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[0.00]

Thank you for coming today, can you tell me your name, your age, your ethnicity, and your generation.

My name is Safina Asif, I'm 17 years old, I'm in my third generation, and my ethnicity is British Pakistani.

Okay, is it okay if I call you Safina, then?

Yeah, that's fine. It's perfectly fine.

So Safina, could you tell me a little bit about yourself?

...

Your hobbies, your interests ...

Hobbies and interests... I'm quite fond of doing Nail Art. It's a bit of a hobby. As you can tell [laughs], I quite like ice-skating, socialising, going out with friends... That's about it really.

Okay, ice-skating?

Yeah.

How did you get into that?

I started roller skating first and in my roller skates I found that I was doing really good. So I decided to take it further and do ice skating. I'm not a pro but I can just about get around the ice. [laughs]

And, what about your education or your job, what do you currently do?

I'm a student at Holy Cross College.

Alright. Okay.

So, I'm in my first year. I've done A levels. Law, Sociology, Psychology and English Literature. I mean I've had work experience within a family business, so my mum's salon. Just experienced around customers, clients, dealing with complaints so any issues that have been there, just general duties as well.

Do you get paid when you work for your mum?

Yeah. She paid me for doing it.

How much does she pay you?

It depends. It depends how much work I do. If I'm in all day she probably give me like 30 quid for the day. And then she'll pay for my food or whatever else I get.

Okay. What made you pick you know Law and the other subjects that you're currently doing at Holy Cross?

Well, I want to go to uni and study Law further so I thought it'd be best if I'd studied it at college first, although it's not been said to study it at college first because you don't have to, but I thought I'd get a good

insight as to what to expect when I go to university. And, I've been going to courts hearing all the trials, watching them, so it's been really interesting.

Alright, and... What about, friends at college? What's the social group like, I mean is it a mix of ethnic and non-ethnic friends or is it solely one or the other?

Well within class I've made like lots of friends which are of different ethnicities, not necessarily the same ones but the ones that I normally socialise with when I'm at break or dinner are mainly of the one ethnicity.

And what sort of things do you do when you're socialising with your friends?

Go to the park, we just socialise there. Go to Bury town centre, go shopping, go out for a meal, go cinemas, just have a good laugh. [laughs]

And where do you currently live?

In Bolton.

Do you like living in Bolton?

It's not the best and it's not the worst but it's better than nothing. [laughs]

What do you like about living in Bolton?

Its well, I can proudly say that Bolton has the largest town in Europe so it's quite good to know that. And then ... It's like you just once you, well I've been living in Bolton my whole life so you just get used to the surroundings and obviously when you're at like different atmospheres and stuff and surroundings, you feel a little alien towards it so growing up it's, it is a nice environment to grow up in I think. It's peaceful at times. I wouldn't say it's the best time to get quietness.

And what about shopping, do you ever go shopping?

Shopping is probably a hobby in itself [laughs] Probably a part-time job that I do.

What sorts of shops do you go to?

All high street shops or ... I've been down to Oxford and gone to this place called Bicester Village and it's like a big outdoor shopping place and it's just got loads of designer stuff and it's just a really nice fun day out for the family.

Alright, and when you go shopping, do you ever go to like shops, like ethnic shops, shops of Pakistani origin? Like Pakistani shops or ...

Yeah, I mean like when we did go down to Oxford we stopped off in London and South Hall where they had Asian clothes shops and we did purchase a few items from there. And in Bolton there's many, Manchester as well. So I don't solely wear English Western clothes, I do wear the traditional Asian clothing as well.

When do you wear traditional Asian clothing?

Weddings, Eid, going round to Grandma's house, or when I just can't be bothered wearing English clothes because it's more comfier wearing Asian.

Do you ever, like, do you ever wear Asian clothes at home?

Sometimes I do. Sometimes I do. If we've got guests coming around and stuff then I will wear it.

Would you wear it if you were just watching TV?

No I'd probably wear my pyjamas.

How come?

It's comfier.

Alright.

[laughs]

And ... What about, what about when you go to these Asian shops, Pakistani shops, what sort of things do you buy from there?

Mainly clothing, sometimes jewellery, shoes, I think that's about it.

And what do you like about Asian clothes?

I like that it's different, it's unique in its way like, if you were comparing English clothes and traditional Asian clothes, it would stand out and that's good in its own place so it kind of makes you change in a way because if I'm wearing A... like ... Westernized clothing all week and the one day that I wear Asian traditional clothing it does make a difference so you just feel comfortable. You don't have to put that much effort into getting dressed because it's all matching anyway. [laughs]

Alright. , what about meal times at home. What sort of like, who's in charge of the food at home?

Mainly my mum and dad but now and again, I'll cook as well, I've just started to. More of a baker.

And what sort of things does your mum cook for you?

She'll cook Asian food, she'll cook English food. , she makes all sorts really, she won't stick to one type of food because she works as well full time so if she doesn't cook then my dad will so ... What everyone puts in.

And what sorts of things ... If you were to cook, what sorts of things would you cook?

