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[0.00]

Could you tell me your name, your age, your generation, your ethnicity and whether this is your first or second interview.

Okay, yeah, my name is Rahbaan Khan, I'm currently 23 years old, I'm British Pakistani and this is my second interview with you regarding gift giving.

Okay, so you've drawn me a family tree here, Rahbaan, and , I can see that there's Hamza on the family tree, who is Hamza?

Hamza is my younger brother.

Okay, do you give gifts to Hamza?

I do yes, I do, yeah. [laughs]

What type of gifts?

Well, he's, he doesn't like his, well he likes clothes and stuff but he prefers, like a PS3 game so that we could play together. So something ... because he likes football, he enjoys football a lot so usually I would get him a football-related game on the PS3 that we can play together, FIFA; FIFA is the most common game that we get on the PS3. I also get him football boots, football shirts, footballs, shin pads, so basically anything to do with football, he's usually got his name on it.

How does it feel when you give those gifts to Hamza?

Because he hasn't got a job or anything, I feel that he appreciates gifts a lot more than people who have got a regular source of income do, obviously because he can't go out and purchase things for himself, like I can because I'm not saying I'm really rich and stuff [laughs] I'm far from it but, just that, you know like when you have a regular source of income you know that you can buy things for yourself. But, so I think he appreciates the gifts, like from myself, his mother, my mum, a lot more and other people a lot more because obviously, he can't go and buy it himself.

How does it make you feel when Hamza appreciates your gifts?

I feel really, I feel really happy that I can ... Because I'm his older brother, I feel happy that I can provide for him, I can give him what he wants, obviously, he hasn't got a job, so I don't expect gifts in return, so for me it's more of a sense of if he appreciates it, it's not blackmailing in a way, but , I'd like to think that , he'd respect me and stuff without you know gift giving, but I think this is sort of like you know the cherry on the cake, having that relationship sort of solidifies our brotherhood? Yeah.

Is that important to you?

Definitely, definitely. Yeah. It's very important to me. Because I've only got one brother, I've got him, he's got me, so for us to be like a tight unit, it's quite, it's instilled in us, for my mum and for my dad, as well that we have to like, you know, stick together, look out for each other, and being older than him, obviously I've got a bit more responsibility than him, looking out for him, telling him what's right and what's wrong, so yeah, all that plays a big part in our relationship.

Why do you feel like you have that responsibility of looking out for him?

He's the baby of the family isn't he, so everyone like my mum and obviously he's my mum's and dad's son so they look out for him anyway but because I'm older than him and he's, proper cute and I just find him really cute, like to me he's always going to be like, when he was born, I was 3 and a half and I remember when he came home from hospital he looked like, like you know, do you know the Prime Minister of England Winston Churchill, he looked like Winston Churchill because he was dead chubby and he was really fair and stuff. So we all used to call him Winston Churchill when he was a baby. So like, you know like when I still see him I still see that like, the baby in him, you know his big baby head and still got that, still got that [laughs] So I just see him as like, as my, like responsibility. I have to look after him, I have to be there for him, yeah.

So when do you give gifts to Hamza?

Near enough all the life but I try to make it an occasion, you know so that he appreciates the gift more so I'd say year round but not every week or every, you know, but just like if he needs something, if he needs a pair of shoes, if he needs a pair of trainers, football boots, like now he wants, the World Cup has started so now he wants a Portugal shirt with Ronaldo at the back so, yeah, he's always wanting things like anyone really like, but you've just got to like, obviously not spoil him, just, you've got to know when to give it, because I think it's important not to gift all the time because it reduces the significance of the gift of the whole, connotations around a gift and stuff, if you do it all the time. And if you do something less often, then I think that practice is appreciated more.

I noticed on the diagram that you've drawn your nuclear family. You say your dad lives separately. You, your mum and Hamza live together ...

That's right, yeah.

Do you have any family in Pakistan?

I do yes, the majority of the family back in Pakistan is my father's because my mum, her mum and dad live in Halifax, because they were first generation. So yeah, so they live in Halifax. And my mum's brothers and sisters etc live in Halifax as well, and Chelmsford, and Manchester. But dad's family I think it's only my dad and his brother, his brother that passed away recently, probably those two that lived in England from my dad's family and my dad's dad has passed away and my dad's mum lives in Karachi in Pakistan, yeah, and all his brothers and sisters live there as well.

Does your family from Pakistan give you gifts?

