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[0.00]

Hello, thank you for coming today. Can you tell me your name, your age, your ethnicity and your generation please?

Yes, my name is Adnaan Mohammed, I'm 19 years old, I'm British Indian and I'm second generation.

So Adnaan just tell me like a little bit about you.

I'm from Dewsbury originally but grew up in a place called Yahm near Middlesbrough then moved back to Dewsbury when I was 3 years old and I've been living there since now and currently studying in Manchester. I've been moving around in terms of education, I mean I grew up in Dewsbury, went to college in Huddersfield and then I pressed further and came to Manchester; so getting further and further away... I'm here studying economics, just finished the 1st year with enough grades and yeah it's... What else, I play basketball, football for uni and also displayed interest in that while I was studying in high school and college. I've done a broad range of subjects, I mean languages... I've done Spanish, Italian, Japanese, French even a bit of Urdu even though that was native anyway. I did that for a few qualifications so I'm quite language heavy. I've worked all over the place as well, I worked as soon as I finished high school, worked at a financial industry service in Knaresborough in North Yorkshire and since then I worked around Manchester. Currently working at Manchester football club and...

Manchester City or Manchester United?

United!

Ayyyy!

(laughs) Working in United, been there for a season and half now, so yeah quite all over the place in terms of life experiences, yeah not too bad.

Alright, you said that you know a lot of languages like you said Spanish, Italian, French, Urdu, how did you come about learning these? I mean were you taught these at home or at school or...?

No, growing up in an Asian family you obviously have the native language as well as English so I'm Indian so I grew up with Gujarati. I also grew up around Pakistani people so Punjabis as well Urdu's... Even some Arabic people, so there are some phrases that are known and stuff like that but I think the real languages thing came in when I went to high school. I went to a language college local to my area and started in year 7; they offered the options of either French, Spanish, German and Japanese so I started off with French and Spanish. I did those until year 9 and then throughout year 9 I picked Japanese as well and then when it came to the actual option picking in year 10 I dropped French and Japanese and then I carried Spanish on full time. I did French and Spanish, sorry in year 10 and 11 and then when I got to college I picked the weirdest subjects. I did Economics, Maths, Physics and Spanish. I picked Spanish just because I enjoyed the language it was good fun and it was something different, you don't really see many Asian people doing you know languages other than Urdu and stuff like that in school. So I just picked it from that and got through it, got a decent grade and thought I must be decent at it so yeah I was looking to do it at university as well but unfortunately my course doesn't allow it so it's a shame but is still...

Like a combined honours?

Yeah, so I still carry it on a bi in my spare time but yeah just that really.

Brilliant, right so what about a day in the life of Adnaan? What do you do from the moment you get up until you go to sleep at night, you have to talk me through everything.

Yeah we are going to be here for hours (laughs)... No, mean I'll describe a day from maybe I don't know May? Alright, just after exams, I wake up in the morning, have breakfast, shower, I get changed and then on that particular day I'm talking about I got a phone call first thing in the morning from my cousin. I've been helping him all year, he graduated last year he had a job and then he was looking for a professional physics job that he did his degree for, so we've been doing applications since I think new year's. So I got a phone call that morning saying I got 4 interviews this week and they are all every day of this week so we've got a road trip. So we got up and packed within an hour and after about an hour later after that he came and picked me up, we drove off to Gloucester on Tuesday, we got the offer from there... So from Gloucester we went all the way to Durham which was about a 7 hour drive, the weather was beautiful but it was very long so we got to Durham on Tuesday night, had the interview on Wednesday, we got back and then from Durham went to Leeds for Thursday's interview and then from Leeds we went all the way back to London for another 2 hours on Friday. So that's not even one day, that's completely one week so yeah it's pretty hectic but I do like the quiet days but no one on wants to leave me alone. People come to me for pretty much anything and everything... I need a job application, I need my car fixing, I need cash, I need this doing, I need this booking you know so it keeps me on my toes, its pretty good.

You said people come to you for you know help and things like cars. Do you fix cars? Are you like a mechanic as well or?

Not at all, not at all, I don't have any qualifications in anything. Everyone, just because I do sort read a lot and I do sort of a bit of practical work as well, I do like my cars so I do have a general idea when things go wrong. If people need to buy something and what they should get and how much they should be paying for it etc. So it's just little things like that, I mean I can give you another example of like computer work I've got no IT qualifications, I've got GCSE's in IT but on top of that everyone comes to me. I'm currently designing a book, I'm writing an app which I've never done in my life but that's just because people think I've got skills because people putting this expectation on me. It's a fantastic way of learning things and skills as I go along, so because of these different life experience I do get to learn a lot than, you know, people just think 'whoa' some people just think I don't know how you do it in one day sort of thing, it is quite busy so you get to learn a lot and then obviously the people you meet the stuff is practiced as well.

So you seem quite a well-rounded individual so you must have a lot of you know, you know lots friends like...

(laughs) I'm very fortunate in that sense, I mean I do travel around a lot up and down the country all over the place. Just this summer I've been doing a campaign for Samsung mobile, a marketing campaign that was based in London for 4 weeks so I worked in London for 4 weeks. Then came back to Dewsbury for one week and just fished, then on the Friday coming back home I got another contract offer for Acer tablets and laptops so I did another campaign for them guys in Birmingham for 3 and half weeks and then I came home... Spent Ramadan at home and then I've just got another campaign for Acer that I'm starting next week and that's in Leeds so I do get to go around a bit and I do get to meet a lot of people from work but then just in general I do like going out so I do meet a lot of people, so yeah it's not too bad (laughs).