Like, I've made lasagne, I make easy things I think to be honest because they're just quick and simple to do. So like pasta, spaghettis, lasagne, , I've just started making Chapattis. [laugh] A bit of, I think I went on a bit of a tangent, it came out all different shapes so bit of a new experience to me.

And who taught you how to make chapattis?

I've seen my mum make it for years and my grandma and everyone else around me so it's a bit of , it's a bit of a change so I thought 'Okay, why not try it myself?'

What do you prefer cooking, like ... Pakistani foods or British foods?

Well, it's I don't really mind what I cook, it's just that if you tell me what to cook I'll make it. If I was just thinking spontaneously off the top of my head I wouldn't know.

When you're talking at home like to your parents, would you speak ... What, what language would you speak?

I speak, well with my mum it's sometimes Urdu, sometimes English. With my dad it's just pure English.

And what about with your brother?

Brother, same, English with him. Purely English.

Would you ever speak ...

Sometimes if we're having a bit of a banter it'll be like Urdu and Punjabi mixed in a bit like, bit of a mixture of it but yeah ...

Alright... What do you watch on TV?

Mainly soap operas, just TV like American TV shows, don't really get time for much TV to be honest so ... I'm more of a movie person.

What sort of movies do you watch?

I watch action movies, comedies, romcoms, chick flicks. [laughs] All sorts, I just don't do the horror. Don't like horror movies.

[10:00]

How come?

Well, I won't be scared watching it but there was this one time when I was at my friend's house. She's a really close friend of mine and we were watching insidious and it's a 2 hour film and it took us 4 hours to watch it because I starting getting laugh attacks. I had fits of laughter and it took us 4 hours to watch the film so we thought alright 'Sack it, let's just have some pizza and then we'll carry on watching it afterwards.'

And what's your favourite film of all time?

Oh, I don't really have a favourite film. , my favourite film ... I think it'd be Space Jam. It's an old movie but I quite liked it whilst I was growing up. I watched it quite a lot.

Why?

It's because it's got Looney Tunes. I love Looney Tunes. [laughs]

And what about the music like ... What sort of music are you into?

I listen to like a variety of stuff, I don't just stick to the one thing so I do listen to like Hindi music, I listen to English music like pop, rap, R&B, I don't just stick to the one type of music because I don't know it's just it gets boring after a bit.

What's your favourite genre of music?

Favourite genre?

If you were to pick one.

I don't really have one but I think pop would be one.

Why, why's that?

It's just because it's more upbeat and I'm always listening to music when I'm travelling and I travel quite a lot so it's just easy to put it in your phone, plug in your earphones and get out the house.

What about like cultural activities? I'll give you an example ... myself, we, in our family, we have a lot of gatherings and call them Dawats. So like people come round and they'll have food and everyone will be happy and sort of thing so is there anything like that similar in like what you do in ... Your family?

Apart from Eid, apart from gathering around, we normally go round to my Grandma's house, it's like a tradition we've always gone to my grandma's house and everyone meets up there. We do have Dawats and Khatams as well.

What's a khatam?

It's sort of like a Dawat. Everyone's gathered around and they normally pray, you pray for like, if there's a loss in the family or something along the lines so we pray for them so we normally have some stuff like that.

And like moving onto your ethnicity now, so you're a third generation British Pakistani?

Yep.

What do you, which group do you feel more a part of British or Pakistani?

I'd say both because I don't feel drawn to one ethnicity because I have been to Pakistan so I've lived the culture as well as living in Britain and being brought up in Britain as well. So it's nice to get a view of both sides rather than just the one.

And to you, what does it mean to be ... To be a British Pakistani?

Unique I'd say because a lot of people are drawn onto the stereotypical idea that Pakistanis aren't Westernised ... They don't follow Western Culture, they just stick to one thing, they should be more like British people so to be honest to be within both categories, I feel quite happy about it to be honest.

And is your ethnicity important to you?

Not as such, no. I wouldn't say it's important to me.

Why's that?

Just really can't ... I don't know. I wouldn't say that it's really important to me, it's just ... Brought up as I am. I can't really change that.

What about like, if I was to say to you could you describe Asian culture in a few words, how would you do that?

Asian culture in a few words, it'd be vibrant, it's traditional, it's ... It's a mixture. So, it's not just traditional clothing, traditional assets, it's quite lively as well.

And if I were to say the same thing to you about British culture ...

Yep.

How would you describe that?

Modern. Simple really, it's not as vibrant and there's lively as Pakistani culture. Its, I think it's more simple.

And why do you think that is?

To be honest I don't even know. It's just everyone's got their own sort of way, like, views and values so depending on where you're brought up and how you've been brought up and what society is like around you, I think that sort of determines what sort of a person you are and what personality you've got and what traits you have as a person. So, I wouldn't really put one point on it.

What about ... Moving onto religion now, what's the role of like obviously you're a British Muslim, so what's the role of Islam in your life?

Islam, it's ... Well it is quite important to me. It's brings me peace and it's also like a guide to life, I'd say.

How would you say it's a guide?

It ... The Holy Qur'an, it states all that you can do, you can't do and what you should and shouldn't do. So it sort of guides you on how to be a good Muslim and certain things that you should and shouldn't do in life and just ... Do things that you want to do but have limits on what you do. So I think it's quite good that you have certain barriers.