Yeah I mean like on occasions like on Eid, stuff like Eid. You know when you have ... I remember once we went to a wedding, we went to a wedding in Pakistan but before we went, they sent the clothes over like, because everyone has matching clothes, colour co-ordinated, sharwaanis, koosey, like Ali Baba shoes, curly toes and stuff, like traditional Pakistani wear, and they used to send stuff like that over. Bangles, a lot, you know bangles for the females, you know, my mum likes Bangles. Stuff like also like sweets that you don't get here like, you know like, there's a sweet called Ding Dong, it's a chewing gum, I'm sure that all Pakistani people are familiar with it so that's quite a common like, you just like it's not a gift but it's sort of just put into the suitcase sort of thing like so you know like there you go. It's a nice small box of chewing gum and it's got a picture of a cat on it. And there's always like a free sticker or something like that, or a tattoo or something like that. And that's quite, it's quite instilled in me because that has probably been given quite a bit because everyone has loads of family in Pakistan and every time someone comes from Pakistan they'll bring a box of Ding Dongs so it's like one of those things that you just get. And other things as well like, even like creams like people, it's weird like it's really, really different. Like you get creams as well because you know like, you know, Pakistani women are quite into their beauty. English women are as well, European

women are as well but Pakistani women are in my opinion, they're a bit obsessed with how they look and stuff, so you get a lot of like you know skin whitening creams and fairness creams and there's a family and I think my mum uses like things like Tibet's and she always wears it and she can always smell and I can always smell it on her. It's like I can relate that smell to my mum because you know, and my mum's mum used to use it as well so back when she was young as well so stuff like that, things like you know, creams, sweets, clothes, traditional wear, bangles, jewellery, yeah.

[10:01]

Who would provide these gifts?

It'd be family, so usually, either people from here, so my grandma and my granddad, they went to Pakistan for a holiday, they'd go to Pakistan for a holiday and come back with these gifts. Or people from Pakistan will send gifts over, so people as in my grandma, my dad's mother, and other members of my dad's family will send things over. Usually when people come over because it's easier then, shipping costs and stuff like that. DHL and like, it's quite a bit and you don't want to be like gifting over Royal Mail because it can be lost and you know standard royal mail isn't tracked so it's quite expensive. Usually when someone comes from Pakistan or to Pakistan, you sort of like, they're the transporter of like the gifts, yeah.

How do you feel when you get these gifts?

It's, I don't know, I think it's, you feel good because , it's a thing like, when you get gifts in general, you feel happy because you're getting something like, "Oh I'm getting something today," but, you know when it's the excitement because like usually, like I said, someone whose come from Pakistan and brought a suitcase and it's a mystery like you know like they've come to your house, they open the suitcase and it's like, "Oh, what have they brought for me?" What's in the suitcase? And they open the zip and they've got like all the like airport tags on, the barcodes and stickers and everything. And, yeah, they open it, and it's a sense of like, I think it's for me, it's probably, as a British Asian, it's probably one of the fundamental things, of being, not a Muslim, but a British Asian sort of thing, a British Pakistani because I don't think Pakistanis would feel the same sort of feelings that, a Pakistani born in Pakistan wouldn't feel the same feelings towards opening a present from Pakistan. I mean, I don't know how to explain it really. A Pakistani person couldn't do that because they're in that culture and they've, they're born in that culture and they live in that culture. But as like, I'm third generation, so, I've not lived in that culture, I've been raised in that culture, parts of it, but I'm also British as well, so it's different and it's quite exciting when you like open suitcases, it's like "What have they got?" you know the bright colourful clothes, the smells. As soon as they open the suitcases you can smell like, you know Pakistan. You can smell like there's *attar*, you can smell *attar*, it's like, Pakistani insect oils it's quite a pungent smell so you can smell that. And other things as well like the clothes usually have a like a, different smell to like, you know, you know it's from abroad basically. It just smells warm and really ... It's really difficult to explain that smell but it smells foreign, it smells like yeah, you know it's from Pakistan sort of thing. It's not a bad smell, it's just like, and it's got a certain smell to it, yeah.

These gifts you get are reciprocals? So do you a gift and does a gift go back?

