



INTERVIEW WITH OUR TEAM RIDER
Milan Shah Thakuri aka. Pagal Chora

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Milan shah is A 19 year old up and coming street ripper from nepal. After his skatelite began at 17 his level of progression has flourished due only to his sheer love for being on the board.

We called him up for a brief phone interview to find out more about his life. where he has come from and what he hopes to achieve as a skateboarder from Nepal.



Hello?

Is this Milan? Yes.

How are you bro? Im good bro.

What are you up to?

Just chilling man.

We don't know a lot about you man.

The Milan that we see today im sure there is a story behind him. What is his background? What did he do before skating? How did he start skateboarding? We want to know about that Milan.

You want me to tell u right now?

Yeah, you just got up or what?

Yes bro.

Should I call later?

How bout I send out a video man?

You can make a video and send it but

I wanna hear it from you personally

Then lets do it right now man.

If you are sleepy I'll call later

laughs, no bro its cool man.

Where are you from Milan?

My village is in Kavrea. We are a family of 7. My Big Sis, My Small Sis, Then another sister , mom , dad , grandfather and grandmother. Because of the earthquake our house has broken, its in a situation we cannot really stay in (Village House - He lives in ktm

and his families have come down to ktm cause of that). My big sister is in Malaysia and my second sister has a flight after 3 days for Japan. My dad has taken a lot of loan to send the sisters abroad, Because of that loan a lot of the problems are arising in the family. We have one House that is also in Bank Loan and I am the only Son.

Now I'm 20 bro, I cleared My 12 Standard two years back, Then sat down thinking Ill do bachelors then problems were like that. I'm hoping next year ill do that.

I Work in a Sofa factory. My mom tells me not to work I'll give u money cause she doesn't like me work- ing there. Im a grown up u know cant take money from my mom. My girlfriend also tells me not to work there. Due to earthquake most of the things have been closed so im figuring my ways here.

When you were young what did u want to become? Like lets say when you were in 11th – 12th standard, what did you think you would become?

at that time, ever since I was a kid I only did extra cirucular activity. From Basketball to Football I used to attend everything but in terms of studies I couldn't become so good. Even when I was a kid when I played basketball whether it was junior or senior I could

play both because my height was small. But in Both Junior & Senior I would get high score, my name would come in a newspaper Milan shah jersey no 5 from this school from this tournament. Didn't get any certificate but my name came in the newspaper quite a few times.

when I was studying in 10th standard, I knew how to dance. when I was in 9th standard they kicked me out of school because I was fighting too much and then when I went to new school where I met a friend called chimsey. He used to do B-boying, I used to dance but not B-Boying. As soon as I met him I got interested in B-Boying and then I did B-boying for a year. My plan was even if I could not do anything else in this world tomorrow I will open a Dance culture place where I can go and teach people how to dance and I would just do that and live. That was the Plan. Even in dance culture I used to teach two kinds of culture. I would earn 4000 per style so my salary was 8000. It was like that until one culture got bankrupt and the other culture the guy ran away. And then I was in a situation that I felt like I got out of both cultures at once. One didn't give me money the other one ran away.



So we also decided that may be we leave the dance culture and then all of sudden there was a topic about skateboarding. Then I said ok man lets go and see what this thing is. Chimsey had his own cyber cafe and then we went to checkout some skate videos. They were doing ridiculously amazing stuff on that video and we thought that is bullshit because people were jumping from 1st floor and then flipping the board down. We used to talk may be these people have magnets stuck for real. I didn't use fb much at that time, Chimsey was a bit popular on fb, he knew stylish people, a lot if girls. Chimsey was contacting Raju and Ujwol (skaters from Nepal) . I didn't know about it. One day he called up and said I called these skaters and they will come and we all should skate together with them. I said ok.

Just one day before that I tried skateboarding and I couldn't do it. Next day the whole Nepal was closed. Chimsey said lets go and watch them and then we headed out to meet them. Chimsey me and stacy headed out to see them and as we reached we were like wtf, there were about 20-30 skaters skateboarding and coming. Shawn Leo ward was there, he was carrying a big bag with him. he had a camera in his hand and wearing very cool glasses. the first look was already

very impressive. After that some people were doing manuals, some were doing ollies, some were doing kickflips, Raman was doing full power kickflips, and raju and bipu were doing manuals and shawn was filming going behind them. All of a sudden I got a feeling deep down inside me, I really have to play this sport. I was watching everyone here and there but everyone was Nepali, when I saw shawn he stood out also cause he is white. At that time we were young adults, we didn't see a lot of white kids around, I mean we saw them while B-Boying but nobody spoke that nicely. In our minds we only had freedom and fighting we didn't really care but when I saw shawn I had a different feeling. I kept on watching him skate, I literally stared and looked at him. He had a Real Skateboard. Purple and white, it was brand new, it was sunny and then the board was shinning a lot. We had only seen cheap boards like spider man etc. All of a sudden when we saw a Real Boards we were like WTF. That's why I kept staring. And then shawn was also watching then he asked me do you want to skate? I Said "YES". He gave me his board and said, here, go skate man.

I had only taken my first step and tried to put my feet on the board. His trucks were so freaking loose, like extremely

loose trucks. I only kept my front leg and pushed and I fell on my ass really hard. Haha. I was feeling ashamed cause I fell. Shawn came and said I know you can do it. But deep inside I was feeling ashamed and angry cause I fell down. This guy is fully bullying me, I really need to stand on the board and show this guy. Even after two months I didn't know how to Ollie. I rolled on the board did some cavemans, boneless. After two months crossed I felt that I really needed to learn ollies now. I used to go alone to skate. We were 3 guys skating. Chimsey was skating but not too much he was occupied by his own things. The other guy would sometimes come. I was alone and started skating.