What does Islam mean to you?

Islam means ... Hope. I think it means hope.

Hope as in ...

Like ... Within Islam it's like you've got someone to believe in, you've got someone that will listen to you. You've ... You're not on your own. You feel like you'll know there's always someone listening, that there's always ways to get around things, there's always an answer. That's what I think it brings.

And what about you, I mean how do you, how do you practice Islam?

Pray namaz which is the daily prayers, read the Qur'an and then like with younger siblings, well with young cousins, relatives and everyone, you just practice is with them. Like obviously they won't understand it as well as we do because we're a lot older but you'd practice it how, how they'd be able to.

And how many times a day do you have to pray?

It's 5 times a day, sunrise, afternoon, before evening, sunset and dusk.

Are there times in your life when you've noticed that you've become more religious?

There are certain times where I feel like I've become more religious than normal, one of the times was Ramadan because you're fasting so obviously there are restrictions to what you can and cannot do in Ramadan so you'll be praying most of the time. Also like in times of distress and times of need, so you turn to God and you pray. Also, in times of happiness as well, be thankful for what you've got.

Who taught you about Islam?

Family members, as I've been growing up then whilst going to Mosque, the teachers at the Mosque they've been helping, they teach you as well how to read in Arabic and how to perform namaz.

And, when you, you know giving gifts to your fellow Muslim friends or your family, is there anything that pops up in your head as forbidden or you've never even think about in a million years to give to someone?

One thing for sure is alcohol because it's just forbidden. It intoxicates you therefore it's forbidden in Islam. And ...

It's forbidden to drink?

It's forbidden to drink. And within foods as well, you wouldn't be able to have it ... So that's one thing I wouldn't, other than that, I don't think there'd be anything else, really.

[20:01]

What do you think makes alcohol forbidden as a gift?

For starters it's forbidden to drink so if I was gifting it to another friend that was a Muslim it'd be a sort of offensive because you know you're not allowed to drink it so I mean it's forbidden to be purchasing it in the first place as well. So because of that I really wouldn't.

Moving on to the gift that you've brought today, what is the gift that you've brought today?

It's my Pandora bracelet. And I've bought this with me because it has a lot of sentimental value, my Taya he bought this for ... My dad's eldest brother, he bought me this when I was 13 and every year he'd fill it up for me with a charm and he recently passed away 2 years ago due to sudden death so ever since then I've worn it and I've added a charm on.

Every year?

Every year, every ... Whenever I can. Birthdays mainly whenever he used to buy me charms so it's always been with me since and it just makes me feel closer to him because when we were with him he wasn't like an uncle, he was more like a friend that we could talk to, someone that we could confide in and because we hardly saw him, this made me feel a lot closer to him.

Just for the purpose of the recording, I'll just describe it quickly, it's like a silver chain and it's got lots of different little bits and bobs on it, charms, like there's a red one, there's a yellow one, there's a green one, it's very very... It's very flashy isn't it?

Yeah.

It's quite eye-catching.

Yeah.

So, why did you choose this gift to bring today?

Well since he's been gone, it's like I've always wanted a way to feel closer to him so obviously because we haven't been to his house and my last memory with him was going to Blackpool which was roughly about a year before he passed away. He picked us up, we went, we spent the whole day there, then he came with us to our house and he went on all the rides with us. And then we just wouldn't have thought that the next time we'd see him, he'd be laying on his death bed because I mean our birthdays gone throughout the year he wouldn't ... He wasn't normally able to make them because he had his own business to look after and he was down at I think Crewe but with like birthdays and stuff, he'd try and make it otherwise he'd send us a present or a card through the post, I mean he used to always send my charm by post. He'd always have a note in there for me saying 'Happy Birthday.' And he used to try... He was supposed to be try and making it for my 16th at a restaurant so but because he was ill he wasn't ... He didn't make it but then it was a very big shock to find out that he'd passed away because it's just when you go to your grave that's the only thing that you know that he's there, that he's there now, can't really do anything about it so this in a way, although I can't always see him, or whenever we go to the grave this way I feel like I'm more closer to him and that he's always with me. Like even in Pandora shops when I'm picking out charms it's like you feel that he's there.

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

When I'm not wearing it I've got a box that it came in and it normally just sits in that but I wear it every day without fail.

And what sorts of memories and emotions like run through you when, when you look at it?

Well the charms that he's got me are normally what go from I think which ones he's got me first and ... Like the first one that he's got me is my horo ... Well, my star sign which is Aries. And then throughout the year he's got me my 16, my S and my birthstone. So, it's just stuff like that really, like he's thought about what he's getting for me, he'd always ring me up like 'Have you got this charm yet?' 'Have you got this charm yet?' But if I haven't he'd buy it for me. So it's like in a way, it's just that he's there so if anything ever happened to it I'd be quiet heartbroken to be honest.

How would you feel heartbroken if it was lost?

Yeah, I'd feel really ... I don't even think 'heartbroken' is the word, I think it'd be more depressed that that's the only thing that made me close to him and now I've lost it or it's not there anymore. And because I wear it every day, it's like, it comes naturally like I'd always wear it.

