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# Oral History Conversation with Najah Abdelkader

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**FROM CRADLE TO CRADLE:**  
**Oral History Conversations with Iraqis & Syrians in San Diego**  
By students in PHILOSOPHY 111-07: Philosophy of Human Nature | Fall 2017

NAJAH ABDELKADER  
(born in Baghdad, Iraq)

Conducted by Jesseca Bates, Evan Bui, and Eric Hoster

So should I start by introducing myself  
so my name is Najah Abdulkader

00:00:06.980 --> 00:00:12.050

I'm from Iraq,  
Baghdad I was born in Baghdad. And I'm

00:00:12.060 --> 00:00:18.300

a Philosophy professor at City  
College and at Southwestern College.

00:00:21.250 --> 00:00:25.970

I'm So happy to have been invited  
to participate in your project.

00:00:28.370 --> 00:00:30.310

Since you introduced yourself I felt like  
we should introduce

00:00:30.310 --> 00:00:33.310

ourselves to you yes yes I'm

00:00:33.310 --> 00:00:39.780

Jessica I am a psychology major  
second year student.  
And I plan on after

00:00:39.800 --> 00:00:46.530

I graduate to do surgery for the  
Navy because I'm doing Pre med classes as well and

00:00:46.540 --> 00:00:52.890

doing research with P.T.S.D Patients . My name is Evan Bui I'm a junior at U.S.D.

00:00:53.320 --> 00:00:57.200

I'm studying philosophy  
minor in theology goal is to be

00:00:57.210 --> 00:01:03.610

a priest so that's why I'm studying  
philosophy and theology you know. My name is

00:01:03.620 --> 00:01:07.760

Eric Hoster and I'm a freshman my goal/major

00:01:07.770 --> 00:01:14.640

a major business economics.  
and I'm from Houston, Texas. So you're from

00:01:14.650 --> 00:01:21.580

Texas, from San Diego and I just. Thank

00:01:21.590 --> 00:01:28.130

you guys for those introductions. I think we can all say on  
behalf of the class Thank you for taking

00:01:28.140 --> 00:01:33.490

time to let us interview you already  
marriage to open up and share your stories

00:01:38.749 --> 00:01:39.350

. And you're not going to ask me  
hard questions hopefully not.

00:01:42.479 --> 00:01:44.170

So we can start Could you share

00:01:44.180 --> 00:01:50.930

a memory or story from your childhood in  
Baghdad. Anything that you remember

00:01:51.540 --> 00:01:58.430

fondly I remember our house in Baghdad that  
was the last house that we left from.

00:02:00.860 --> 00:02:01.230

It was

00:02:04.512 --> 00:02:09.070

a very beautiful house it was on  
the outskirts of Baghdad. And

00:02:09.080 --> 00:02:15.070

that there were wheat fields you  
know on the eastern side of the House

00:02:15.470 --> 00:02:21.760

and also there were horses

00:02:22.540 --> 00:02:29.400

a group of what we call. Nomads you know  
nomads you know group of people who moved

00:02:29.410 --> 00:02:35.920

from one area to another and they had  
actually located themselves in that area

00:02:35.930 --> 00:02:42.930

behind our house behind the wheat  
fields and I remember them sometimes

00:02:42.940 --> 00:02:49.190

riding in those beautiful horses around  
sunset so that's an image that's just so

00:02:49.200 --> 00:02:55.930

beautiful you know just to see this Arab  
You know with with their you know head

00:02:55.940 --> 00:03:02.780

scarf and then just riding you know  
at full speed through that the wheat

00:03:02.790 --> 00:03:09.520

fields just so beautiful and then I found  
out that one of those men befriended or

00:03:09.530 --> 00:03:15.700

my father befriended him so every so  
often one of them would come to our house

00:03:15.860 --> 00:03:16.200

with a horse and  
my father would go riding with

00:03:16.210 --> 00:03:22.230

riding with  
him and that was so beautiful

00:03:23.100 --> 00:03:28.930

and I remember. My father naming  
one of the horses Filka

00:03:29.620 --> 00:03:35.700

so so we were happy to see you know  
that gentleman come with Filka

00:03:39.110 --> 00:03:44.380

So that's a beautiful memory.  
Sounds beautiful sounds like something from

00:03:44.390 --> 00:03:50.790

a movie yeah exactly I mean that's how I run  
it sort of my head it's you know. Does

00:03:50.800 --> 00:03:56.800

anything like moving to San Diego Do you  
ever have like seen anything in San Diego. Like flashbacks from

00:03:56.810 --> 00:04:02.300

home? Every so often I go for walks.

