

Interview with Soem Bunthorn

A: Interviewer Leng Pheakdey B: Interviewee Soem Bunthorn

A: Okay, so as I said earlier, there is a university in the United States, and they want to know the history of the Cambodian people, and you are one of those people. I came here separately because I want to have an interview with you about your history up until now. May I ask you some questions?

B: You may.

A: Yes, okay.

A: And afterward, they will put the recording of your voice on their website so that people who want to listen to your history can. And maybe they will send a copy to you in case you want to tell your children. Actually, they want to have me ask about your email, but I don't think you have an email, right?

B: No.

A: It is difficult in Cambodia; they do not have a very extensive system. Now I want to start by asking, what is your name?

B: My name is [Soem Bunthorn].

A: [Soem Bunthorn], on the national records?

B: Yes.

A: And your nickname?

B: [Toeu] (the word for dwarf).

A: They call you [Toeu], and do you know why they call you the name [Toeu]?

B: I don't know, when the time came that I understood, I just got up and saw them calling me that name.

A: They call you that.

B: That's it.

A: Because some people have nicknames because there is a backstory or something.

B: Yes, I don't know about any story, just that my mother and father heard them calling me that name and they let it be.

A: Okay. Apart from that, do you know any languages other than Khmer?

B: I don't know, my generation from '90s and '80s, to '80, '81, '82 didn't learn. They didn't let me learn.

A: They didn't let you learn foreign languages?

B: Yes, they didn't allow us to study. I took the entrance exam since 80, I tested for a diploma and I passed in 84; 83, and 84.

A: So, you only speak Khmer?

B: Only Khmer.

A: In Khmer, do you know how to read and write?

B: I can read and write.

A: Okay, but your generation had broken away from the French, so why did they not let you study?

B: After we were free from France came the generation of the State of Cambodia, the State of Cambodia before us, the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

A: Okay.

B: After that came the state of Cambodia, the state of Cambodia, they didn't let us study anything, they studied secretly in provinces and villages.

A: What did you learn?

B: They didn't let us learn that language.

A: You learned secretly, right?

B: Yes, learned secretly back in that generation.

A: But if you learned, what language would they learn?

B: French.

A: French?

B: Yes, you learned French. If we were after that time and entered '93, UNTAC let you could go in, they opened it to learn every language.

A: Okay, so you don't know any other languages?

B: Yes.

A: And where is your hometown, where were you born?

B: Born in [Leu] village, [Svay Chrum] commune, [Khsach Kandal] district, [Kandal] province.

A: This is [Kandal] province. And until today, what year were you born?

B: I was born in 1963.

A: '63! Oh, about the same age as my dad's younger sibling, by two years... oh! 3 years. The year my dad was born was in '60. No worries, for this question, you can answer or not, I some people are scared to answer and whatnot. I want to ask, what is your Khmer year?

B: The year of the dragon.

A: Year of the dragon?

B: Yes, that one.

A: Okay, thank you very much.

B: There's nothing to fear, haha.

A: No, some people are afraid that we'll take it and do things, but truthfully, we don't take it to do anything. Ok, no worries then. Thank you, the year of the dragon, like me too, I am the year of the dragon also.

B: Haha!

A: Right! So, forgive me, in what year did you get married?

B: I got married in '93.

A: '93?

B: '93, the generation that UNTAC entered the country, UNTAC has been preparing for the election for a few days beforehand.

A: Oh, so you were many years old when you got married?

B: I was maybe twenty or older, maybe about more than twenty-five in that generation.

A: Hey! If you were born in '63, why were you 25 in '93?

B: From '63 to then... it was close to 30.

A: Yes, that's right.

B: It was close to 30.

A: Right, at that period of time. And when it came time to get married, were your parents the ones to arrange it?

B: The parents arranged the marriage.

A: Oh, really?

B: Yeah, we only saw each other and were satisfied and whatnot. He went to look into it, and then he called on her in the correct way, according to custom.

A: Oh, that means you already loved her.

B: Yes, she caught my heart.