Seems really interesting.

It's good fun (laughs).

You said you studied economics at university, which university do you go to?

So it's Manchester Metropolitan University, so it's here.

Sure and what made you choose economics because obviously you did a range of subjects at A' levels so...

Well the economics things came when I went to college and had to pick 4 subjects and so I picked maths, physics, Spanish and I had 1 free option so I walked in on the open day and I went into the economics department, had a chat with the teacher not the researcher, juts had a chat with the teacher... I thought it sounded good so then I picked it somehow, I went through year 1 grafted it out it was very... Then went through, carried onto year 2 and came out it was just one of those things where I picked on the spur of the moment and it turned to be one of those things. I have a passion for and I like doing so from that I thought at university I don't want to do anything else apart from economics and maybe the languages if I could have done it but... So it was just a spur of moment decision that turned my life around sort of in a way.

Right and what about your fiends at university, obviously you moved around a lot within the country so have you got a stable group of friends do they move around with you or is it like you have different friends in different post codes (laughs)?

Alright no it sort of depends, I mean the guys at uni they do tend to come around you know if I ever need they do come around but they always come down but otherwise I'm not really fussed, I mean in ts of rinds because I've moved around so much I've got friends pretty much everywhere so if I just like... I did a campaign I stayed at a friend's house in Birmingham, I stayed at for 4 weeks and he was completely fine with it. Leeds, I'm staying with a friend next week so yeah, I mean it's not as stable as an everyday individual would like it to be but I guess I'm still thankful that everyone still about in that sense.

[10.33]

And you know, your friends, the group of friends do you have ethnic friends and non-ethnic friends or is it just you know...? What's the ratio?

I get what you mean, to be quite honest I'd say 50/50 maybe even 60/40 Asian, Asian and black so you know I get along with everyone and everyone seems to get along with me so I don't have that problem of cutting the racial barriers down. But yeah, I've got Chinese friends, Malaysian friends and they're from Manchester. Arab friends in London, Pakistani friends, Punjabi friends, you know Indian friends so it's quite broad. I do like the cultures of different people and the way they see the world the way their lifestyle is and stuff, so I do like that, so in that sense its very very good.

And like how do you spend time with them, you know your friends from different ethnicities so what sort of activities do you do with them?

Well the sports were the biggest one, when I was in Manchester it was... I did start off with mainly Asian friends but as the year went along you know you start making friends, making friends with different ethnicities and that was through playing football and basketball. Basketball, as you can probably imagine without sounding racist, but there's a lot of you know black people who play and through that you do get to make a lot of friends but it's astonishing the amount of white people who

like to play it as well. So you do get to meet lots of people and yeah. I say definitely sports are a very big one, they do bring lots of people together from different backgrounds.

Ok what about when you go shopping, what sort of things do you buy? I can see quite obviously just looking at you that you do like a bit of shopping so like what sort of things do you sort of go for? What shops do you go to?

I'm very specific with clothes I wear so once I've got a certain sense of style that's it, I pretty much stick to it. I don't like changing every so often because it's just a headache. I'm comfortable with what I wear and stuff so pretty much anywhere around the high street it doesn't really bother me. Shops such as... I like my shoes so you got Footlocker, Size?, Footasylum places like that. Then jeans mainly, there's a shop called Aspect they do a certain type of fitting jeans that I like so I just go there. Nowhere else. In terms of everything else I just go all over the place I maybe shop online on Asos or Selfridges all over the place, so I'm not really that fussed about where I go. It's because I don't really go that often and I don't get the time as you can imagine so when I go I don't bother...

You mentioned a lot of high street names such as Zara and Asos so like is there a differentiation between ethnic shops and non-ethnic shops? I mean do you solely go to non-ethnic shops or do you sometimes go to non-ethnic shops as well?

I'm not fussed, I go all over the place but yeah and it doesn't really bother me where I go as long as the clothes I'm looking for are there. It doesn't really bother me whether it's an ethnic shop or non-ethnic, that doesn't really bring any influence as to where I go to shop.

Alright so if you were to go to an ethnic shop what sort of shop would it be?

Ethnic meaning black shops?

Ethnic as in something that's not British not English, anything so black, Chinese, oriental, Asian anything of that sort.

Now that you mention it I can't really think (laughs). I think Zara is the only one because they're not traditionally British yeah I think mainly there. That I can think of the top of my head anyways (laughs).

Ok and what about... Obviously you said you speak several languages you said you speak English, Gujarati, Urdu and Punjabi pretty fluently that's quite amazing. If I do say so myself that's like 4 major languages is there a difference in how you speak to your parents or how you speak to your grandparents and friends, so which language would you use in which social situation?

Well the thing is with my family they're quite progressive, I am from the 3rd generation. I mean with my grandma and granddad it is normally Gujarati that I speak with them but they do get away with some English, they do understand a bit, they've been here for quite a while now so they have picked the language up a bit. With my parents, I think with my dad it's mainly English and sometimes Gujarati my mum as well. 10 years ago she wouldn't have spoken 1 word of English but now it's either English or Gujarati either one but yeah I think it's just with the languages thing. I think it's maintain the level of respect with the way you speak and stuff so sometimes you can speak English in certain situations whereas sometimes it's more fitting to speak the native language just depending on the situation so it's not too bad.