00:04:04.440 --> 00:04:09.700

at Miramar lake are you familiar  
with Miramar lake? you know it's off

00:04:09.710 --> 00:04:15.630

of Carol Canyon and on  
the lake you know especially nowadays you

00:04:15.640 --> 00:04:22.440

know as that as it's getting darker and  
darker if you have you been to it? Yes. Yes so I

00:04:22.450 --> 00:04:28.680

I would say four-thirty five

o'clock as it's getting darker and darker

00:04:28.690 --> 00:04:35.120

area. The sounds around the lake and the

00:04:35.610 --> 00:04:42.390

reflections of the lights on the  
lake and the sky. Reminds me so

00:04:42.400 --> 00:04:49.120

much of Baghdad actually I was commenting  
about this to my friend Jane Yes two

00:04:49.140 --> 00:04:55.340

days ago I said my gosh this reminds me

NOTE Paragraph

00:04:56.200 --> 00:05:01.570

of Baghdad Have you been? Have you walked around yeah I used to live by Carol Canyon

00:05:01.570 --> 00:05:04.570

OK so beautiful so. You know.

00:05:04.570 --> 00:05:08.850

And now it's just very beautiful time to  
go for walks.

00:05:08.850 --> 00:05:11.850

How long have you been in San Diego?

00:05:11.850 --> 00:05:14.470

How long I came here in one thousand nine  
hundred eighty. One nine hundred eighty

00:05:17.470 --> 00:05:22.700

and it's two thousand and seventeen so  
that's what twenty's thirty's. Yeah.

00:05:24.430 --> 00:05:30.570

Yeah yeah. I Stopped counting. I  
feel like I'm a San Diegan

00:05:30.765 --> 00:05:33.765

What brought you to San Diego?

00:05:35.230 --> 00:05:40.100

Initially, I came to study I came as an international student to study at SDSU

00:05:40.100 --> 00:05:46.140

. What did you originally come here to study? I came here as

00:05:46.150 --> 00:05:52.150

a pre-med student. Really! Yes! I was studying in Spain Madrid then

00:05:52.940 --> 00:05:55.270

after finishing you know TOEFL Are you familiar with Toefl?

00:05:55.270 --> 00:05:58.270

talks well just of English for

00:05:58.270 --> 00:06:04.070

foreign students so after passing that with my sister we moved to study at

00:06:04.080 --> 00:06:10.560

a community college in Paris Texas. Yeah for one year we went to Paris Texas you're

00:06:10.570 --> 00:06:16.360

from Texas you actually heard of that yes it's an hour or so north of Dallas

00:06:17.250 --> 00:06:19.230

a small town it used to be

00:06:19.240 --> 00:06:23.990

a very flourishing town but in the nineteen twenty there was

00:06:24.000 --> 00:06:30.320

a major fire so it changed the history of that town so it became

00:06:30.330 --> 00:06:36.740

a very quiet town however there is a very good junior college there. And it's

00:06:36.750 --> 00:06:40.390

a dry county so all you do there is study no partying.

00:06:44.580 --> 00:06:49.950

Yes So after going there and finishing all my general ed

00:06:51.650 --> 00:06:57.380

I applied for several universities I was supposed to go to the University of.

00:06:58.410 --> 00:07:04.300

Washington and Seattle but my sister was leaning toward going to S.D.S.U

00:07:04.310 --> 00:07:06.010

Because she had a

00:07:06.020 --> 00:07:11.310

a boyfriend. And to be close and we were kind of joined at the hips.