A lot of the boys went to other side of the town to skate, I couldn't go so I started skating there. For the first 2-3 months after that I skated alone. After that my level increased and I started skating on the roads. I started focusing on the style of skateboarding. Then a lot of the boys started coming to tell me that We also want to skate. I bought them some skateboards and then now we have around 10-15 skaters. Before we had like 25 above but because of the earthquake it has gone down now. I don't really have plans now, but for now skateboarding has become my part of happiness in life. The reason

why I skate is because when I skate I really enjoy it. Sometimes there is a lot of shit when mentally tortures you in life, at that time when I take my boards out and skate I forget everything. I skate and then come back and then the tensions and problems start again. Hahaha (Laughs)

Thats so amazing to hear. When did u start watching skate videos?

I started watching before I skated as I told earlier. After that when I started skateboarding we used to watch a lot of videos like that element video which is really old where they wear pant and where they do handstands. Many old videos like David Gonzales goes to skate. Old Rodney mullen and tony hawk videos. We didn't know much about street skating then. Even when we saw tony hawk it was ramp, when we saw Rodney mullen it was old school. " Possesed to skate " where David Gonzales does kick- flips then I became a big fan of him. I asked Raju a lot of questions. Who is this? What is that? My friend Ujwol also gave a good list of skateboarders to watch. I started watching proper street skateboard videos after 7-8 months. After watching street skateboarding videos I became crazy. Then I told myself street is the best & ramp is bullshit. First thing in Nepal we didnt have a ramp back then. Then I tell

everyone that street is the shit, ramp is bullshit and convinced them as well. It was good reason. Then we started street skating.

We started watching Nyjah Houston and Ishod Wair. These guys had more videos coming up so we started watching them too.

Who were your inspirations back then?

I didn't know how to do any tricks. All the boys kicked ass. At that time who could skate good were Ujwol, I had never seen him skate before but was in good terms, when I saw him skate I was impressed, my inspirations were Bipu, Frank, Raman, Prajun, Sandeep, Roku and Chimsey. Bipu taught me how to Ollie, he is my guru and I was inspired by Raman.

I was a big fan of David Gonzales. I liked musician kind of people and he had some style. I had no idea about 50 – 50 , kickflip I had seen but only on ramps and old school kickflips. First impression on street skating was David Gonzales so after that I didn't have to look for any other skate. Anybody who asked me I always said David Gonzales. Im a huge fan of his. Slowly I started knowing more and more pro skaters names. When i asked anyone else who are you a fan of, they said Ryan Sheckler. For me

I didn't like Ryan Sheckler, I was the opposite kind.

I didn't like learning the same thing that everybody was learning. It has to be learnt sooner or later but I m not like that. That's why when the boys focused more on ollies I focused on fakie ollies, when they gave more priority to kickflip I gave more priority to heelflip. I didn't do kickflip only heelflip. And then when we played Game of Skate I lost once because I couldn't do kickflip (haha laughs) then I told myself this is not good then started learning kickflips.

How was your trip to india in 2015? How did you feel leaving nepal for the first time? Was it weird?

It wasn't weird. That was the first time I went out of my country. The first time I got to get close around people. It was a bit odd, not that im shy but it was an amazing trip. I already know what and how to respect people but I learnt a lot from there. I got to learn respect and learn about a skate family. I never understood about skate family before. We over here thought skate family and then went around and made noises. I realized how to stay with skate family, even though u don't know anyone the feelings there are very warm. Im sure that somebody doesn't like somebody there but everyone was just respectful.

Another thing is I had never seen a ramp, bowl and a skatepark but I got to see it. I Saw real good parks. If I didn't go to india I wouldn't have been able to teach the boys in Nepal. It was a big deal for me to come and learn, I really learnt a lot. And there is still a lot more to learn.

How about that photo of yours that appeared in a Swedish skate magazine man? Tell us about it.

Oh man. I was just skating around when G called me. He said bro your pop is really good. Whatever tricks you do the pop is good. You think of a line or do a single trick anywhere in this park I will take a picture. Then I saw the transition where should I do the trick. I don't know how to land ollies in transition but there is a feeling that told me oh I should have already tried that. Then G said i will take a picture. Then the photography session happened for a while. The starting photo itself was a good photo. Then G Said is this ok? Then I saw one of the leg which was off a bit. I told him another one not this

one, lets do a better one. G replied I'm happy to hear that. Lets do it man. Then came the final good shot which he said he will edit and send me. Per (Swedish Guy) also had my photo. He took it from G. He said brother I have a surprise for you. I asked him what the surprise was, he send me a photo and said you are in a Swedish skate magazine.

I Went psycho for a while. It was a real good feeling. If I didn't go to india I wouldn't have learnt so much. I could have totally died in Nepal but that trip was the starting of many tours that are going to come in my life. More feeling came to me saying I should work even harder. When that Swedish magazine put used my photo I was totally psyched. Its been about 2 years I started skateboarding. I came to India, came in a Swedish magazine if I continue this pace I feel like good things will happen in Nepal. I might not get anything but the generation that's after me, they will have a better future I think.

Any last words to people reading this interview?

I tell everyone that if you are passionate about a thing keep that passion going. Because passion and interest is different. Interest is something you can get in anything. Interest gets boring after a while. Watching movie is a interesting but it gets boring after u keep watching it. But passion is something that you never get bored of. You might be physically tired but you will be mentally strong because of ur passion. When u want something from your heart, it will come to you but the only thing you have to do is commit. That's what I tell the boys if its your passion skate hard, for the people who skate as interest I tell them still keep ur interest, skate whenever u can. I just hope they don't have to quit skateboarding because of family pressure. I have been lucky that my family has been supporting me for skateboarding. When I skate I never get bored when I skate no matter how tired I was.





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