You mentioned respect, that's an interesting point so when you speak to your elder generation in your family you tend to speak your native tongue and that shows your respect for them, could you explain

that?

Yeah with the respect point with the other languages it's just that they're a bit more comfortable with speaking Gujarati whereas if I mumble something in English they probably wouldn't understand and think that I've swore at them or something (laughs). But it's yeah, with the respect thing I mean it's just you know you have that relationship with your, in this case grandparents, that they do expect that respect and expect that as well because me being 3rd generation it's them guys that have come from abroad and left everything back home you know put the work in over just so we can live breath and eat over here. So I do have a lot of respect for them. For us to be living here right now so I think because of that I just respect that if they want to speak in their native tongue that's fine with me because they've left their native country to come to a different country so I think to speak in that native tongue is just a reminiscence of what, you know, they left back home so they do enjoy it a bit so...

Ok what about meal times? Who cooks in your household or in your family?

As of the last year I have done once or twice I was living away in Manchester for my first year at uni so since I've been back I have cooked a few times but the main head chef in my house is normally my mum or sometimes my grandma on a very rare occasion. That's only if we've been good (laughs) but yeah it is mainly mum and my sister now as well yeah she's been learning to cook for a while but yeah it's mainly my mum mainly her.

And what sort of foods do you have like? What sort of food does your mum cook?

Going back 10 years it was all Asian but so you know you'd got your chicken masala and stuff like that but as of the last 10 years, final 10 years I think the cooking palate has become a lot more western as well. They do cook English food, they do try they do like to experiment with the recipes you know you can only have Asian food before you get bored even though it is a staple diet but you can get bored if you have it everyday of the week but they do like to mix it up so they'll have English food, Mexican food or Italian food so it is quite, it is quite broad as in food that we have now so quite lucky in that sense.

Alright what about...? Do you ever get tie to watch TV, when you're chilling out?

Very rarely with TV. Because I watch a lot of US shows so they don't really get aired in the UK so if I do watch it it's probably late at night. If I've been bust all day but I never actually get a chance to sit in front of the TV and watch whatever's on, I don't junk watch TV.

[20.09]

Alright, ok looking your family tree it's interesting to see you've put your grandma at the top, why have you done that?

It was just a cognitive thing, it's just they're the oldest so I think in the sense of that and in the sense of respect I think I just put them at the top so you know joined tree coming from the top down as a hierarchy system its not intentional to say that they rule the house but it's a sense of you know age and respect because they're the oldest. I'd give them the most respect that sort of thing so because of that I've put them at the top.

Ok and further down you've got you're mum and you're dad are they're because of the same reason, because like...

Yeah yeah because underneath that I've drawn me and my brother and my sister but because we come from them 2 so I've put those just after my grandmas generation due to the fact they are a different generation yeah.

Okay and you've got 1 sister and you've got 1 brother you've got all names starting with a... Triple a, how do you feel the house dynamics are you the eldest or...?

Yeah I'm the eldest. I'm the eldest then it's my sister, she's 2 years behind my brothers, she's 14 yeah so I am the eldest in the house.

And who would you say out of you 3 do you know to do certain tasks and things?

That would definitely be me it's just one of them things because you're the eldest they have that expectation that, you know, that they need this doing that doing and on top of that as I said earlier everyone comes to me when they need something that's not just my direct family that's literally anyone. So there's a lot of internal responsibility in ts of the household but because of the outside influence you get a lot of outside responsibilities put on you as well, it's getting better... (laughs) I'm managing it better (laughs).

Okay moving onto your ethnicity now, you state that you're a British Indian, you speak Gujarati as your native tongue so which of the 2 groups do you feel that belong more to you. You have British and then you have Indian so which would you consider yourself more and why sort of thing?

Yeah, I know what you mean. If it was about, if I was 10 years younger I would of definitely said full Indian just because I'm very proud of my culture and the way we were brought up and stuff but I think growing up and through life experience you do tend to appreciate what British culture brings to the table as well on top of that. So there's a certain aspect that you can pick and choose from both cultures sort of make your super culture that sort of thing so yeah right now I definitely 50/50 I mean I love what the British side brings as well and I love what the Indian side brings as well so I think that mix is just perfect.

That's quite ironic as well because today is India's independence day isn't it? 15th august? So what does it mean to you being a British Gujarati and British Indian? What does it mean to you? What does it symbolise?

Its sort of a stamp, I think I see it sort of as a stamp you know you are British and you are Indian so you've got... I'm not the best but I want to say the best of both worlds in ts of culture so you've got the traditional aspects from the Indian side because I was brought up and because I'm 3rd generation I have been brought up in a totally traditional but progressive modern British way. So you do appreciate the traditions and the customs that you know the Indians bring to the table and you see what the British bring to the table in the sense of you know culture, how different it is compared to Indian you now sort of even little things like mentalities and the way people think. Being British Indian and the way people think coming from India so I think overall, yeah it's just a map to say you know I am British Indian and it is sort of a stamp to be proud of I think. Anyway, I'm very proud to be British but at the same time I'm very proud to be Indian as well because I've seen the ups and downs of both cultures and what both bring to the table together.