00:07:12.960 --> 00:07:19.710

And we had another sister an older sister that was finishing her M.A at

00:07:19.720 --> 00:07:20.400

U.C.L.A.

00:07:21.360 --> 00:07:27.480

So that was another reason to stay close to them.

00:07:27.780 --> 00:07:30.780

What made you interesting in Pre-Med?

00:07:30.850 --> 00:07:37.200

What made me interested in pre-med I think my mother that was probably



00:07:37.210 --> 00:07:43.770

something that she wanted to do. So she started campaigning in oh you think you

00:07:43.780 --> 00:07:48.140

would be good at medicine you know this is good for you

00:07:48.150 --> 00:07:55.000

you know I said to my mother think I'm good. You know if she thinks I'm I can make

00:07:55.010 --> 00:07:58.740

it maybe I can make it.

00:07:58.740 --> 00:08:01.740

So What made you decide to switch from pre-med to Philosophy?

00:08:01.740 --> 00:08:08.710

Well

our general ed classes as you know

00:08:08.720 --> 00:08:15.270

are easy like chemistry physics calculus biochemistry and all of these

00:08:15.280 --> 00:08:22.160

preliminary classes were easy doable I was an A student but then when I

00:08:22.170 --> 00:08:23.190

moved to S.D.S.U

00:08:23.200 --> 00:08:29.690

and started the heavy duty classes like analytical chemistry

00:08:30.060 --> 00:08:36.950

and. Methology and.

00:08:36.960 --> 00:08:42.950

another class I just it's so so hard for me to get

00:08:43.510 --> 00:08:46.240

into the topics and be

00:08:46.250 --> 00:08:51.660

a good student I was I became into you know  
they put me on probation because I was

00:08:51.660 --> 00:08:58.520

. Barely passing I just couldn't  
get to focus on my studies

00:08:58.860 --> 00:09:05.500

it was just too hard. What was the  
cultural difference. In terms of

00:09:05.510 --> 00:09:07.530

you your parents and you telling your  
parents

00:09:07.530 --> 00:09:10.530

that you wanted to study philosophy

00:09:10.530 --> 00:09:15.160

instead of biology Yeah that was. It was

00:09:15.170 --> 00:09:20.970

a major challenge you know that  
was actually major challenge and.

00:09:22.580 --> 00:09:25.850

I think it was even to  
the point where it was

00:09:25.860 --> 00:09:32.040

a crisis point you know because I had to  
really think it through whether I

00:09:32.080 --> 00:09:38.800

truly had it in me to study  
philosophy and whether I had it in me

00:09:38.990 --> 00:09:45.470

to convince them. That I am switching

you know being a foreign student it's

00:09:45.480 --> 00:09:51.170

a very expensive thing  
to send. To it to go to

00:09:51.210 --> 00:09:57.730

a university or at least you know  
it in California or any parts of the

00:09:57.740 --> 00:10:00.680

country the average foreign student spends

00:10:00.680 --> 00:10:03.680

I  
mean their families and sometimes

00:10:03.680 --> 00:10:10.180

themselves spend at least an  
average of five to six thousand

00:10:10.190 --> 00:10:15.310

dollars per semester on tuition  
so you know that's

00:10:15.350 --> 00:10:22.000

a major chunk of my family's income to  
you know to be paying for my tuition and

00:10:22.010 --> 00:10:24.990

then to to come to

00:10:25.000 --> 00:10:31.210

a point to where you want to switch major  
you know and basically are telling them

00:10:31.220 --> 00:10:37.710

what you've spent on me so far. Is wasted  
you know so economically you had to do

00:10:38.350 --> 00:10:43.270

the calculation and then to convince them  
you know that you are changing major to

00:10:43.470 --> 00:10:48.890

a major That doesn't sound like  
the best money making major.