Do you ever take it off?

I take it off, if I'm at home, I'll take it off. I wouldn't wear it around the house, it's like if I'm going out anywhere, I'll wear it then. So that's really it to be honest.

How did it make you like ... How did it make you feel when, when your Uncle, when your Thaya, when he gave you that present?

Quite happy to be honest because I've never had one before so it was quite a new thing to me, I was only 13 at the time so getting stuff like this wasn't really an always thing. So it was quite new to me and I was quite happy about it. I was like really chuffed.

Where were you at the time? Were you at home? Were you ...

Yeah I was at home. He came round to our house, like we had a family gathering at my house and , he came over and he rang up my mum a couple of days beforehand asking about my wrist size so , when he bought it over it was quite a bit of a surprise for me so it was quite good.

And ... How did he give it you? Was it wrapped up? Was it ...?

He sat me down and he done a card with 16... No, he done 13 coins in the card. £1 coins and sellotape them, put some sheet over it and he done the card for me and then he got out this Pandora box and he told me to try it on. And I started laughing because I thought it was too big for my wrist. I've only got small wrists so it looked quite big. So he said 'Don't worry I'll get you a charm you can start filling it up.' So it was quite nice. It was a really nice gesture seeing as I've not had one before so it was quite nice.

And ... The card that he gave you were the coins attached to it?

Yeah.

Have you still got that?

Yeah, I've got that. It's still at home with all my cards that I've got. I've always kept my cards since ... I think since I turned 13 I've kept my cards from every birthday... and like any birthday badges, because I know my uncle always bought me birthday badges, like they're really huge and you can't miss them [Laughs] so he'd always buy me them and I've kept them since I was about 8.

... You said the gifts branded it's ... what, where was it from again?

It's Pandora. It's an American brand.

And, is that brand important?

Not really, no. I wouldn't say it's important at all. It's just that... I think it's the thought that counts the most, because rather than someone just giving me some money to buy whatever I'd want, I'd rather them buy me something that I'd wear or have. So for this ... To have this it was something different and it was unique in a way of its own, because I never had anything like it before. So to have it, it's quite nice to be honest.

Right... Moving on to gift giving and your gift giving habits, do you prefer giving gifts or receiving gifts?

I don't mind either to be honest, because either way it's making someone else happy or it's someone else making you happy... so it's a win-win situation with both.

And do you feel like that gift giving is reciprocal, so if you were to give someone a gift would you expect a gift back from them?

Not really no... It'll be a nice gesture, but I wouldn't expect it. Cause on birthdays throughout the year I always remember whose birthday it is, what's happening and I'd always go out and buy something for them without fail... Like I wouldn't think twice about it. So... I wouldn't really expect something back I just think

it's a nice gesture, because I know if it was my birthday then it's like it'd be a nice gesture for them to get me something but I wouldn't really force it on anyone. Unless they're close friends that is, then that's not of question at all [Laughs]

What do you like about getting gifts?

... it's just the excitement that it brings you, like opening up new things and just that the thought that counts to be honest the most. It's not really always about the gifts, it's the thought that counts that they've actually gone out, spent their time and got me something. So I think that's what's more important to me than the actual gift itself.

Why do you think you value the thought more than the present?

Because, I always say the thought counts the most, it doesn't matter about the price or what brand or what type of product it is that they buy you so it's just the thought to be honest. I don't... really have a specific reason about it I just think it's quite a nice gesture.

[30:11]

And ... what do you like about giving gifts?

It puts a smile on others faces. Just seeing that little glow on their faces that they've got something from someone. Whether it be small or big at least they've got something.

Do your parents or your grandparents give you gifts?

Yeah they do, like on birthdays and on Eid.

What sort of things do your grandparents get you?

Well my granddad gives me money and he just says 'Right just buy what you want with it.' He's not ... He doesn't really have time to go out and buy gifts. , my grandma, she'll give me money and she'll go and buy me like traditional Asian clothing or like bags and jewellery and bits and bobs and stuff like that. , parents ... I know they get me stuff like if I've done really well in results or if it's my birthday or if it's Eid or just if they feel like getting me something so it's not really a specific occasion where they always have to get me a gift. It's just whenever they feel like it.

Do you see any similarities between the way you gift and the way your grandparents or your parents gift?

With the way that my parents gift, it's sort of similar because it's always about thought and what it is. ... I think the only difference is that I just put a little more effort into making it look more attractive. I'd wrap it up in certain ways and ribbon it. I just do whatever with it. Make it look most attractive thing ever. So that's it really.

And your grandparents what ...

No they just give it to me how it is.

Why do you think that is?

I think ... It's because they either haven't got enough time or they just don't know what to do because I

don't know whether they know how to wrap. Presents or not [laughs] So yeah ... I think that's about it.

What do you think you picked up your gift giving norms and habits from?

I... Just growing up, watching your parents do it and seeing other relatives gift giving and just by watching people. I think you develop that sort of gift giving habit.

Has anybody copied your gift giving behaviour?

I don't think so. But I do have a little cousin who is about ... Well, she's 6 today so she does copy me quite a lot so I'm like a role model in her eyes so she does copy me quite a lot with a few things that I do. And ... I think that's it really she doesn't ... She like ... She'll be like 'Right I'm going to do it like you do it' or 'When I grow up older I'll be like you and I'll do the things that you do' so that's it really.