And what's the role of British culture in your life?

I think it's very very big, everything from the clothes that we wear to the food that we eat from what we watch on telly from, you know, the sort of cars you drive; the influence is definitely everywhere

there's no escaping but you know yeah I've forgotten the question now (laughs).

The role of British culture...

Alright yeah, I think British culture doesn't teach other cultures how to be a bit more progressive but at the same time there are a lot of things that other cultures can bring to British culture just to make it all better. Obviously everything has its ups and downs and I definitely think the downsides could be of British culture could definitely be eradicated through more cohesion with the Asian ethnicity groups and stuff. Because we all do live together at the end of the day and you know what I mean you're going to bump into Asians and white people and you know different ethnicity groups everywhere. So it's just a matter of... I think when you're together to make sure that we can all live together in a peaceful way but at the same time you can bring both sides to the table and the best that they both have together.

In your opinion what do you think British culture is?

Tough question that one.

How would you define British culture?

To be honest with you I don't think I've actually made my mind up on what that is because honestly when you going through life and you have different life experiences you are still learning throughout. So I don't think I personally could put a definitive point on what British culture actually is because it's always changing maybe 20 years ago British culture wouldn't have involved chicken tikka masala but now it's the nation's favourite dish. You know what I mean, its always changing so with that respect I probably couldn't put a finger on it.

Sure what do you think Asian culture is?

In 2 words I'd say tradition and customs. I'd say that because I'm obviously... Life in the western world and the eastern world is completely different, if they were to look themselves in the mirror they wouldn't know what they were looking at. The traditions point I brought up that would be the fact that they are very traditional, they do have a set ways of doing certain things so they do have maybe the ways they eat whereas Asian people tend to sit on the floor. British culture would point them towards the table, just little things like that so it's very traditional but at the same time it's very progressive as well especially when it's seeping in through the western world and then I say customs to say Indian people do have a lot of customs. If for example, I don't know, gift giving like this example we have here it's a custom to give gifts on Eid or on birthdays or whether if they have achieved something will be giving people a gift. I have seen it in British families sometimes it's not everyone but I have seen it where some people get a pat on the back and off you go so I think it's very different but yeah I think traditions and customs would definitely define Asian culture.

Alright and moving onto like religion now, what's the role of religion in your life?

Well I am Muslim so I was born in a traditional Muslim household so you know whether it's praying, whether it's the way you eat, whether it's the way you sit, the way you walk and talk, you know... I think religion it's not just a religion that you practise; like Muslims pray 5 times a day I think it's a complete lifestyle it's a way of life you know, people choose to adopt. I think the role of religion in today's world is absolutely massively influential. Muslims especially, I mean I'm not having a go at anyone, but we do seem to get the wrong end of the stick sometimes, most of the time this is the case but you know religion does play a big role otherwise we wouldn't be covered in the media the

way it is, people wouldn't be kicking a fuss they'd just get along but it's just a matter of understanding the way people live and the way they adopt the lifestyle and the way they want to... I think because that's all been misunderstood through various outlets like the media it's sort of made an absolute turmoil of what religion itself and I'm not just saying Islam I mean everyone every religion what they actually stand for so it's massively big and the influence is definitely there in this world.

[30.19]

Why do you think it is like, why do you think that? You said Muslims get the wrong end of the stick, what do you mean by that?

Well what I mean by that is that certain actions that are taken upon, you know... Like I'll give you one example, when 9/11 happened you know all Muslims were branded terrorists whereas we weren't otherwise we all would of have blown ourselves up (laughs) that's as simple as that but if we were all terrorists we would of all killed ourselves at some point, there wouldn't be no Muslims left in this world. So because of the actions of a few radical people the entire Muslim population gets branded with these words so I think because of the actions of a few that are getting these that are propagating false messages the rest of the entire population gets put to shame and you know that doesn't actually represent what Islam stands for as a lifestyle.

How do you practise Islam?

Well, growing up in a traditional household, progressively traditional, should I say you know I didn't grow up with Islamic influence from a very young age. Whether that's copying my dad, praying 5 times a day or going to the mosque to pray, going to gatherings and stuff like that; at the moment I think I'm trying the best I can I do. I do pray 5 times a day when I can most of the time and then you know certain things that you wouldn't do like drink alcohol, eat pork etc. that's been embedded in me from an early age but yeah it's just the little things that count religion because it's a lifestyle you have the option to do certain things whereas sometimes when you have no lifestyle set out, say whether you're an atheist or something for example you tend to do whatever you want without thinking of the consequences whereas Islam does provide each action with its own consequence so really you do know what's going to happen when you do something wrong or you do something right so yeah I do the best I can and that's about it (laughs).

Are there times in your life where you've practised Islam more?

What do you mean?

So like for example the periods in your life where you feel that you've become more religious than some other periods in your life.

Alright yeah I understand what you mean. Well growing up I did start my prayers doing more of my prayers 5 times a day from when I was 11 years old but that was you know just because you sort of had to do it we didn't really understand the full meaning of why we did it and etc. I think in the last year, moving out of Manchester had the biggest effect because you're on your own you know and you've got no one to look after you and this sort of makes you take your own decisions because it's up to you whether you wanna practise it or not. I think just for that reason I did and still do practise a lot better than I did maybe I don't know 5 years ago. But that's because you know I've understood the true meaning, the message that Islam spreads and because of that it's almost I like doing it because I know why I'm doing it whereas before I was just doing it because you sort of had to so yeah.