00:10:50.850 --> 00:10:51.930

You know that it's

00:10:51.940 --> 00:10:58.700

a typical kind of. stereotype that most  
people think about our philosophy you know

00:10:58.710 --> 00:10:59.830

it what are you going to do in

00:10:59.840 --> 00:11:06.380

sit and philosophize Well you can teach  
you can work in publishing houses you

00:11:06.390 --> 00:11:07.270

know you can become

00:11:07.280 --> 00:11:13.390

a lawyer so there is and studies  
have shown that actually students who

00:11:13.430 --> 00:11:18.580

graduate with a philosophy  
major are guranteed.

00:11:18.590 --> 00:11:24.730

A very good job, or a good  
job how about that let's be realistic

00:11:24.740 --> 00:11:31.410

a good job yeah at least in teaching and  
so how did your parents feel after

00:11:32.370 --> 00:11:36.020

so when I mean when I changed when I started  
telling them you know .

00:11:36.020 --> 00:11:39.020

Do they respectyou now they're you are a  
philosophy professor

00:11:39.020 --> 00:11:43.490  
or do is there is something they're still

00:11:43.500 --> 00:11:48.250  
like worried or not worried by like wishy  
washy about? No now they respect me

00:11:48.260 --> 00:11:53.460  
that you know they go and they know  
and they expect. That it just think.

00:11:57.880 --> 00:12:02.980  
At the beginning you know there was so  
much friction in specially between myself

00:12:02.990 --> 00:12:07.860  
and my father because my  
father is a professor and he's

00:12:07.870 --> 00:12:13.960  
a poet and he is very much appreciative  
of the arts and literature and he's

00:12:13.970 --> 00:12:17.530  
a writer and I would say he's

00:12:17.540 --> 00:12:24.100  
a scholar on his own so to  
to face that

00:12:24.510 --> 00:12:25.770  
challenge from him was

00:12:25.780 --> 00:12:32.570  
a little bit very I would say  
sobering for me because I

00:12:32.580 --> 00:12:36.260  
think he was thinking in a very practical

00:12:36.260 --> 00:12:39.260  
way you know is she going  
to graduate and be

00:12:39.260 --> 00:12:46.080

able to find a job you  
know. So. So that was

00:12:46.090 --> 00:12:52.720

a difficulty you know. That  
I. face is like you of

00:12:52.730 --> 00:12:58.830

all people you should understand what  
I'm going through you know and then.

00:13:01.070 --> 00:13:07.720

And what has also helped. In that campaign  
of convincing them is my sister my

00:13:07.730 --> 00:13:12.490

older sister we have by the way we are  
five sisters all together and two boys two

00:13:12.500 --> 00:13:19.390

brothers so one of my older sisters  
actually stood by me. In support of

00:13:19.460 --> 00:13:24.490

that and I remember her you know  
my father you know this was

00:13:24.500 --> 00:13:30.710

a time when people actually wrote letters  
is you know I would come home and you

00:13:30.720 --> 00:13:33.650

know find the letter waiting  
for me like this like

00:13:33.690 --> 00:13:39.840

a letter in and you know you know my gosh  
my father you know as poured all his

00:13:40.120 --> 00:13:43.420

weapons of  
arguments you know to dissuade

00:13:43.430 --> 00:13:50.360  
me yeah so it was OK Let's see  
if I have it in me to read the letter but

00:13:50.400 --> 00:13:51.970  
every so often I would get

00:13:51.980 --> 00:13:58.480  
a letter from my sister you know and  
presenting me with arguments to

00:13:58.490 --> 00:14:02.690  
convince you know the family  
that this is actually not

00:14:02.700 --> 00:14:08.650  
a crazy plan to change your major this  
early on rather than to wait later on and

00:14:08.910 --> 00:14:14.410  
and find out that it's not for you and  
it's one thing I remember she said

00:14:15.680 --> 00:14:19.060  
she said you know this is one of the things  
that my father are actually quoted he

00:14:19.070 --> 00:14:24.940  
said Oh and your sister tells me it's  
better to to major in something you love

00:14:24.950 --> 00:14:28.060  
because then you will shine  
later you know and this is

00:14:28.070 --> 00:14:33.800  
a translation from the Arabic and I guess  
yeah but we have we have to stop being

00:14:33.810 --> 00:14:40.750  
romantics you know and be practical.  
But he came around yeah. Yeah

00:14:41.070 --> 00:14:47.300

any of you thinking of  
changing majors? I mean like

00:14:48.010 --> 00:14:53.870

I'm way too early Yeah yeah I  
actually I came in originally wanted to be

00:14:53.880 --> 00:15:00.840

a bio major Yeah bio . Minor  
in chem Yes but I took.