Yeah. Because that's the whole gift giving culture, isn't it? It's like, definitely, so if we get a gift, that person will be, like I said it's the person that comes and it's in their suitcase and they bring it out, they'll be staying here for a bit and , when they go back then we'll obviously give them things back so things like , things that they don't have over there. So they send things that we don't have over here, like I explained before, and we send things that they don't have over there or find unique or interesting so it's usually chocolate. Chocolates a big one because English chocolate is probably one of the best chocolates in the world after Belgian chocolate but English chocolate because when you go abroad you can get chocolate but it's not the same as British chocolate. British chocolate just is, it's got a distinctive taste to it. It's a lot more pure feel,

it's not, because foreign chocolate is a lot sweet and it's just loaded full of sugar and they've not made it properly but they can taste the difference as well so it's usually Kit Kats they like so we just send a load of Kit Kats, multipacks. What else? Kit Kat. I mean, household ornaments as well sometimes. Household ornaments too. We don't usually send like clothes though because even though they might wear Western clothes we don't usually do that, I don't know it's weird that, because they do send traditional clothes, we don't send like jeans, or a t-shirt or a shirt or anything like that, but yeah. So yeah, it's definitely reciprocal.

Who would be the gift for, the person who bought the gift or the person who gives the gift to you? Because you said that somebody transports the gift.

So like, obviously you have something for the person that comes to your house and stuff and also for somebody who bought the gifts as well so you'd have something for that person and their family, whether it'd be a suit, I don't know Asian suit or a set of some sort, jewellery, something like that. And there's also gifts for people who have sent you gifts. So it's, everyone is covered sort of thing. You don't want to, I think it's a big thing in the Asian, in the Pakistan culture that you don't want to leave anyone out, we don't want to make people feel left out and like, we've not give them something. You know like when you go to someone's house, they'll feed you till you know, there's food coming out of your ears, there's definitely a, there's a big culture of giving and receiving and sharing and caring for everyone.

Is there anyone that you don't reciprocate gifts with?

[laughs] I'd say family members that would, that you're not on speaking terms with probably, yeah. So like, I don't know because they won't send you a gift as well so it's awkward that isn't it, like yeah, because sometimes everyone has people in their family, family members that they don't get along with or that they don't talk to, so obviously if you're not speaking to them, if you're not on speaking terms with them, you wouldn't necessarily give them gifts. So they give you gifts because obviously there's obviously an underlying sort of problem there. Because gift-giving is, it's building relationships, it's making people, making people not like you, but making people feel what you're experiencing, so you give a bit of your life or your experience to them, culture, be it culture, be it lifestyle and you give it to them and they give it to you. And it's, it's all about learning and expanding and it's like human beings.

Are there any gift giving traditions in your family?

Not necessarily, I mean, what I've realised though, is like when we give gifts like into family members and stuff. Like if I give it to my mum or my brother or dad, and vice versa, we won't necessarily wrap them. I mean, we would like, in a way but not wrap them properly like, confetti and nice wrapping paper and everything but we would do that if we were giving it to someone out of the family. And I think that that is because that we're a very practical family, so we don't like wasting things and wasting paper and things like that.

Why would you do it with someone outside the family?

Because I think, what it is, inside the family we know each other, we know we're all practical, we know our likes and dislikes, we know, even though it's like a birthday and stuff like that but I'd never wrap a present up for like my mum, I mean maybe a nice fancy bag, but that's probably pushing it as well. But I think that for people outside the family, because they don't know you as well as the people inside your family do. So you want to leave a nice lasting impression on them. And that symbolizes you because if you're giving something to somebody else, like I said before, it, it's like a part of your culture you're sharing with them. Your lifestyle, you're sharing it with them. So if you're sharing a part of your lifestyle and culture, and it doesn't look very, you know, aesthetically pleasing to someone else, they might not necessarily take to it, and that can have a bad reflection on your family and your culture or your, your culture group, your lifestyle

group, your ethnicity. So it might you know, it's nice to like, present yourself nicely in front of other people. It's like when you're at home, you won't do your hair and makeup every day will you? It's like because your family is there and your family seen you without your hair and makeup done so it's one of those things, it's like they take you for who you are sort of thing. I'm not saying its, you're putting a face on when doing it for other people, but you want to make an effort when it's like not, when it's when you're gift giving to someone that's not in your immediate circle.

[20:52]

Does everybody follow those traditions or rules that outside the family it's wrapped and inside the family it's not?