And talking about occasions and celebrations now ... Do you celebrate Eid?

Yeah.

And what sorts of things ... What sorts of gifts do you get on Eid?

... Just money. Just money.

And... Who is it that gives you the money?

It's normally elders giving the money to the younger ones. So it'll be my parents, my grandparents, my aunties, my uncles or if I've gone round to friends' houses their mums and dads, they'd give me money. And it'll be like the same with my mum and dad, they'll be giving their children money and whatever.

What's the best gift that you've ever received on Eid?

It was only one thing I've ever got on Eid and that's money so I don't really know what to ...

What do you usually do with the money? Do you save it up or ...?

I normally save it up, put it into my account and then I'd either leave it or it's only in times of need where I'd spend it so ... I'm more of a spender than anything rather than saving. So you could say I'm a shopaholic.
[laughs]

Do you do anything special on Eid?

Yeah we normally get around together at my Grandma's house so we'll all get ready from home or if I'm staying the night over at my Grandma's then we'll all go to hers ... We'll all get around together and then all friends and family, family friends, they all come over. Grandma will cook up a meal, everyone will do their fair share like someone will bring something else, someone will bring something else and then ... Just give us like Eid money and stuff and then we'll all eat together and then from there we'll go to everyone else's houses.

And ... What about giving gifts? You said you get a lot of money and that's probably the only thing ...

[laughs]

... It's quite big on Eid, so do you ever give anything on Eid to like other people, your siblings, your mum, dad?

I've never really given anything ... Well there was this one year, same friend with the movie, she's quite a close friend to me so we did this one year where we thought 'Okay, we'll all ... We'll both go out, we're spending money on each other, let's get each other something.' So ... I think she got me like a lot of make-up sets because she knew I was into ... I was going through a phase where I was copying a lot of tutorials and stuff. And obviously watching my mum doing it all and just being around her all the time, I picked up quite a few things. And then... [laughs] Yeah, you can tell with my eyeliner as well [laughs] I'm quite keen about it... And I got her like lots of bits of jewellery because I know that she's into that as well so ... It's quite fun. Probably do it again sometime soon.

How does it make you feel like on Eid when everyone's together and you know you've got your new Eid clothes on and ...?

It's relaxed. It's like you've got your whole family around you ... It's just the fun atmosphere, just being around your family because it wouldn't be the same like if you're around your friends and when you're around your family having fun ... It's 2 different things. Because of the way they are with you and I think with family you tend to enjoy it more because they're people that you know thoroughly because you've grown up knowing them your whole lives so I think it's quite fun when you're with family.

What sorts of food do you have on Eid?

On Eid, we normally ... My grandma normally cooks her roasts. She does like ... Rice, , she normally like ... She makes this dish and it's called Dey Balle and I'm not too sure what goes in it. It's a yoghurt based dish and it's like ... What are they called now? I don't even know. Like bits of onions and stuff ... Bits of veg and they're fried up. Onions Bhajis that's what it is. I knew there was a name for it. They're put into that as well and then like bits of potatoes and bit of chick peas and that. And then it's just spiced up.

Do you like Eid food?

I think ... It's ... Because normally like if I'm going round to my Gran's and it's a Sunday we normally have something similar so she makes all the stuff that we all like so she doesn't make the one type of dish all the time she makes something that everybody likes. So there'll be like spring rolls and samosas and kebabs and my Uncle will do up a barbecue so we'll have that barbecue food there as well. So it is quite nice, it's like a variety of food.

What does Eid mean to you as a celebration, as a day ... What does it mean to you?

... After Ramadan it's like ... It just ... It's like a big celebration, it's like Ramadan's over 'Right let's party.' Because you've been praying and being like really Holy as a person for the whole month so it's like a massive celebration so it's like time to party and stuff so I think it's quite fun in that aspect and then it's like normally you shouldn't really well normally you shouldn't really celebrate the first Eid as much because it's small Eid so you're not but people celebrate it a lot more because it's after Ramadan. It's the first Eid that comes. But the second Eid is celebrated a little less. Like not everyone gives out money and stuff we just go around dress up still but you wouldn't expect to get money off others on second Eid because it's more of ... It's more of being around your family than giving money and stuff.

Alright ... What about Mother's Day and Father's Day? Do you celebrate Mother's Day and Father's Day?

We do but it's like ... Something because we have to sort of thing. Because I wouldn't really say that

Mother's Day and Father's Day are really important ... They're just made days so you get ... So it's an excuse for our mum and dad to get presents of us.

[40:12]

Right, okay.

But I ... yeah we normally do stuff for my mum and dad... Like we got my mum and ... My mum some jewellery and stuff for Mother's Day and some flowers and a card and we got my dad like a new aftershave so that was quite fun. And then yeah, brothers normally helping me out like what we should get, what we shouldn't get, what she had, what she not had.

And ... What does Mother's Day and Father's Day mean to you?