00:15:02.130 --> 00:15:06.800

My first psych class and I've always been  
so interested in like human mind how it

00:15:06.810 --> 00:15:10.370

works yes I was like I have to I have to  
major in Psychology

00:15:10.370 --> 00:15:13.370

you know I declared and I like I'm

00:15:13.370 --> 00:15:18.530

really happy with it I haven't even I was  
like OK I can major in psychology minor

00:15:18.540 --> 00:15:23.390

in bio and I haven't really had great  
experience with my bio classes so far so

00:15:24.190 --> 00:15:28.520

I actually changed my minor to leadership  
because I'm really passionate it was making

00:15:28.530 --> 00:15:32.000

a change especially with USD's  
just mission statement being

00:15:32.330 --> 00:15:36.620

a campus of change I just saw yes perfect  
and I've been able to contribute

00:15:40.420 --> 00:15:43.420



alot just being able be in  
leadership classes and stuff like that

00:15:44.200 --> 00:15:50.940

USD is definitely a pioneer in leadership and bringing  
diverse topics and and inviting scholars.

00:15:52.240 --> 00:15:58.910

And you also. Probably you  
know have gone through maybe

00:15:59.400 --> 00:16:04.610

soul searching and. You know deep soul  
searching and yes just trying to find who I

00:16:04.620 --> 00:16:10.520

am what on purpose in life you know it's  
like. For me it's like I mean do I really

00:16:11.350 --> 00:16:14.710

is there a greater purpose for me is  
that like finding a job because

00:16:15.750 --> 00:16:18.590

a job is job you know you know like  
you know I just got a job you got

00:16:18.600 --> 00:16:24.240

a nine five Yeah and you're like oh. When  
you go back home you know and I feel like

00:16:24.250 --> 00:16:24.470

I have

00:16:24.480 --> 00:16:29.120

a sense of duty in  
in my life like do what's right for the

00:16:29.130 --> 00:16:29.950

people from

00:16:29.960 --> 00:16:35.420

a community in so that's why studying  
philosophy I tend to like I'm very abstract

00:16:35.430 --> 00:16:39.530  
thinker you know like think about everything  
little details big details Oh yes I

00:16:39.540 --> 00:16:46.320  
want to take everything. In our world and  
like just use it understand how people

00:16:46.330 --> 00:16:52.200  
are going through and through different  
interactions so trying to understand and

00:16:52.240 --> 00:16:54.350  
personality and reflect back in

00:16:54.360 --> 00:16:59.610  
a way that could help others yes and so my  
question for you is how do you use your

00:16:59.620 --> 00:17:04.540  
philosophy background and your cultural  
cultural background your experiences in

00:17:05.500 --> 00:17:11.210  
Iraq to teach your students their philosophy  
of what ways are how you teach your

00:17:11.220 --> 00:17:17.450  
students I mean you are never away from  
your personal experience you know it might

00:17:17.460 --> 00:17:19.849  
not be a particularly story or

00:17:19.859 --> 00:17:26.510  
a particularly incident you know that you  
come back to but we are made by our

00:17:26.520 --> 00:17:32.330  
identity you know and and you know I want  
the voice we use with others the images

00:17:32.340 --> 00:17:39.000

we use the language that the way you  
know the way we explain things is all

00:17:39.010 --> 00:17:45.470

was I would say. Colored  
and shaped and formed

00:17:45.510 --> 00:17:51.020

by the way we grew up  
so I would say maybe.