Yeah I think my mums the one that instilled it because my mums the gift giver in the family and she definitely and when she, I've noticed this a lot, when she gives presents to people outside the family, she goes the whole hog and she'll have confetti and wrapping paper and gift bags and you know like, cards, she's famous for her cards. Like she sends everyone cards on birthdays and stuff and like, she has this wind up butterfly that she buys from Clinton's and stuff like other card, I think you can buy it from Clinton's and places like that, and basically what it is, it's a wind up butterfly and you wind it up and it's got, it's attached by a rubber band and , once you've wound it up I think it's about 30 times, you place it in the card, so once you put it in the card, it flies out. She's like, she's quite wacky and creative so she's well known for yeah giving my granddad and my grandma a few scares like that but yeah. Yeah, we won't do it that much to each other.

So you're saying outside your family, is that outside of your dad, your ...?

Yeah, outside of my immediate family, so outside my dad, mum, brother, and me.

Okay and have you copied that behaviour from your mum?

I say I have because yeah, I definitely have. Because, it's just about being practical I think because I know that if I buy my little brother a present, say if I buy him a football shirt, if I wrap that up in wrapping paper, that's going to cost £4, or £3, he's not really going to appreciate that. But, if I save that £3 and buy him something else, like, put it towards a PS3 game, that'll cost £30, he'll appreciate that a lot more. So I like doing things that people, I like efficiency and appreciation and I think that's been passed on from my mum. Yeah.

So, I'm just wondering about how newcomers learn about your family's traditions, so when a new member of the family joins the family, how do they learn such traditions?

I haven't really got any new members but my mum did recently get married, not recently, its 2 years ago now. She got married again. What is was, my stepdad is a lot like habit wise, and he's a lot like my mum. So, it's like they sort of do the same things, gift wise both very thoughtful. I remember on my first birthday, in the year that they got married, he got me something, what did he get me? He made a big thing out of it, he got me a, a top or something, was it a top? I did remember he got me something but I've forgotten what it was. And he did, I remember him making a big, not a big deal out of it, but him making a big thing that it's my birthday and stuff. I think he was probably just, he was trying to, you know, be light. Because obviously, he's a new member of, a new part of the family. So I do remember him trying, you know, "Here you go, here's a gift," and, he spent quite a bit of money on it as well. So, yeah, I mean like I said they're both very similar in what they do. They both like gift giving. so he was already like that, I think, I feel like ... Because, yeah. He's a lot like my mum, you know, compared to my dad, he's a lot, because my mum and dad are obviously opposites, but, him and my mum are like very similar. Like, they've, they're both like very short

[laughs] they're both, I don't know, they're just, they're both just similar.

Subsequent birthdays, has he made as much of a ...?

Subsequent. Well he definitely, because he went abroad recently to do some business and, not recently, I think he went abroad last year, so he was abroad for my birthday so he did definitely he did text me, he whatsapp'd me. I remember this, it's proper annoying, he text me, he whatsapp'd me and he called me, so it's like, you know like when you do something, you do one of three things, he did all 3 things. So like he covered all angles, like if the text didn't reach me, the whatsapp did and if the whatsapp didn't reach me and the text didn't reach me, he called me. And it was like ... It was quite sweet because obviously he's doing his best to you know be ... to make himself be, to make himself, be perceived in a positive light so, if he's making the effort I think that definitely, I should as well.

So I'm going to move on to differences between generations, so are there any similarities between the ways in which you give gifts and your parents give gifts?

Similarities? Definitely, I mean, efficiency in gift giving as I said before, we don't like wasting things, we don't like, you know, I think sometimes we don't, I've been known to not give an envelope for a card because it's like, you know they open the envelope and stuff but it's like, you can say it's a bit robotic. I don't know. I, like, personally I feel that, like, I don't appreciate cards as much as presents. but my mum appreciates cards. That's the difference, I think.

And what about your mum and your grandma's generation, do you think there's any difference in the way that they give gifts?

In the gifts they give, or ...? On the occasions they give?

Both.

Definitely, definitely. There's a massive leap, I'd say. Because, my mum, she's born in England, born and bred, so it's like she's got a different mentality to how my grandma functions. My grandma is very, I mean they're both selfless and stuff like that, but my grandma will tend to give gifts all the time, or it's constant with my grandma. But with my mum, it's more, it has to be an occasion. With my grandma, every time I visit I'll get money, every time like it'll be £5, £10, £20, £5, £10 and it's like you feel like, obviously she's like, she's my grandma and stuff but I feel really tight because, she's old and every time you go she gives you money, it's like, I just feel really bad sometimes. I mean, it's nice but you just feel really bad sometimes. My mum tends to give gifts on an occasion, it has to be an occasion for my mum, I think, yeah. So like birthdays, Mother's Day, anniversary, things like that.