Who taught you about Islam?

I think for any child the first teacher are your parents so luckily for me I did have parents that practised Islam regularly so it was my parents that brought me up and grandma and granddad that had a heavy Islamic influence. I think for about the age of 6 we were sent to the mosque so we had our first mosque teacher that teaches you the fundamentals, the basics but you know when you're a kid you do tend to mess about and you don't really care. But I'd say my parents were definitely the biggest influence but as I've grown older I've sort of taken responsibility for it myself so if there are certain speakers and things like gatherings that I like going to that look decent enough to go to then I'll go myself. I've got no obligation to, you know, my dad's telling me to go or I have to go because it's just if you go then you go if you want to so if you have that passion within yourself then you do tend to enjoy it a bit more.

Okay and what about when you're giving gifts to people that are Muslim are the gifts that you believe to be forbidden or that are forbidden?

I mean it's not like we don't have the tendency to give, that Islam doesn't allow so like alcohol and things like that so with gifts mainly normally is I don't know clothes or shoes or certain things that you might need around the house so yeah. We do stay inside the confines of Islam just to give kids but just because it's that doesn't mean you cannot give you know extravagant gifts etc. we do if that's the question we do stay within the confines of Islam.

Why do you think you mentioned alcohol, why do you think that alcohol is forbidden as a gift?

Well from personal knowledge I'd probably say it's forbidden due to the fact that you are harming someone people do feel really good when they're drinking but in the morning they do wake up with a hangover if you drank too much liver damage et. So Islam doesn't allow the consumption or to gift something like that, as a gift that will harm the person that you will give it to or harm yourself. I think because of that reason it's very very rare that you see Asian people giving gifts such as alcohol or cigarettes or something like that to a family member or even friends as gifts because it's for them it's not morally right so they wouldn't if it's not right for they wouldn't like to harm somebody else you know moral integrity.

Moving onto the gift to the actual gift that you've brought today what is the gift that you've brought today?

I've brought with me today a pair of Nike Air Jordan's branded 11's, a certain specific type of trainer.

Why did you choose this gift and like what's important about this gift to you?

I'll answer the important bit first. When I was growing up there was a film called Space Jam, I don't know if you've seen it. Well you know Michael Jordan's the main character and he's with Bugs Bunny and all the cartoon characters from Loony Tunes, well I was probably about 6 years old maybe 7 when I first saw that film and it just so happened he actually wore these shoes for the first time in that film. So I think ever since then if I'm ever going to buy a pair of trainers again it's them at some point in my life, I don't really care if I don't get any more but so it's just because of that. It's just something I've always wanted just from a young age, I don't tend to ask for gifts from people and I'm not really a gift sort of person so I do like giving them but I don't like actually asking for anything and I don't have that habit of doing that from a young age but yeah. About a year ago I remember telling this that I liked these shoes to my uncle about 4 years ago and somehow he remembered and about a year ago he managed to get a hold of a pair in my size, these actually came out in 1998 and then they

were re-released in 2008 again so he managed to get them in 2010 on EBay and he told me he paid an arm and a leg. But he goes that 'you said that you've always wanted them' so it's just little things like that; show significance you know that even if I did see them in a movie they do have that significance of childhood and you remember it every time you look at them.

And what was the occasion when your uncle gave it you, was it a birthday, was it Eid?

If I remember correctly I just passed my... I just got through to university so the results day was on the Thursday. He lived in London so he came down on the Friday night and he got them a couple of weeks before but he didn't tell me that he'd brought them home so yeah. It was just because I got through to university and they were all really happy at what I'd had accomplished at college.

Why did he give you the gift? Did he give it you because you said that?

Well is that I passed college and got through to uni but the 2nd one is because he's my uncle and he's quite young so we are almost like brothers. So growing up he has had a big influence; the biggest point would be that he remembered me telling him about these specific shoes, I think that's what shows the significance, so when he did get a pair I think he just wanted to see the look on my face that's what I think so yeah pretty cool.

[40.23]

Where do you keep them when you're not wearing them?

Normally they just, if I do I'm a bit of a sneaker freak so I do clean them every so often but otherwise they just stay in the porch or in the box.

Do you keep them in the box? Why is that?

It's just that there's a few people living in my house and there are lots of pairs of shoes in the front porch so people do tend to trample on your shoes so just because of that I put them in the box if I'm not looking to wear them for a while.

Okay, what would you do if you found them damaged or they were lost?

(laughs) I don't know to be honest I do take care of my possessions quite well I don't think to date I've ever lost anything ever, whether that's a phone or that's a pair of socks. I think in life I've probably lost a couple of pens but that's about it. If they were to get damaged you know there's nothing I can do about it, I would be a bit disappointed and maybe a bit angry but other than that there's nothing I can do about it so there's no point in crying tears (laughs).

And how did you feel when you received the gift?

To be quite honest I thought I was a little kid again, I was quite ecstatic and my eyes almost popped out of my head because I told him about 4 years ago and then I completely forgot in the sense that I wasn't looking to buy them or anything like that. So when they did come it was almost a sense of shock and surprise at the same time so it was quite eye popping (laughs).