00:17:52.890 --> 00:17:59.590

You know I use stories from my growing  
up to elucidate you know hopefully I

00:17:59.940 --> 00:18:00.300

I have

00:18:00.310 --> 00:18:07.030

a little bit of humor in class you  
know. And also the the the main

00:18:07.040 --> 00:18:14.000

thing probably that I come back again and  
again is that I am so fortunate to have

00:18:14.010 --> 00:18:20.950

grown up in a family where we were  
encouraged to ask questions we were

00:18:20.960 --> 00:18:27.860

encouraged by my parents  
to to to watch what's

00:18:27.870 --> 00:18:34.770

happening around us and  
for example my mother was of

00:18:34.780 --> 00:18:35.020

course

00:18:35.030 --> 00:18:41.990

a homemaker but you know she and she was  
she's well read and then her own way I

00:18:42.000 --> 00:18:46.020

think she guided us you know. In

00:18:46.060 --> 00:18:52.250

a quiet. I would say  
quiet delicate way. To

00:18:52.690 --> 00:18:59.610

watch out you know for for criticism from the  
surrounding because you know in the

00:18:59.620 --> 00:19:06.390

Middle East. You are never  
apart from the group you know

00:19:06.730 --> 00:19:10.710

which is different from United States  
in the United States you are you are an

00:19:10.750 --> 00:19:17.330

individual and your strength  
is based on the how how.

00:19:18.920 --> 00:19:24.950

How you can separate yourself or stand on  
your own I should say stand on your own

00:19:25.520 --> 00:19:32.420

in the Middle East. You are as strong  
as your group you are as strong as your

00:19:32.430 --> 00:19:37.920

family you are as strong as your community  
which means that you are always

00:19:37.930 --> 00:19:44.480

a part of that structure and therefore  
what what they think of you

00:19:44.650 --> 00:19:50.370

should always be in the foreground and  
when you in your choices so that was

00:19:50.380 --> 00:19:54.630

something that my mother brought it on  
in our discussion you know

00:19:54.640 --> 00:20:00.820

whenever she saw it you know we were going  
wild you know . My

00:20:00.830 --> 00:20:07.570

father was very much critical  
of the politics and the

00:20:07.580 --> 00:20:14.290

religion that we witnessed you know  
especially sometimes on. I mean I grew up

00:20:14.540 --> 00:20:21.370

in the seventy's you know and this is the  
party this movement of fundamentalism in

00:20:21.380 --> 00:20:26.770

that went to the Middle East in the  
eighty's and especially in the ninety's so at

00:20:26.780 --> 00:20:33.120

that time for example. On  
Friday morning we would

00:20:33.710 --> 00:20:35.460

you know switch on the T.V.

00:20:35.470 --> 00:20:41.550

While we are having brunch and everyone is  
dilly dallying around the house and then

00:20:41.780 --> 00:20:48.750

the Friday morning was an episode  
where the the mosque you

00:20:48.760 --> 00:20:52.060

know that the priest of the  
mosque in order are the T.V.

00:20:52.070 --> 00:20:59.040

Station would broadcast the ceremony in the mosque. And that

00:20:59.050 --> 00:20:59.280  
was

00:20:59.290 --> 00:21:06.150  
a very interesting. Period of time in our house because my father

00:21:06.160 --> 00:21:11.410  
would pull the chair and say all of you come over here you have to listen to this

00:21:11.730 --> 00:21:16.480  
blank blank blank blank you know listen to what he's saying the hypocrisy you

00:21:16.490 --> 00:21:20.440  
know and then he would say OK so this guy is saying X. Y.

00:21:20.450 --> 00:21:26.640  
And that but let's open the Quran and listen to others says so he would document

00:21:26.680 --> 00:21:33.670  
and bring the argument you know and in an actual way from the Quran to rebuttal

00:21:33.770 --> 00:21:40.310  
what this guy the priest was saying and to point the hypocrisy so we were encouraged

00:21:40.320 --> 00:21:46.890  
from very early on and I don't think our home was that special because I saw it

00:21:46.930 --> 00:21:51.580  
with my classmates you know that this was happening you know.