A: Uh-huh.

B: When she heard the elders talking to each other, she got engaged and then got married.

A: Okay, it's not like... the parents... like in the old days, children had no rights?

B: They didn't have any.

A: It was the parents who arranged it, that what's I want to point out, you know? So, you loved yourself, but they were the ones to get you married. So, it was a bit different from...

B: Tradition.

A: My father wasn't the same, it was just that the elders were in accord with each other, and after they were in accord, they took him to see each other [the girl]! Haha!

B: Haha!

A: During that time, you know? Okay, so you just said that you got married in '93, and about that marriage, how much did you give for the engagement dowry?

B: No, back then, it was maybe about 15000 or 18000 [riel]. 18000 in Khmer money, during our generation in '93. The price of gold for one [chiy] (a unit of gold about .13 oz.) was 10000 or 11000 [riel].

A: So, it was close to two [chiy] then.

B: That's right, close to two [chiy] back then.

A: Nearly two [chiy]. Okay, and at that time, you married in what village?

B: In [Svay Meas], [Svay Meas] village, [Vihear Suor] commune, [Khsach Kandal] district, [Kandal] province likewise.

A: Oh! So, you got married at [Vihear Suor] and after you got married, you moved elsewhere.

B: I went there. After marriage, went there, and built a hut there.

A: There, in what village?

B: In [Leu] village.

A: No, like in which village and commune?

B: That's right, in [Leu] village.

A: [Leu] village, what commune?

B: [Svay Chrum] commune.

A: [Svay Chrum], what province, what district?

B: [Khsach Kandal] district, [Kandal] province.

A: Okay, one more question. Like, I'm sorry but how many siblings do you have, birth siblings?

B: For my siblings, I have 4 people. 5 people including myself.

A: And, uh, how many brothers and how many sisters?

B: 2 brothers, 3 sisters.

A: And which child are you?

B: If we're talking about before, I was the second child, uh no, I was the third.

A: The third?

B: All my older siblings died already.

B: Your older siblings died already?

B: My older siblings died in the time before '79.

A: Oh, so the [Pol Pot] generation?

B: He was separated from the [Pol Pot] time, that's right.

A: Oh!

B: His generation was during the coup of Prince Sihanouk.

A: '75!

B: So, my older brother joined as a soldier during the [Lon Nol] generation to serve in the royal army.

A: Hey, the fall of Prince Sihanouk was in the year '70.

B: '70?

A: '70, '75 was [Pol Pot] already.

B: '75 [Pol Pot]. He was before [Pol Pot].

A: Okay.

B: He fought in the war with [Pol Pot]. He joined the army before [Pol Pot]. [Pol Pot], was finished in '79, right? So, '70 to '79?

A: '75 to '79.

B: Oh, '75 to '79

A: Uh-huh.

B: And he did it from '75 to then.

A: So, he was a soldier for [Lon Nol].

B: [Lon Nol], that's right, and in that generation.

A: So, then he went to war with [Pol Pot].

B: There was [Pol Pot] at that time already.

A: And he also died?

B: [Pol Pot], they didn't call it [Pol Pot], they called it [Yeak Kong] (Khmer word for Viet Cong) during that generation.

A: Okay, I understand. And so, he died.

B: Don't know if he died. From living then until now, I never knew or heard anything.

A: Lost all news.

B: Lost all information, for both of them.

A: Those two were older brothers?

B: Those two were older and younger brothers.

A: So, because you've lost all contact with him, you think that maybe he died already. If he was still living, he would look for your parents.

B: If he was still alive, he knows this district and village. He left to go; they were all old enough to join the army.

A: Uh-huh.

B: So, my missing brother would be 50 or 60 or more. I'm older than 50 already, 53 or something.

A: Uh-huh.

B: And my lost brother would be 60 by now.

A: Okay, now could you try to tell me, about all your siblings, up until now, how old are they, including your older brother that died?

B: I forgot already, the older was the rooster, and the second was the year of the dog. The oldest of them all was the rooster, and then the second, he was the dog.