Is the gift branded? Is it a specific brand?

Yeah yeah they're Nike branded shoes.

Sure and they were in Space Jam like you said, so was that important to you because Michael Jordan was wearing them? Is that...?

It was. I did want to play basketball when I was a kid and Michael Jordan was one of my favourite players way back when... So it definitely had a lot of significance to why I did get them.

Talking about your uncle now, who gave you the gift, does he gift you often or was it just a one off?

On occasion, as I said he is kind of like my older brother, so on occasions he does otherwise if there's ever anything I need he just sorts me out other than that I don't have the habit of asking for gifts or getting gifts but this was an exception (laughs).

You said before you prefer giving gifts rather than receiving gifts and you said that about asking as well so what is it you like about giving gifts?

Well the main point just to look at the person's face that you're giving it to, the amount of joy that you're giving in that split second when they just open it and see it. I think that has the biggest... You know, I don't expect a thank you if I see such an expression because I just do it for the happiness that I've brought to someone's face whether it's someone I know, whether it's someone I don't know I think it's just that you just feel a little something, you just feel a little good about doing something good for someone instead of thinking about yourself for once.

What about your parents and your grandparents do they buy you gifts?

They did when I was younger, definitely growing up because I was the first child in the entire family so that's why. I'm the eldest, I did get spoilt a lot when I was a little kid but not... I say spoilt I mean everyone's used to get me gifts but not excessively, at the end of the day they do give gifts I mean the last maybe, since year 10 I guess I've not really asked for gifts so they ask me if I want anything if is okay no so other than that no not really.

When you did get gifts from your mum what sort of gifts were they?

Going back maybe 10 years when I was younger I would of got a Gameboy or a PlayStation, maybe a pair of clothes or some shoes, maybe a bike... Yeah, I remember getting a bike for one of my birthdays, that was pretty cool.

And how did you receive them? Were they wrapped were they given with a card?

Mostly they were wrapped unless it was a bike, I think my dad tried covering that up but he just ended up putting a basket and a bow on top of it (laughs) so yeah. They usually did come wrapped, I mean people in my family they do like giving gifts so they do wrap them up, put bows on them etc. and then write a card and give you it with the card, so yeah, I guess they do mostly come wrapped.

So it's a big tradition in your family to give gifts wrapped to make it special?

Yeah.

Are there similarities in the way that you gift and the way that your parents gift?

To be honest, now that you mention it, definitely there is it's just that my dad has this thing where he gives gifts, he has this philosophy that you should always give something that will benefit the other

person even if it is a pair of shoes or clothes or whatever but... So even I remember one birthday he went and bought me the Harry Potter books, I was like 12 years old and I remember I said I'm not going to read these and he said you probably will and I got to about 14 and I did actually read them which is quite sad but yeah. I think there's definitely a lot of similarities even though the age gap between me and my dad and you know his life span from where he was a young age is very vast, it's almost as if we are from the exact same generation in terms of gift giving I think.

And what about your grandparents, are there any similarities or differences in the way your parents gift to the way your grandparent's gift?

I think definitely from growing up until now it's definitely progressed, it's definitely changed they did used to... I have a lot of traditional gifts like Asian clothes or something like that but as we've grown older me and my brothers and sisters they have become a lot more westernised in terms of what gifts they give. So for example I remember when I was younger I got a PlayStation 2, I remember my grandma got me a couple of games so I think it's definitely changes, it's definitely progressed as to what it was.

How do you feel about gift giving and about the gift giving traditions in your family, do you think that you'll carry that on with your children?

I'd like to think so. I definitely do like it, I mean I never expect anything from anyone so for that reason if I do gift something it's because I want to give it so and as I said I do enjoy the joy that a person feels when receiving something that you know... Maybe they've wanted for a while or maybe they've been after and I do like it and it does bring smiles to both their faces and mine so I definitely think I'd like to raise my kids in that same tradition.

You stated before that your gift giving habits have developed from your grandparents generation to yours, what do you mean like is it just about traditional Asian clothes and to more westernised gifts?

Yeah yeah that's probably the example... I mean, I remember I was in... I think for my 3rd birthday I was in India with my grandparents and my parents and on my birthday my granddad took me to a little funfair and then as a gift he got me a horse ride and a carriage and it was really cool. I was about 3 years old and it was the coolest thing in the world but comparing that gift you can't get a horse or a cart very rarely here unless you're at the sea side, but I think compared from then to now it's definitely changed in the sense that maybe there they give something like that, you know, horse ride something that you experience or something that you wear like Asian clothes. Whereas now it's something that you probably use like a phone or PlayStation as I said.

So you believe that gift giving has become more practical?

Yes.

[50.01]

And what about the occasion that you give gifts on, do you give gifts on Eid, Birthdays, Christmas, Valentine's day you know...?

To be honest any excuse to give a gift whether it's birthdays, Eid because we have 2 Eid's you see so there's 2 Eid's so probably gifts on both... Birthdays or whatever, if you've accomplished something at school, if you got a high mark on an exam or if you've got good feedback on practical work you'd go to the sweet shop or something.

So is that something that's been instilled in you by your parents?