I don't think it means anything to me because I think that you should just love your mum and dad as much as you do on every other day. Mother's Day and Father's Day is just a man-made day, without it, it's just the same thing. But... I just think there are ... It's an excuse for them to get presents out of us and I don't know it's just another way of showing your love and attention to them.

What's the best ... What's the most expensive gift you've bought on Mother's Day or Father's Day?

... Mother's Day we got my mum a designer watch and I think yeah ... It had like loads of crystals encrusted on the ... Well along the watch base and around the ... It had like silver steel lines going across. Instead of having a strap it had those steel links and it had like loads of diamonds and stuff on that so that was quite nice. , for my dad I think we bought him like some cuff links from Swarovski or something so ... Because I know he wears a lot of shirts and then they normally double cuffed so he always wears cufflinks with them so we got them for him. I think that's it that we got for them.

You said that you don't really value Mother's Day and Father's Day because it should be every day?

Yeah.

So why do you think you buy presents? You buy such like ...?

Just to make them feel happy like they're getting something out of it. It's not just ... So they feel ... Because we feel like it's another normal day for us but for them it's like a time for them to feel special, feel loved than more than normal days. ... I think that's all of it.

Right moving on now ... What about Christmas? Do you ... Do you celebrate Christmas in your family?

We don't celebrate it like ... As a festival but we do normally end up going to my Grandma's house again and we'll just have a laugh there. Uncle always brings crackers round there and we just do them so it's quite fun with that.

So you don't celebrate it but you ...

We just do some Christmas crackers. Why not?

[laughs]

It's fun. *[laughs]*

Why do you think you don't celebrate it? Well why don't you celebrate it?

... I think ... Because it's not really brought on you as part of your religion and like if you were to live in a different country say if I was to live in Pakistan I wouldn't be celebrating Christmas because it's more of a Westernized thing because it's a Christian celebration. So it's like how we have Eid it'd be odd for a British Christian person to be celebrating Eid. So it's sort of similar in that aspect I think.

And ... Have you ever ... Well do you give gifts on Christmas?

No.

Do you give cards?

No. I give cards to like Christian friends that celebrate Christmas but other than that it's like teachers and friends that I know of that celebrate it and neighbours.

Have you ever get ... Have you ever received any gifts or cards?

I've received lots of cards as I've been growing up throughout primary school because when you're in Primary School it's like the whole class will get a card like someone will always go around. You'll have so many cards and then as you get older it's like certain people that just give you a card. Like if you give one I'll give one. If you give one then I'll give one. That sort of thing.

What do you do on Christmas day?

... Well it's not really a big thing but we just go round Gran's, we'll ... She'll make us food. We'll just still down and have a good laugh.

What do you eat on Christmas Day? What does your Gran make?

She doesn't make nothing special it's like she's made something and she'll make it overload something and she's ... She don't really ... Make anything special.

... How do you feel over the festive period? The Holiday period?

Like I need to catch up on some sleep because the rest of the year is just tired out with getting up at ridiculous hours.

... Do you do anything special over Christmas or the Christmas holidays which you won't necessarily do normally?

No. I think we socialise with friends and ... Now it'd be more of a revision but if it was about 5 years ago it wouldn't be anything about revision it's just be about 'Right we're having a good laugh, we're all going out.' And stuff like that but now it's more like ... It'd be a week of relaxing and then a week of revision.

Do you watch any TV or films over Christmas?

Well we normally... The good films normally come on around Christmas time which you normally don't see around the year so normally if I'm at my grandma's and I've stayed over or if I am staying over then me and my granddad will sit down and watch a good few films on TV if it's his day off. And so will my grandma ... She'll watch it with me. She might not even understand half of it but she just likes the fact that we're sat

down watching something together.

And as a holiday what does Christmas mean to you? As a celebration?

Just another day to get together with the family.

Do you ever go shopping during Christmas or before Christmas?

I've wanted to like because I've never been when there's Christmas sales or anything but it'd be a nice experience to go probably in a year or so whenever I do end up going because it's like I've never been but I've always heard there's a lot of commotion when you go. So it'd be a new thing to me to be honest.

Why do you think you've never been?

I've just never had the time like my mum's always working and my dad will be working so it's just normally me and my brother and when we were younger it's like ... I don't really go out much unless I have to so ... It'd be more of if I was staying over at my Aunties could take me or anything then that's when I'd go. But other than that I've never been.

What about ... Valentine's Day? Have you ever celebrated ... Well do you celebrate Valentine's Day?

No. [laughs]

How come?

I just ... Well the only Valentine I have is my best friend and that is Rukhaiya like she's my bestie and we're practically alike so ... We normally ... We normally say 'Happy Valentine's Day' to each other and that but we don't get each other cards or anything we just make plans or if we went out or something and that's it really.

And why do you think that ... Well why don't you celebrate Valentine's Day?

Well ... I have been told that it's ... It's something that you're not really supposed to celebrate, well in your religion anyway but ... I've not always understood why. But then again it's like I feel that if you're going to give your loved one or someone or whoever it may be like a card or some gifts or give them your time of the day just for that one day I think why shouldn't it be like that every other day? Why just that one specific day? So again like Mother's Day and Father's Day.

Do you know the best friend you mentioned Rukhaiya ...