A: And the first [oldest] brother?

B: The rooster.

A: No, what age would he be about, up until now?

B: I don't know how old, the one with the year of the rooster. I am 53, so maybe he is older than 60 already, 62 or 63 already. And for the second, maybe 60 or something. Two, three.

A: Afterward, you are the third-born?

B: That's right, afterward is me.

A: Then two sisters.

B: Yes, after my younger sister, there was one more sister. Then there was a younger brother, and then the youngest sister- one more.

A: Uh, so five people?

B: Yes, five people.

A: Two brothers.

B: Two brothers are still alive nowadays, two brothers.

A: And so, both boys died then?

B: Of both brothers, only the oldest did.

A: Okay, and so you had two older brothers, then you, and afterward two younger sisters.

B: No, there were four brothers total, including the one that died, four people.

A: Okay, and there were two sisters?

B: No, there were three.

A: And so, there were seven, of your siblings.

B: Seven people, but I'm not counting the dead.

A: No, you can count them all.

B: If I count them all, there are seven people.

A: Seven people, so there were two that died, and five still living. And so those that died, those to people, there was a brother and one after you.

B: Yes, right.

A: After, there were two sisters.

B: Yes.

A: And then the youngest.

B: The youngest brother, and then after came the youngest sister.

A: And how old are your younger sisters, the two of them?

B: No, I don't know how old, I forgot already. The one after me was the year of the dog, and after the one with the year of the dog was the one with the year of the ox, and after the one with the year of the ox was the brother that was the year of the dragon.

A: Another dragon?

B: Yes, and the youngest was another dog, like that.

A: And so, you only remember the year, but don't remember the year, haha!

B: Haha!

A: OK, it's nothing. But nowadays, do they also live close to you?

B: They live on the concrete road, close to each other.

A: Including...

B: Including all three of them. If the younger sibling goes to [Kampong Cham], the brother goes to be in [Kampong Cham].

A: Oh, in [Kampong Cham].

B: The three sisters are in that district and village too.

A: Okay, I understand. Apart from that, are your father and mother still living nowadays?

B: They've all died already. They died already, and my mother died two weeks ago. We had the funeral for 7 days, it just finished.

A: Oh okay, which is why you shaved your hair, right?

B: That's right.

A: And your father also died?

B: My father died.

A: And do you remember where his hometown was?

B: His hometown, he was born there, both my father and mother were born there.

A: In [Leu] village?

B: Yes, my father in [Svay Chrum] village, [Svay Chrum] commune, my mother in [Leu] village, and [Svay Chrum] commune like each other in that generation.

A: And do you know the year of his birth?

B: Uh, I forgot already. The year his mother was born was the year of the Ox.

A: But the year, like, the year.

B: The year of my father, I forgot it already.

A: So, you don't remember?

B: Don't remember.

A: Right, this is why they do this project- to save [this information], because some documents have been lost and we don't care for those stories. And for your mother, when she died, how old was she?

B: 83.

A: Oh, she lived long too!

B: Yes, 83.

A: And the age of your father then...

B: The age of my father, when he died, he was 84, but he was old by then.

A: Oh, lived to a long age!

B: Yes, he may have approached 10 and he died.

A: Huh. And do you remember anything about your grandfather and grandmother? Your grandfather?

B: No, for my grandparents, I only know their names. I never met them face to face too. Just my father's last name, he put [Soem] and my mother put the name [Leng]. So, I don't know them, I just know the name.

A: You know only the name?

B: Yes, my father's name was [Soem Sot], and my mother's name was [Leng Vun].

A: No, on your grandparent's side?

B: I never knew my grandparents.

A: So, when you grew up, you never met your grandparents?

B: No. I've met and only seen my father's dad, my grandparents, I didn't know who this and that person was. During that generation, we were very poor, so we weren't together so much. He went to farm in the fields, [...] two old women there. Also, my father and mother never told them we were here, so they couldn't keep up with us. But in the house with each other, it was this way. We didn't sit and discuss and talk, or ask questions about this or that. No, in that generation, we were lacking, like lacking in the ability to lead children. In that generation, it was hard too. The districts and villages had very few people, it's not like now, crowded with people.