So when you go to visit your grandma, does she give you money?

Every time. Every single time. She'll do this thing, right, I'll go up to her and she'll touch my head and she'll talk to me for a bit and ask me if I'm hungry and then towards the evening time we'll all be like sat down, talking, watching TV and, just having a good time. And she'll ask me to bring, ask me or my brother to bring her handbag upstairs from her wardrobe. She hangs her handbag on the inside of her wardrobe, it's really cute, and she hangs it on the inside of her wardrobe, a little black handbag with a gold clasp. She's had that for ages, she likes it I think. And she, she asks for the handbag and soon as she says that, we know that she's going to give us money, but it's like, it's so awkward, you walk up the stairs, you come down with the little handbag, you give it her and she'll like have a look around like a little root around in her handbag and then take the money out and then look around and then count how many grandchildren are there so she knows how much to give and how much money she's got and, and then she'll ask if, she'll ask me if I've got

open five pounds or open ten pounds so then she can give me, I can give her change and she can give it to everyone fairly. I think that's the big thing as well because she's learnt that from my mum, I feel that now she's become a lot fairer than she was when she was raising her own children because her daughters take it to heart when, you know when, if certain kids get presents and money and others don't. So it's caused a bit of like, not problems, but it's caused a bit of upset in the past so she's gone a lot more fair now, I think anyway, so she gives everyone five pounds and it's like "Aww you give me money again, man." It's like, *pir se*, *pir se* means again, so you just feel the chine, you just feel like, I feel like I'm 5 again when that happens so yeah.

[31:12]

And how does that feel?

It's just, it's happy, it's nostalgia, it's, it's everything rolled into one. Like, it makes me feel like I'm young again. Well obviously I'm young, I'm 23 but it makes me feel like I'm, a toddler, like, like it's Eid and I'm six years old and 5 years old and my grandma's there and she's giving me money and it's like "Aww, I'm getting money" but yeah, it's one of those things where because in the Pakistani community, respect for your elders is a big thing so stem from that I think is the gift giving because it's the old person giving gifts to the young person, like on Eid obviously it's the older people that give the younger people money. You won't ever see, I'd never dream of giving my grandma five or ten pounds on Eid, I'd buy her something, but I won't give money on Eid because I feel that that might be a sign of disrespect. I don't know, it's just one of those things. And ...

Why would it be disrespectful if you give her money?

I don't know, I think it's like, I don't think she'd mind, I don't think, I don't think she'd see it that way, or she might see it that way, but I just ... it's a power thing, I think. It's a hierarchy thing, so like, when an older person gives a gift to a younger person, in the Asian community, anyway, it sort of establishes a hierarchy. Not I'm better than you, but sort of like age and respect, all that comes into it. And even though we live in Britain, I think that's really, I think that reflects British values, traditional British values of family, and respect and ethos. It's all interlinked with that to that, it complements it quite well and of all the things that the south Asian community have lost, culture wise, since they emigrated to the European countries, you know England and stuff, and this is probably, I'm happy that it's stayed like this because it makes your family like family, a tight knit family, a tight unit.

What stayed there?

You know the, the hierarchy thing, so like, when you, the eldest, or the elders giving gifts to the younger people, and it's nice to do it the other way round as well, but money wise, I think if you give money to your grandma or your granddad or something like that, I think it's a bit, it'll be cute when you're a kid and stuff but it's slightly disrespectful, I think. It would be slightly disrespectful, yeah, definitely.

Are there any differences in the way you give gifts compared to your mum and your dad?