Grandparents I'd say from the top down. My granddad used to do that a lot when I was younger, if I'd come home and I'd got 10/10 on a spelling test I'd say come on let's go to the shop. You know it definitely came from my grandparents down so my parents used to do that as well and I think that traditions are still going... My brother being the youngest, I think he's like 14 now, yeah I don't even know how old he is (laughs) he's 14 now so he's in a high school but I remember when he was in primary school and he used to do work in, I don't know, SATS test or spelling test or stuff like that my dad would go and get him something you know football or take him to the shop or you know get whatever you want, that sort of thing so it definitely came from the top down.

Alright and what about Valentine's day do you celebrate Valentine's day?

Not last year, no (laughs) not last year to be honest with you... It's one of them things that just depends (laughs) where life takes you, I probably answer that as a no.

Why do you think that is?

Why I think...

That you don't celebrate Valentine's day?

I want to say religious but then I'd sort of be white lying but I'd just go with that one anyway. You know Islam says that a man and a woman should be together under the sanctity of marriage that's what marriage is set for so for that reason, you know, stuff like Valentine's day which I think is a consumerist day just to get you to spend more money, yeah just so I'm just going to go with religion (laughs).

And what about Christmas in your household like do you celebrate Christmas?

Not at all, I mean you do get the Christmas feeling when it's snowing and you know you've got Christmas movies on the telly but other than that no direct celebrations, so no Christmas trees or lights or gifts or anything like that?

Do you ever receive Christmas gifts from other people or cards...?

I have done in the past from, you know, from white friends and even some black friends. Christmas time they do tend to give cards out to pretty much anyone and everyone because, you know, they're happy and you think giving you a card and if that makes them happy you know you should try and be happy in that sense but I've probably given out Christmas cards once in my life when I was in year 6 or something (laughs).

And how do you feel during the holiday period, like when you said when all the films are on and it's snowing outside so how does it make you feel?

You definitely feel a bit festive you know if you go out and you go to the shopping centres and you've got like snow everywhere you do get that Christmas feeling but other than that it's just one of them things... You feel a bit festive and jolly but you don't really get involved that sort of thing, yeah it's just one of them things.

And what sorts of foods do you eat over Christmas?

Nothing like Christmas turkey or anything, we might on the odd occasion maybe have a roast maybe on a Sunday or something like that but yeah nothing Christmas related in that sense.

So like moving onto Eid, you said you celebrate Eid in your family, can you talk me through last Eid which was only a few weeks ago? So can you talk me through what happened from morning to night?

Yeah, so we probably wake up for morning prayer around 5 o' clock, go to the mosque, say the morning prayer and come back... It doesn't take very long, maybe go to sleep or if you've got things to get ready maybe ironing clothes etc. you can get cracking on with that, so then we have the Eid prayer around 9 o' clock so we all go to the mosque maybe an hour before and listen to the son etc. say the prayer and then afterwards greet everyone in the mosques, greet all your family members etc. Then from the mosque we go to the graveyard and pay respect to the dead, then we go home or visit the houses, maybe have something sweet that someone has prepared or anything like that. Then we'll get ready around 12-1 o' clock we tend to go to my granddad's house; we all spend Eid there pretty much like 50/60 people come round, family members from all over the place like Birmingham, Leicester, Leeds, Dewsbury everyone's around. We spend the day, we eat lunch, spend time with the family if we've got family locally that haven't come round we'll go visit them and then yeah just spend time with the family in that sense. Chill out maybe eat in the evening and maybe go out as a family; go out for a meal and something and then probably come home late at night.

You said you visit the grave, is there a reason for that?

It's just to show respect to the people that we've lost around our life and then just recently, this Ramadan, we lost an uncle so you know it definitely was a bit emotional it's just sort of you know to remember them in that sense, that even if it is Eid we still haven't forgotten you that sort of thing. So it's just extra special and as a Muslim we do believe in life after death so we say that you know their souls would be getting happier while we are visiting them that sort of thing.

Right so how does it make you feel on Eid day you know with all the food and festivities? What sort of feelings, what sort of emotions do you have?

Definitely happiness you know you see everyone dressed up, you see sweet being served out, you see everyone...

You say dressed up, what do they wear?

Normally Asian clothes because it's a traditional holiday they do. To keep it traditional, I mean the men mainly not as much but the ladies definitely do, they do like their Asian clothes on Eid so it's just one of those things where everyone's happy and we get to see everyone. Normally, you won't see them on a day to day basis, everyone comes round, share meals together, share company so it's definitely a lot of happiness. I think as of about 3 years ago when I first started working, that first Eid that I had since I started a job I remember rounding up all the kids, so there was about 30 kids, 30 little kids and I took them all to the corner shop and got them all sweets and they were all mental. It was really good, they were all jumping around; I got a lot of blame for it so they just enjoyed it and it's something that they remember every Eid and now that I've taken them once I have to take them every Eid.

So they expect it?

Yeah, oh no Adaan's going to take us to the shop now yes! (laughs)

So moving onto, you know, so how did your parents or grandparents come to this country?

I think my grandma and granddad got married in India and my granddad came over to work I think. It was... Yeah he came over for work so he came over here, set up as an economical migrant so he moved from India but he still has a house in India for the family. He and my grandma both moved out here and then he got a job and he was sustaining the household both here and back in India.

What did your granddad work as in the UK?