A: Crowded, right?

B: The road ahead, it wasn't there. From there until [Prek Bongkong], there also weren't people.

A: There was just forest?

B: It was all just forest. And the area of the border to [Ta Mao] straight from here was full of monkeys. If you dared to cross them, and they did you wrong. And all the forest was full of tigers there wasn't a place you could live. There were only tiny areas with only four or five families. In my generation, since I was born in '63 until '70, I was aware, and that's all I have, so speaking.

A: Just barely, you said that in the generation that you grew up in, there were tigers and monkeys that did harm. So, were all the animals... do you know if any hurt people, or were a danger to people?

B: They never hurt me, only that there were many people that were scared of animals. But those animals never hurt people.

A: So, about what you just said, were there any tigers or anything that came to eat people?

B: The tiger never would come in, it would just come next to the village. Since the beginning, the water rose once and flooded the village, the only things left were small [...]. He went to hunt tigers, hunt rabbits, and whatnot in the forests with their dogs.

A: Oh, he had a dog to chase the animals?

B: Yes, the dogs chased, he was the person to find food to eat, you know?

A: Okay!

B: He went to get food, but he only got small animals, and for tigers, he didn't get any. The monkeys, he also didn't get any, didn't have a gun to shoot them in that generation. He only got civets and rabbits.

A: Rabbits?

B: Rabbits, the ones that dogs can chase.

A: And for you, when they went to hunt animals, do you remember what animals they had with them?

B: Not back then. I just saw that he carried his dog and whatnot, he walked his dog. Sometimes he would cross the river, and could carry it more, there was that too.

A: He carried the dog, you can't let it drown, you know?

B: That's right! In that generation, he said it over and over.

B: Yes.

B: But I did not go to help hunt anything, I was still young, I just know his history.

A: Okay, it's like this - I know that when you were growing up, your generation was the type that met many wars.

B: Honestly speaking, we met many wars. I remember since the war that [Lon Nol] fell. After the King, [Lon Nol] came, which was broken apart by the Khmer Rouge. They called them the [Viet Cong], at first it was [Viet Cong].

A: Uh-huh.

B: The [Viet Cong] had black teeth, that's what they said.

B: Yeah.

B: And when they came to do war, we saw the [Viet Cong] wear rice hats in the forest and whatnot, we only saw that. But it was only after we were free from the [Viet Cong] that we came to the time of [Pol Pot], that's when they called it [Pol Pot].

A: And when the war broke out, did you run away?

B: I ran.

A: Where did you run to?

B: We ran from there to the mouth of the river at our dock.

A: Yes.

B: We went together from there, coming from here and there.

A: Uh-huh.

B: Whoever had the ability to cross on boat went to [Chrouy Changva], to [Chrouy Changva] shore near [Kandal].

A: Yes.

B: That's right. Whoever had a boat took others, and crossed to wherever to liberate each other, to go wherever. Even the small boats went. Thinking about it, that generation forced us to really break apart. We went to protect ourselves, which is why when [Pol Pot] came, we ran away.

A: The year '75?

B: Right, yes. We led each other to run away to [Chrouy Changva], and met up there in [Chrouy Changva]. Those in [Phnom Penh] went, those who were beyond [Phnom Penh] went, and whoever was in [Chrouy Changva] were just there. Afterward, from there I left [Phnom Penh] and ran to protect myself, left [Phnom Penh] and came to my hometown by myself, it's like that.

A: When the war started, which side fought which side?

B: We did not know, but the old people called them [Yeak Kong] (Viet Cong).

A: The [Viet Cong]?

B: But our troops went to shoot them, they also shot us, the two troops created a war. But we do not know who shot first, and who shot after, we don't know.

A: Okay. And outside of that, when [...] happened, did you [...] go to the province?

B: No! I just went to [Chrouy Changva].

A: Just to [Chrouy Changva].