My dad likes to do it as a surprise, he does a lot of, I don't like, I don't do surprises myself, he likes surprises like, and he's a spur of the moment kind of guy. He'll wake up one morning and be like "Oh yeah I want to do this" and like I want to buy my son this, I want to take him there or take him here like recently, we went to Blackpool and we got a call at 7 o'clock in the morning, me and my brother were in bed like "Ohhh," I just finished my exams and I was just having a lie in. We got a call in the morning and my dad was like, because my dad doesn't like giving gifts, physical gifts, he likes sharing experiences. So like, taking us places like Blackpool and stuff like that. And then he gave us a call and he was like, we have this banter thing when he

calls us it's like, we'll say something like "*phone ni kiya, bhool gy ho*" You haven't rung me, even though we spoke to him yesterday, but he still says, it's just like a banter thing with him. And he'll say do you want to "*aaj planning banana hain*" do you want to make a plan today? Let's go Blackpool, let's do this, let's do that. And he likes, he likes going to new places and things like that and we went to Blackpool that day and we walked along the whole bloody Blackpool coastline, it was so tiring man, but it was good though. And my dad's like, he's a proper funny guy. Like, he makes me laugh so much, he's so like, I think I get my confidence from my dad, he's so confident and stuff. Yeah, so like he's really spurred moment like if he wakes up and he feels like doing something, he'll do it. Whereas my mum, she's more structured, she's more organised, she's a lot more general major sort of thing, like it has to be, not has to be but she prefers it, she has a diary where it has to be set out routine wise. So gift giving wise, I'm like my mum because I have OCD, I don't like spur of the moment thing like my dad. It's nice, now and again, but I prefer structure, I'd say, yeah.

So, moving on your gifts to friends. When you give gifts to friends who are of the same ethnic background as you, do you give the same gifts as you would to your family?

Friends my age. I've only... Friends my age, a bit older, a few years older, a few years younger. I'd give them gifts the same way I'd give gifts to my brother, but not on, I mean it depends as to how good of a friend they are, so what you get them depends on how good of a friend they are to you, so my best friend, he's called Danny. He's half Iranian, half white. He's been my friend since Year 7. And he doesn't gift. He's just one of those guys that doesn't gift. But I always gift him, but he doesn't gift. I really get annoyed sometimes, but he doesn't gift. Last birthday, we went out, we went Manchester, we went Hilton and we had a few drinks and stuff, non-alcoholic and stuff like, but, and then he invited loads of friends and his girlfriend and everything and it was a good night and I gave him a present. I remember giving him, you know, Hernandez, United player, Chicharito there was like a glass, he supports united as well, so there was a glass, block of glass with his face in it and it was from Hernandez because he gave it to my dad because he picked him up so because my dad used to do taxi as well so when I gave him that, I thought that was quite special, even though I didn't pay anything for it, but it's quite a special gift because a footballer gave it me, well my dad. It's quite a cool thing to give. And then he, last birthday he gave nothing back. And I was a bit, I was a bit annoyed at that [laughs] I felt as though...

Did you address that with him?

No, I'd never do that. Because we're so tight, like I've said it a few times to him but he's just one of those guys that doesn't gift. The only time he gives presents is when he's buying his girlfriend presents. I usually go shopping with him and he does that as well. He's taken me to Ann Summers twice which was very, very uncomfortable. Downstairs and everything so I was, very uncomfortable, and even though I'm very comfortable with my sexuality and everything, going into a shop like that and asking people, asking workers there you know, "How, what this is and what that is" yeah it's just a bit awkward I think, even for me [laughs]. Yeah, he doesn't really gift. Other friends that gift me, I don't really have that many friends [laughs] ...

[39:49]

From the same ethnicity?

So Pakistanis, so Arifah, she's a girl. Arifah and Siarah. So, I'm quite close to them and they're both British Pakistanis. And they have gifted me quite a lot in the past. And I think it's because they're females and they're quite sensitive and there, they sort of set the bar as well don't they? Because like because if they're giving you nice things they know that they're going to get nice things back, otherwise you're going to get an earful. I'm not being sexist or anything there but girls are a lot more sensitive when it comes to gift giving

so I think with them 2 definitely they bought me so much things. Because I used to take them to work, because they used to work with me about 4 years ago, so I used to take them to work every day for about at least a year.

How did you take them to work?

I used to pick them up from town, because I used to come home from university and I used to drive to town and pick them up and take them to work so they appreciate that and stuff so from that time, we've just gone proper close like, they talk to me about everything, things like you know intimate matters. But I think the gift giving stems from that because I've done so much for them, they feel that you know, you know when it's like a birthday, they've always made a big Hoo Haa about whenever it was my birthday at work, they'd bring in cake, and party popper and hats. I'm not a big fan of that, but they're girls and they like doing cute things like that so I just like, it's nice, it's nice to feel appreciated once in a while but it's a bit, it's a bit, I find it uncomfortable to be fair. I don't like the spotlight to be on me.

What do you give to them?