Yeah.

Are you ... Are you really close to her?

Yeah. We are really close. It's like she's practically like family I'd say. Like I treat her just as I treat any other family member. She's ... She is younger than me but we get along really well to a level that you don't see the age difference. You don't see that there's ... That's she's a couple of years older. She's a couple of years younger. You don't see that you just see that they're really good friends and just having a laugh really and just there's someone I can trust and confide in.

[50:09]

... Have you ever given Rukhaiya a Valentine's Card?

I've never given her one but then again she's never given me one [laughs] So ... Probably something that I might do next year to surprise her.

Have you ever received Valentine's cards or gifts?

No.

What do you think makes Valentine's Day so special?

... It's just the whole idea of going out, buying stuff and again with the thought of why it counts and why it doesn't count for someone that you love ... It's just. Just the thought really, I think.

And ... And moving on now ... Moving on from gift giving and celebrations. You said that you're a third generation British Pakistani so I'm assuming it was your ... It was your granddad that came to the country, your grandma that came to the country?

Yeah.

... From Pakistan. So ...

Well my granddad isn't from Pakistan. He is from Kenya.

Okay.

From Nairobi. But my grandma is from Pakistan.

Aah, that's pretty cool, isn't it?

[laughs] Yeah. It's pretty cool to have it in the genes. It's quite funny actually we do have a bit of banter about it sometimes.

So how did your granddad come to the country?

Well he's told us a lot about how he's done like he's done ... Like how he's been on Cruises, he's been on ships, how he's been with his friends and he's travelled to so many different countries. Seen the world. And then how he's got to England. It's just, I think, for him it was like an adventure. And then ... When he met my grandma, I think he went to Pakistan and then obviously he met her there. So ... I think it's quite cool.

And what does your granddad do?

He's a red cab driver. I wouldn't say he's a black cab driver. He's got a red cab and that's quite cool.

He still works there?

Yeah. He still works. He's one of the jolly ones he's not the stuck-up, moody ones. He's really fun. I mean he loves his cab. He cleans it every day without fail. He'll wash it, he'll clean the windows, he'll vac up inside, he'll make sure it's, it's practically brand new. It's like it's ... It's like he's just bought it out. So it's ...

He's really funny in that sense. He'll get us out cleaning with him as well.

What sorts of things do you do with your granddad?

Well when it's his day off and I stayed over, we just sit and we talk. We normally watch TV and stuff like he doesn't, he's not much of an outgoing person. Normally get him on his exercise machine and we see who does, who can do it the fastest, who can go round more the fastest. Who can do more laps. So we have a bit of a banter and then he watches movies with me. So it's quite fun.

So what about your parents? What do your parents do?

My parents? Well my mum is a hair and beauty stylist so she's got her own hair salon. , and then my dad does quality control. So, he's always out and about. So it's quite fun.

And do you ever go... Have you ever been back to Pakistan?

I have been. The last time I went was about 6 years ago... But I've not been back since I mean my brother, my mum did go about 2 years ago, within Christmas time , because my Uncle got diagnosed with Hepatitis so they went to see him but I couldn't go because I was in my final year of exams so I thought I'd rather ... Because I went in Year 7 and that kind of muddled things about with the way my results were and then getting them back on track because we didn't know that we'd have a test and it'd affect the rest of our year. So I thought that if I'd go now, I'm going to mess things up. And they went during school time as well but I've been meaning to go back since but my nana passed away recently and we normally used to always go to his so ... To me it was him the main reason us going. But now it's just like 'Well if I do go I'm only going to see the one thing so there's no really point in me going.' So I've sort of detached from them.

So ... Sorry to hear about your granddad, your nana. , when you did go Pakistan, what sort of things did you take?

Well I never used packed my own suitcase. My mum used to think that I'm just going to pack some ... Something else and she'd pack my suitcases for me. The one thing that every Asian will do without fail is take gifts for everyone over there because ... They should be giving me gifts. I don't see them that often. I don't see why I should be giving you gifts. And then ... Yeah we'll always ... There'll always be one suitcase that's packed full of goods for them. Then there'll be so it'll probably be mine and my brothers. We'll just shove our things into one and ... It ... It's the journey I think that takes the most out of you because it takes so long to get there and half the time the staff are horrible on the plane, or there's no movies to watch or the TV is broken and you can't watch anything. And then ... It's just like ... When you get there it's really hot but it is quite fun in a way because it's like ... It's like a whole new world. It's like a new experience when you're there because you've not been for so long and you're only going for a certain amount of time. And ... It's just really nice. It's quite calm compared to things over here because things move quite fast at a pace over here whereas there it's nice and easy.

When you did go Pakistan, did you like it, did you dislike it?

I liked it. I did stay at a few places like we stayed in Faisalabad with my Nana and then with my mum's brother lives in Lahore and so we went there. So we did go up and down Pakistan. We did see a few things and I went to see one of the schools that was there. So I went to see how, how different it was and I spent the day there with one of my cousins and I went with her to her college as well and just seeing how the environment is a lot different compared to here. And how much advanced we are compared to them.

When you said before that you took you know ... Every single Pakistani takes loads of presents. What sorts

of things do you take?