B: When the time came to leave [Phnom Penh], I just came back here. After leaving [Phnom Penh], they let us come here and protect ourselves. Those in the countryside let us come, and those that didn't come quick enough were driven out, there was that too, frankly speaking.

A: And outside of that, in the [Pol Pot] generation, what did you do for work?

B: For me, in the [Pol Pot] generation, I was in the mobile unit (a field hand). They called us the youth mobile unit after we were full of strength, and had reached the age of adolescence. After number one, then came number two. Like, if I was 25 years old, they would call us the big mobile

unit, and we would dig with our great strength. Then, I was only 15 to 18. Because of that, they called us the youth mobile unit.

A: Oh really.

B: That's right.

A: Most of the time, for work, what did you do in the [Pol Pot] generation?

B: For work, there was none. Just only chopping down forest, watching cows and buffalos, in that generation. You would work until the hour to eat rice porridge.

A: And were you ever abused by them in the Khmer Rouge?

B: I was. They abused us. They wronged us, like, they acted in the way that wrong people do. And if we acted wrong according to their regulations, they would abuse us. But if we always walked according to their way, we never affected anything of theirs. They would never hurt us.

A: And apart from that, did you eat enough?

B: It was not enough at all. It was like we knew already; we could only scoop a little bit of porridge. But, in this village, the rice was just normal porridge.

A: Not just a small amount of rice.

B: Not a little rice at all. It could be tough, or not tough, either way. Just that if it was cracked, they would scoop it into a large metal bowl. After a while, it would become cracked, but the porridge would be watery, or it would be dry. But it wasn't like [Battambang] or [Pursat], you could live.

A: Okay.

B: You could live.

A: Just that it wasn't porridge, right?

B: Yes, not porridge, right.

A: And apart from that, did you ever see the Khmer Rouge kill people?

B: I've never seen it, but I've heard people talk about it. We never saw it happen, never seen them take people to be killed. Before, I heard that say that they would take people to "learn".

A: To "learn"!

B: To "learn". The organization requested that they go to "learn". For that, any of those who had done something wrong were requested to go and went missing. We don't know where they took them, we don't know. It was like that.

A: I understand, so if you were to compare it with our current time, and with the generation you were a youth and grew up in, in what ways was it different?

B: For that, frankly speaking, they are very different from each other. In our generation, it wasn't so advanced. Back to your generation, it is very advanced. They work and it grows, all parts of the economy grow. The people have also grown, the population has increased.

A: The population is increasing...

B: The cows and buffalos also have increased; everything has increased actually. The economy has grown, the economy before was weak, with few people. Until now, they learn and gain a lot of knowledge, they know how to develop.

A: So, do you think things have gotten a lot better?

B: It is a lot better, that's right.

A: I understand. And now, I have the following question about your desires. So, so, we just talked about your history when you grew up, and now I want to ask you, what music do you like listening to?

B: It is difficult for me when it comes to music and whatnot, I don't know how to listen. If they turn it on to listen, I know how to listen but I don't know how to sing.

A: So, singing and listening are different from each other! I also don't know how to sing but I like to listen.

B: Singing and listening are not really different from each other. But also, for music, I don't remember which songs I love. I can sing that, but it's not good at all! If they turn it on, I'll listen to it.

A: So then, what do you like to watch, if you don't listen [to music]?

B: About watching, I'm not affirming that I watch, or that I love the television. I don't really love drama or films. I just let them play, just know to watch the television. If you need to turn it on, turn it on and watch. It's like that. I don't have the desire in my heart, not like I only want to watch dramas or just want to watch movies. For the television, I don't watch it, I don't have [the desire].

A: And do you like to watch boxing, or not?

B: Boxing, I watch it like normal. Some days I watch it, some days I don't but go to work like this. Today is boxing day, but I didn't watch it, I went to work. I just didn't want to watch it.

A: Uh-huh.

B: But on some days, I remember and want to watch it. Haha!

A: One more and we're done - I want to ask this, about food.

B: Yes!

A: What food do you like to eat?