I give them stuff, I remember buying Arifah Armani Diamonds. I know, for girls, perfume is a safe bet, so from past experience as well, so perfume is a safe bet because shoes and clothes, sizes can get wrong and it can be awkward if you get the clothes size wrong. If you get a size too big, it can be awkward. So you know perfume is a universal gift and you know, you don't have various sizes for it, so, it's just one scent so if it smells nice and if it's a nice brand sort of thing then you're on a safe bet there. I think I also bought, I bought Siarah a bracelet once, what they're called, them thingy ones, I've forgot what they're called but, they have like little things on them, like ... it's like a bracelet, and you design it yourself and you have like little chains on it. I don't know how to explain it but, it's a bracelet, it's a customised bracelet and I got that for her.

Where did you get it from?

It was from a goldsmiths or somewhere, like a jewellers. it wasn't that expensive, it was only 40 or 50 quid. But, it was, I remember her saying a few times that she wanted it, she wanted it and when I used to go town and stuff she used to say I want one of those I want one of those. So I thought instead of getting her something that she won't like it'd be a good idea to get her that.

Do you give the same ...?

Charms, that's what they're called! You know like the bracelet with charms on it. That's what they're called. Sorry.

Do you give gifts in the same way to non-ethnics from the same backgrounds, so for example non-Pakistanis?

Hmm, yeah because like I said before, Danny is not Pakistani so I give gifts on the same sort of level. Because I only give gifts to people that I feel are... that I'm tight with, that I'm close to. I don't really give gifts to anybody because then again, it reduces the significance of the gift, you want it to be something that's quite special, so yeah, even to Danny like I've given that square block with Chicharito's head in it. I really don't know how to explain it. But it's a really cool thing. Like a piece of memorabilia because he's a football fan and yeah I gave him that.

Would you spend the same amount of money on both ethnic groups?

Definitely, I would yeah.

And are there any gifts that you would not consider giving to the same ethnic groups as you?

To the same ethnic group as me? Any gifts I wouldn't give? I wouldn't give them stuff like... when I give gifts to non-ethnic people, like white people, I tend to give gifts that are related that that are orientated around my culture, my roots, or something so that I am passing my roots onto them. And attar, like a scent, like an oil scent, things like that. But if I am giving gifts to a fellow Pakistani I tend not to give things that stem from our culture because they've already experienced that, they've already seen that. You know, they've lived through it and stuff. I'd give them something that's a bit more generic. More generic, yeah.

Are there any gifts that you would not give to people you believe are forbidden?

Yeah, obviously alcohol is forbidden in Islam. I definitely wouldn't ... I've been brought up in such a way that even going through the alcohol section in Asda's or Sainsbury's, whatever, I felt wrong doing it. People drink alcohol that's fine because everyone is entitled to their own lifestyle, choices, but because I don't drink alcohol, I don't not tend to touch it to be fair like I feel like I'm doing something that's against my inner, I don't know, inner self. That's against what I'm about. So I definitely wouldn't even, I wouldn't even ... The only time I'd give someone alcohol and I think I've done this once in the past is when I won it at a tombola at school. Like a raffle ticket.

What did you do with it?

I still feel guilty because as Muslims, we're not supposed to drink alcohol, we're not supposed to promote the drinking of alcohol, and on the same note, and you're not supposed to waste food as well. But if I've got a bottle of wine, it was a bottle of wine, so if you get a bottle of wine, are you supposed to waste it, and are you supposed to throw it in the bin? Or are you supposed to like? I couldn't even refuse it like because, what it was like, what was it? I got it the next day and I was like, when I was in school and my teacher gave it to me and I was really young as well, I mean I could've refused it but it was just, I didn't think fast enough. So yeah, I mean, I definitely wouldn't gift alcohol because it's not in our, in my lifestyle, in my consumption habits. So it's, I wouldn't pass it on. Anything else that forbidden? Forbidden as in Islam or forbidden as in my own ethics and values or morals?

What you believe.

What I believe. Okay, what's forbidden, it's a difficult one that one because you'd have to really think I mean alcohol because obviously Islam.

You know you talked a lot about your religion, are you a practicing Muslim?

I'd like to think so. In black and white I'm not because I don't read 5 times a day. I try to read 2 or 3 so, no I try to be a practicing ... I aspire to be a practicing Muslim

Thank you very much for those answers Rahbaan. If we have any more questions we can mention them in another interview.

Yeah, it's alright, anytime.

[49:32]