I think from when I was born in the late stages, no actually he was retired when I was born but when he was working he used to be a... He was in the textile manufacturing business but I can't remember specifically what he did, I think he was a tailor I'm not sure, I'm not 100% sure.

Do you ever go back to India?

I've been to India many times, I think the earliest I went was about 3 years ago and we tend to go every maybe 2/3 years. Last time I went was in 2013 and before that was in 2010 or something but yeah quite frequently. My dad thinks its important that we don't forget that we have family out there and they leave a different life and it's actually quite relaxing just to go because their way of life is a lot calmer and a lot more smoother than, you know, the way it is here so yeah we do tend to go often.

[60.06]

How did you find the experience?

I think because I went when I was really really young I think that must have had the biggest influence because you know you just adapt to it when your younger, whereas if I had not gone all my life and probably gone when I was 15/16 it would of have come as a massive shock, like a bus just hit me that sort of thing. But because we've been going since we were young I think culturally it definitely helped but I can probably imagine, I mean I know some people that haven't been in 20/30 years and then when they do go it does hit them like a bus, they literally want to come back home within the first 3, 4 days but I think because we're a lot more accustomed to it we enjoy it more as well.

You say 'hitting them like a bus' what it is that really different is it he weather is it the economy?

I'd say weather is definitely the biggest one because in the UK we are not as blessed to have so much heat even though as of lately we've had loads of it, but I think it's the difference in culture and traditions and customs. You know, growing up in the UK the lifestyle is totally different to maybe if you're growing up in India or Pakistan etc. so they get to witness the world in a different perspective but it's at a point where they completely... I think, I don't want to say westernised but they're completely influenced by western culture so because of that when they do see the generational gap that's why I said it hits them like a bus because it comes as a massive shock.

And when you go or when your parents go do you take back gifts for anyone?

We do tend to take gifts from here to people over there, the family over there they don't have a habit of asking they don't really ask for anything whether it's mobiles phones or some clothes or anything like that, they never ask. So when we do take it's because we want to take it for certain people so we do take it and we try to remain in their confides because if you take something too western it might not fit for them whereas, as you know, for example if I took a hoodie for someone they're living in India they'll think what am I doing with this so it's usually stuff like clothes and shoes and stuff like

that that they can actually utilise in the hot climate that they live in.

And how do you present the gifts like when you give it to them?

Normally we don't tend to wrap them because they go in the suitcase they just end up getting ruined because the packaging is ripped so normally once we get there when we take the gifts out and fold them up properly and present them as they are that's about it.

Do you ever get gifts back so when you come back or when your parents come back from India do they bring back anything that's significant?

Not that I can recall, I think clothes would be the only one you know Asian clothes for occasion I definitely know the women do like to bring back Asian clothes so I think that's probably the only one I can think of off the top of my head.

And what sort of Asian clothes are they just like...?

It's just ladies are every picky with the sort of clothes they wear so it's sort of like what materials they are, what colours etc. you know the embroidery that's on it, the length or how long it is and you know how it looks, whether it looks fine to wear over here or if it's too you know too middle western that sort of thing. I think with that question it's just a matter of taste and preference with each person.

And when you have new people coming into your family, so say if you or your brothers or sisters get married how do people, how do the new members of the family get accustomed to your family's traditions and gift norms? Like, you said that your family wraps presents so have you had any instances where people have come in and they got accustomed to that or they've...?

Yeah, I think the most recent example I can give 2 of my cousins' sisters last year and the year before, so I've got 2 brother in laws now but with everything I think they've all accustomed both ways you know... You do have to compromise some way you can compromise every time but I think both ways so our side of the family and their side of the family they both get along, they both get accustomed to the traditions and the norms so in that sense we're quite similar so it's not been that difficult in the sense of cultural barriers.

And you know like gift giving, the norms and practices how do your family keep the traditions up, how does it get passed on?

I think it's just leading by example... This is probably the biggest one I can give, as kids growing up if you see your parents do it as you tend to do it as well because of the personal reasons so yeah, I would definitely say leading by example is the biggest one so the biggest influence that we all had.

Finally you know gift giving in the community, is it important to you when you give gifts... Is it important, do you take consideration when you are gifting to friends of different ethnicities?

In a way we definitely give out at Christmas time to our neighbours, we do have few white neighbours so we do give a couple of Christmas gifts whether that's a box of chocolates or a box of crackers or something. So we do, we do appreciate the kind of lifestyle other people live so for that reason we wouldn't give something that would impose our culture and that's completely out of the norm for other people so because of that we do appreciate the fact that people have different tastes and people have different cultures so we do sort of what would you call it pin point sort of what

would benefit them and what is the sort of best gift to give that they'll like and appreciate.

Okay the amount of money you spend on the gifts for, you know, for these neighbours is that the same amount of money as you'd spend for someone that would be from your own ethnic group?

I'd like to think so definitely because we've got a few white neighbours and we've known them since we were young so they do... Like me for example because I was the first kid and they were all good friends with my grandparents so they do know me and they do call me grandson and stuff like that so because of that, yeah I definitely say that we don't hold back in that sense because it works both ways. When we give gifts on our occasion then we can give something on Eid or stuff like that so for that reason I think we're definitely on par with sides.

Right so that's quite interesting that they call you grandson...

Yeah it is quite weird (laughs).

Alright so that concludes the interview thank you very much for your time.