | Everything… |
| Ashfaq | She said that you will do the work… Transfer everything to me… Sign the documents. *Lagao angoothey.* |
| Hasnain | There is this company OGDCL… There is a two canal land over there, she transferred that property on her name. |
| Manzar | From the old man? |
| Hasnain | Yes.. don’t know… How many thousands she took over night.  *Haji Sahb* kept on seeing… that when will she come back. She played her trick… Now they can’t do anything. (Laughing) |
| Ashfaq | Such things happen to such people. |
| Manzar | It is like; money comes back to its source. *Jidhar se maal ata he udhar hi chala jate he.* If it is rightly earned… |
| Hasnain | It goes away.  Once I found thirty rupees. When illegal money *haram maal* mixes with rightly earned money, it gets corrupt too. |
| Manzar | Very few can digest this. |
| Hasnain | I had fifty rupees in my pocket and those thirty rupees. I thought that I had found thirty rupees, today will eat *naan kabab.*  I kept them.. And I didn’t know that I lost my own money as well.  (Laughing)  I didn’t know that even if rightly earned money is little… If illegal money gets mixed with it then it gets corrupted too. |
| Manzar | Even one rupee of illegal money… |
| Hasnain | I found plenty of times after that.. And I used them right away.. (Laughing)  I didn’t keep them in my pocket… |
| Manzar | You didn’t keep in the pocket.. Didn’t mix them up..  That old man *baba* still…? |
| Hasnain | Yes… Still.. |
| Ashfaq | Still… |
| Mazar | Packet…? (laughing) |
| Hasnain | (Laughing)  Everything… |
| Ashfaq | Guaranteed… See…  When I pulled out their windows… There were bundles of five rupee notes.. Eaten.. By insects. Currency notes…  I said why did you put these here *kaafir?* |
| Manzar | Yes.  *Haji sahb* went to *England* right? |
| Hasnain | *Americe…* His son is in *America.*  They have a lot of money. |
| Ashfaq | They have a lot of money… But they don’t give if someone asks. |
| Hasnain | Leave everything else…  He was saying that I will organize a tournament. |
| Manzar | Yes. |
| Hasnain | Okay. He will give forty fifty thousand for tournament… He will give five to ten thousand.  Yesterday we saw from where we were doing work that everything is visible from there… Whatever he is doing.  Yesterday a beggar came. She was very old. I saw that she was coming.  He didn’t give her twenty rupees..  Imagine that he can put in five to ten thousand in the tournament. What will happen…? They will leave after playing match and you will come home quietly.  You cannot give twenty or ten rupees.. He said, “Pardon”… |
| Ashfaq | I came the other day.. I saw that a beggar was coming.. I didn’t have money, I recited *Bismillah…* I gave her some flour. |
| Manzar | Amazaing. *Kia baat he.* |
| Hasnain | If you have nothing then give them some water to drink… do anything..  Our brother *Liaquat*. If a beggar comes, he would give bread, water, tea anything, even if the door is closed… He would give something to drink.  Now Allah has made afterlife.  We don’t give to them.. We give to ourselves.. |
| Manzar | Allah will forgive His rights… but He will not forgive right of people. |
| Hasnain | Allah said, “I will forgive my rights… I will not forgive rights of people.”  It’s the same thing that we don’t give to others… We give to ourselves.  When someone begs in front of you, they don’t say that give in my name… They ask in the name of Allah. |
| Manzar | Yes… |
| Hasnain | Everyone gives when they are asked to give in the name of Allah. |
| Ashfaq | Exactly…  We went to *Chakwal..* We were three… One was tumbling and moving along. Others were walking. The one in front was saying something… Others at the back were saying something too… All of them…  *Hafiz* saw this and he gave. Then I gave ten rupees as well…  I don’t know what they were saying.. All of three…  I remembered it very good. *Hafiz* and I learned that.  We used to say it when we sit in mosque. They made it very good that  *Allah dey… Bhala de… tera pata nahin kia he.* |
| Hasnain | There is this circus over there. In which they stab knives in the belly… Those who do magic *nazar band.* |
| Manzar | Yes. |
| Hasnain | We saw that there is this yellow wire. Magic doesn’t work on it. It seems like they are stabbing knives, they play trick on others. *Baqion ki nazar bandh detey hn.* |
| Ashfaq | You know what happen is that (p-84). Work is in progress. You people should leave… Throw the mat *dari…* and go outside.  Something will happen.. Other may not. |
| Manzar | *Wah g wah…* |
| Ashfaq | This is something very common. It is hung with the vehicles. |
| Hasnain | We use **…** methods.  I was telling you about someone, about women. They have a *Shoki.* He does *taweez dhaga.*  He is a renowned person. He used to do *taweez dhaga* first.  You know what he does now? You know the people of *dera…* They arrange rooster fights.  Means they would tell you that we are arranging a fight and would take 100,000 from you.  They wouldn’t say that we will give you the money, they would say that they rooster is ours.  What he used to do was he would go to the fight.. And watch.. After watching… He would guess that which one is the strong party. He would say that I will make your rooster win.  They don’t say that we gave the money. They would say that we gave because it is right.  He would do magic on other rooster *nazar bandh deta.* And would make the other rooster blind. The rooster who is unable to see.. How could he fight?  He would win… And he would take 50,000 home from 100,000 rupees.  Half half… He does all this.  If his wife goes to any jewelry shop in *Rawalpindi Islamabad…*  And if she tells them that she is *Shoki’s* wife. No one takes money from her. |
| Ashfaq | They know everything… |
| Hasnain | There are eight cars parked outside his home all the time and they are of different colors.  Car of every color…  His complexion was so good before. And since he has started this work, he has spots on skin now *Phulbehri.* |
| Ashfaq | Yes… His skin is damaged…  These things don’t let you sleep at night… |
| Hasnain | He got married the same way.  He went to exorcise a girl. He liked her. |
| Manzar | *Baba??* |
| Hasnain | When he was a young boy.  There is this place *Kuri Road* in *Rawalpindi..* He went there to exorcise a girl. He liked the girl there.  He said to them that I will send proposal.. They said to him that that *Chaudhry*… He said this and that.  He said that I want to make this bond. And I will bring *Baraat* that day. |
| Manzar | Okay. |
| Hasnain | He said this and went home… At home he said to his siblings that I am taking *Baraat* that day.. Everyone said that we didn’t send proposal properly… Nothing…  He said that *baraat* will go on that date… that’s it.  No one knew where the *Baraat* was going… No one knew…  The groom was in front and *Baraat* was following him.  His brother and mother were against this.  But who can talk in front of *baba.* |
| Manzar | Yes… |
| Hasnain | He brought the girl home after wedding. (Laughing)  I asked him to show such weak people to me as well… That they do whatever I say. (Laughing) |
| Ashfaq | (Making fun) |
| Manzar | Okay what are you doing tomorrow? |
| Ashfaq | Here in the village. |
| Manzar | Let’s go *Hasnain*… *bhai* is tired too. |
| Ashfaq | No matter… |
| Manzar | I asked you to come home, there. |
| Ashfaq | Let’s go… |
| Hasnain | We will come there tomorrow. We will talk there tomorrow. |
| Ashfaq | No… I don’t sit with young boys… |
|  | *Hasnain* and *Manzar* are both laughing. |
| Manzar | No.. You can check under my bed… No need to take tension…  (*Ashfaq* and *Hasnain* are talking together) |
| Hasnain | Drizzling feels so good.  It is the blessing of Allah… And… Allah is the owner. |
| Manzar | Okay… It was really nice meeting you… May Allah keep you happy like this.  Assalam o Allaikum |