B: Nope! My wife makes the food every day - sour soup, soups, types of curry, and other things. I only know how to eat. Grilled fish, and other types of fish too. I don't think about if I want curry or [...].

A: Haha.

B: Nope! I don't have the desire at all.

A: Kinda, so it's not hard for them to please you!

B: Yes, that's right! I don't think: today I want to eat curry or [...], nope! Whatever they have, we'll all eat it.

A: Also, what foods do you know how to make?

B: As for food, I can only do soups like [brahaoer] vegetable soup, and stir fry, that's it. Haha! To get ingredients, we need to have them do it, I don't really know how to grind ingredients, I need them to do it.

A: Uh-huh. For me, I like [samlar machu] sour soup, I like to eat that and curry, you know? But that's just for me.

B: It's normal for me, I don't recall ever wanting to make it or eat it, no not really.

A: So, I want to go back a little bit. I forgot to ask that when you were young, what was your house made of back in that generation?

B: My house, when I was with my family and my parents, was a wooden house made from a tree.

A: Oh, a wooden house, did it also have a roof?

B: A brick roof... no wait!

A: Tiles?

B: They were tile shingles.

A: Tile shingles, and what about walls, were they made of boards or of leaves?

B: They were leaf walls.

A: Palm leaves?

B: Palm leaves, [...] leaves and whatnot, they would cut it them from the base.

A: I understand.

B: Yeah, it was like that. And we would use bamboo mats.

A: A bamboo mat. And now you have a house of stone.

B: Yes.

A: And one more, since the beginning, have you ever raised animals?

B: I've only ever raised cows and buffaloes, I've always raised them, ever since the beginning with my father and mother. They used to raise cows and buffalos. They passed it on to me, I only know how to continue their work.

A: And, uh, in that generation, what did they ride to travel, if they raised cows and buffalos?

B: In that generation, they only traveled on foot and by biking. There were only a few bikes.

A: What about ox carts, horse carts?

B: About ox carts and horse carts, they didn't really have many. If they had an ox cart, they could travel. You could put one family in, they would go to [Preaek Luong], or any other river. And about sleeping on the road, some people didn't sleep on the road, but they would stay there in the countryside and would go again once morning came. And that's it. There were but a few that made the journey by ox-cart and took the supplies, you know? If we went to visit with many of our siblings, we would walk or one would bike. It wasn't easy!

A: And if you went somewhere far, did you have a car?

B: No, there were no cars. If you saw one in that generation, it was like seeing a prince.

A: Haha!

B: If we saw any, we didn't recognize them, back then there weren't any. The villages were at a distance of maybe a kilometer of land away, so we didn't know each other. People were far from here so we didn't know each other. It took one kilometer if you had to travel to someone, no. And you could only walk on the roads, you couldn't walk in the forest. It was all just forest.

A: In the forest, there weren't roads.

B: Yes, there weren't roads, the roads we walked on were tiny.

A: So, according to what I've heard, you've seen that people in that generation didn't really travel.

B: They didn't really travel anywhere often, except for near the village. It was like that, but if you started from one kilometer or two kilometers, you could visit and meet each other.

A: Uh-huh!

B: There were no means to meet each other. Even if a sibling that lived far away died, you wouldn't know.

A: You wouldn't receive any news?

B: They would send something. They would write a letter, and someone would bring it here in that generation.

A: Okay! And in regards to skills, what skills do you know, that you learned from your father and that you passed to your children?

B: About skills, I don't really have any.

A: And what about working in the fields?

B: I only know how to work in the fields, that's it. I work in the fields and plant vegetables and whatnot. I work in the forest near our house, we save everything we can. I cut them down, and plant bananas and other things. I don't really have anything.

A: You don't have any skills, like making sugar or silk or anything?

B: No.

A: Not a problem, you just have the skill to work in the fields.

B: I just know how to work in the fields, yes.

A: And today, I came to meet you in the fields. How many fields do you work in?

B: No, this isn't my land, it is someone else's land.

A: Oh, their land. Do you rent it from them?