Well it wouldn't even be clothing because the fashion that starts there that comes over here and we think of it as the latest whereas if we took the same stuff over there they'll be like ... They'd say that we've already worn this that's gone, that's out of the window now. So it'd be more like technology so like new phones, like perfumes, gift sets, just stuff that they can't buy from there but we could over here.

And ... How do you give the gifts over there? How do you present them?

Well, I wouldn't be the one giving them. I mean I'd take sweets from here and they always get nicked. My cousins will always come and take them because it just tastes differently but, it'd be my mum like whenever we go to someone's house or if they come and see us and if we've bought it for them or not then they'd get it given to them by my mum or if she's asked us to go and give it to our cousins and stuff then we'll go and give it.

Do you ever get requests from over there saying like 'Oh I want this, I want that?'

They don't really tell me I think they tell my mum. But they normally ask me like, I have an Uncle that lives in Japan and he's normally ... Because they've got quite an advantage with technology, he normally asks me what I want because he's not seen me since like ... He's never seen me before or my brother because he moved to Japan when my mum and dad got married so he's always asking us 'What do you want from there like what, what shall I send over to you?' We're like 'We don't want anything we just want to see you in person.'

And ... When family come back from Pakistan do they ever bring stuff back or gifts back from over there?

Well they don't even come back. It's like ... It's a rare chance that someone'll come and when they do bring stuff like they'll bring clothes and stuff for us. So ... It is quite nice I think.

And ... Do your family ever post gifts?

Yeah, we normally like ... When we've got like a load of clothes like, instead of giving them to charity, we think well what if they want it, it'll fit them like there's hardly worn clothes, Asian clothes, English clothes like, we normally send them off. And then, I'll send like little purses and stuff for the girls that are there and like little straighteners and stuff and we'll just post them off, and by cargo. So they'll end up going there and then it feels nice that you've sent something off to them that you know that they'll like and they'll get.

And what about like do you feel wrapping just in general, wrapping gifts, do you think that is important?

I think so because it's like if you just give a gift to someone it's just like 'Oh here's your gift' but it's like if you wrapped it and you've put all your effort into it, it makes it special.

Do you wrap gifts?

I always wrap gifts. Always wrap it, put a ribbon on it, stick those little bows on it.

Do you give cards?

Yep.

Do you think giving cards is important?

Well I think 'What's the point of giving a gift if you're not going to give a card?' Because like with me, whenever someone gives a card, it'll just be there near on the stand and I'll just be there like so whoever's been round they obviously know that something's happened around the house and that but I think that it's quite nice to get a card as well. Just like a memory of what it was if they're going to keep hold of it.

And when you give gifts to people, like your friends and your family, do you give gifts to friends that are Pakistani?

Well, yeah.

And what gifts do you give them?

I know that when I did come back from Pakistan, I bought like shawls over that were different styles in like just traditional clothing that I thought looked different. And they were quite nice. , it's more that because I haven't been in so long, it's ... It's different from what I would have thought back then and what I think now.

Oh no, no ... Like gifts in general, sorry.

Oh right. Gifts in general, ... Well, it's like I wouldn't normally give Asian gifts because it's like I don't know what size they are and stuff like that. With English clothing you can always return it, get the next size but with Asian clothing, it's slightly different because of what shop you've gone to, if it's already been cut then it's got to be done. So it's more of a hassle I think with Asian clothing.

And ... So do you give gifts to people and friends from different ethnicities?

Yeah, I mean... I did have a lot of friends in High School that were of different ethnicities. And we did like exchange gifts and stuff like ... On her birthday I'd buy her something and on mine she'd buy me something as well. And it was just really fun. Even with the bus driver, he was a laugh, he was a great laugh.

And what sorts of things would you buy them?

Well I bought her some jewellery, I bought her a box of chocolates and a card. , and then she bought me something similar as well. So, it's quite nice.

...How does it make you feel when you give gifts to friends of like the same ethnicity, different ethnicities?

...

Is there a difference would you say?

I don't think there's a difference. It's just that they're your friends and you're giving them something so I don't really see a difference in anything.

Do you feel it's important to share gifts with friends of different ethnicities?

...I just think if you're friends then what does your ethnicity really matter? Like you just go and get presents to them. I don't think that really should be something that you should pinpoint on them.

And how much time do you usually take when you're buying gifts?

It depends like, if they're already had something in mind for ages I'll know what to get them. But if it's

something that I have to think spontaneously at the top of my head then it could take a bit of time to think 'What have they got? What don't they need? What would they like? What normally do they like? What sorts of things are they into?' So I take all those things into consideration before I take like ... Before I get something for them.

And what about money, I mean when you're buying gifts for friends that are Pakistani, friends that are non-ethnic as well...

Yeah.

Do you have like ... Do you spend more on one and less on the other or is it just ...

No, I think it just ... I just spend roughly the same amount. I wouldn't spend one ... More on one person and less on the other person. I think it'd be like, I'm getting a gift, I'm just going to treat everyone as equals, I don't really favour this person more than I do this person. So I just get it around the same price to be honest.

Alright, so thank you very much for that. That concludes the interview.

No problem.

[01:05:17]