B: It's their land, I just rent it from them. If it was my land, even just this much, I would be a rich man! Haha, more than a million!

A: Sell it! Haha.

B: One square is 150.

A: One square is 150!

B: That's right.

A: And not 40?

B: It's not 40, it used to be 40 but now it is 150. It has increased to 150 now. How much have you seen it for half an arm's length? It's not 75 [750,000 riel] anymore, haha! The land is 70 too, their land.

A: Oh, so the land that you rent from them is 70 then.

B: Yes.

A: And you work in the fields. And you have a harvest every year because you have water from the lake?

B: Yes, there is enough water to pump.

A: OK! And one more question, I want to ask you this- since you were old enough to understand until now, do you remember the time when it was the hardest for you?

B: No, generally speaking about my life, it has not been difficult. The [Pol Pot] generation was hard, but it was hard for everyone, everywhere.

A: Yes.

B: For me, it is not difficult, just normal. They live how they live, and I can live like this.

A: And now I want to ask this: when was the time that you were the [unhappiest]?

B: No, I don't think it's been super difficult. I think that I'm content, I can live. I think that those below me have it harder than I do, so I don't have anything difficult, it is normal. When it comes to eating, we don't have enough, but it isn't difficult.

A: It's like this - some people eat enough but their children hurt them.

B: Oh no, I've never had that.

A: Your children never hurt you?

B: No! My two children never made their parents unhappy.

A: Right, we all have different struggles. Sometimes they are disheartened when they lose our cows or lose our buffalos, right?

B: About that, it's difficult... but it's also not so difficult too. Suppose that I lost track of time. In the morning, I walk around and look, but can't find them. But I know that the cows and buffalos are at the gate.

A: Oh, have you ever lost a cow or a buffalo?

B: I've lost them, I used to know! But when I lost one, it would go to the gate. The whole herd of cows would go here, to this herd, and other's herds would go there. I'd go to look for them, and they'd really be there. If we were looking for the village and couldn't find it, we would go to the herds with them, to find their herds, and we'd find it.

A: You've never lost any or had any stolen?

B: Nope! It would just get lost, but I wasn't upset. I just knew that when the morning came, I would go look for it and it would come back again. Haha!

A: And now I want to ask you this, you just barely said that your children never upset you. How many children do you have?

B: Two people, three including the smallest one.

A: How many boys and how many girls?

B: Two boys and one girl.

A: Oh, the girl that left just a moment ago! Okay, I understand. Now, we just asked questions regarding when it was hard. Now I want to ask you when you were the happiest?

B: About being happy, it's normal nowadays.

A: No, from childhood until now, when were you the happiest?

B: For this question, I don't have anything.

A: Hey!

B: There wasn't a day that I was the happiest.

A: And what about when you got married, were you happy?

B: Uh, haha! For that, yeah, I was happy.

A: Right! That's when you were happiest?

B: Yeah, I was kind of happy, I was happy to do the ceremony. We presented the alms to our parents and whatnot.

A: Yes, just a little more and we'll be finished. So, when you were the happiest when you got married, how many guests attended?

B: I was smart back then, I set up 40 tables altogether, including the guests. In short, there were 40 including the guests and all the relatives.

A: Nephews, siblings, and everyone!

B: That's right.

A: OK, 40 tables, and one table would have 8 people, that's reasonable.

B: 10 people.

A: Oh, for 10 people, that would make it 400 people total.

B: Yes, 400 people.

A: Back then, did they play any music?

B: They had [Ak Kih] music.

A: They had [Ak Kih]. It was in '93 right?

B: Yes!

A: OK! Thank you very much for giving us this interview! And very last, I thank you for spending your time to do this interview, it gave me a few things [to learn]. And I know that anyone that listens to your history can know and understand a few things too.

B: Yes.

A: And one more question- the last question they ask is, may we have permission to take this voice recording and put it on our website with a photo? The photo I showed you, may we have the permission to use that?

B: No problem, they are the ones with the responsibility.

A: Right, and thank you so much for joining this interview, and goodbye!

B: Yes.