00:21:53.800 --> 00:21:59.240  
Just because you know. The status quo was

00:21:59.250 --> 00:22:01.780

a such doesn't mean we  
have to accept it it's

00:22:01.790 --> 00:22:07.230

a wonderful thing to hear it from you know  
your parents you know that you are able

00:22:07.240 --> 00:22:13.070

to question able to ask them to criticize  
and you should and you should research

00:22:13.080 --> 00:22:17.770

and she should know what  
you are talking about. So.

00:22:20.250 --> 00:22:25.290

What was the question? oh how do I bring  
so I bring that issue again and

00:22:25.300 --> 00:22:31.680

again in my philosophy class after all  
philosophy is about critical thinking

00:22:31.860 --> 00:22:36.210

critical questioning and  
bringing on bringing on

00:22:36.250 --> 00:22:41.520

a system of verification you know that  
is standardized if you tell me this

00:22:41.530 --> 00:22:47.460

thing is wrong here based on X. Then  
this also should be wrong based on X.

00:22:47.460 --> 00:22:53.090

And this incident that's the standard  
that we are talking about which brings on

00:22:53.100 --> 00:22:55.320

this issue of justice you know

00:22:55.930 --> 00:23:01.500

a justice that is not  
manipulated by. By groupies by

00:23:02.580 --> 00:23:08.790

Special interests Was just something  
that we are witnessing in this country

00:23:09.460 --> 00:23:16.040

unfortunately. Unfortunately like with that  
how has your religion like changed over

00:23:16.050 --> 00:23:22.380

time like your upbringing like how you grew up you know just being you know being in a home like that.

00:23:22.880 --> 00:23:26.440

growing up going on your own and  
really experiencing like self.

00:23:29.880 --> 00:23:36.120

How is. How has it changed I mean  
it's very interesting you know

00:23:36.760 --> 00:23:41.410

we grew up in uhm Seven of us in

00:23:41.420 --> 00:23:46.210

a house where I would  
say we were liberal to

00:23:46.220 --> 00:23:50.630

a certain extent given the standards of  
the Middle East and I think even coming

00:23:50.640 --> 00:23:56.640

here I would say we were liberal and  
this was the generation of my parents'

00:23:56.950 --> 00:24:03.700

generation of the fifty's and sixty's they  
were liberal and this is something not

00:24:03.900 --> 00:24:10.090

unusual in the whole Middle



East this wave of conservatism

00:24:10.690 --> 00:24:17.350  
and fanaticism if you will that we have

00:24:17.360 --> 00:24:20.260  
witnessed in the Middle  
East is really very

00:24:20.270 --> 00:24:26.990  
recent. Iraq has always be  
and specially Baghdad you know

00:24:27.520 --> 00:24:29.250  
from ancient times you sense

00:24:29.260 --> 00:24:35.100  
a ninth century and before that you  
know. A Center for Studies.

00:24:36.660 --> 00:24:43.620  
The first. Structured  
University was the Nazamine

00:24:43.630 --> 00:24:49.830  
university in Baghdad this is  
from the ninth century. A.D.

00:24:49.830 --> 00:24:53.640  
So so and growing in

00:24:53.650 --> 00:25:00.310  
a house where you know my mother in her  
own quiet way she was religious but

00:25:00.320 --> 00:25:06.260  
she she understood that religion is something  
that is personal and between her and

00:25:06.390 --> 00:25:13.230  
you know the Deity or God or whatever she  
never force that on anyone and then my

00:25:13.240 --> 00:25:13.990

father being

00:25:14.000 --> 00:25:20.090

a Marxist you know are you familiar with  
Marxism? You know equality for all or.

00:25:21.220 --> 00:25:28.150

The rights of women you know empowering  
you know citizens through it U.K.

00:25:28.160 --> 00:25:34.940

Ssion providing. And providing. Civic

00:25:34.950 --> 00:25:41.000

services and subsidizing  
these services to government

00:25:41.680 --> 00:25:43.910

via high taxation you know this is

00:25:43.920 --> 00:25:50.880

a Marxist Ideology and you thought  
it's for the better for all everybody should

00:25:50.890 --> 00:25:57.760

enjoy this community that we call society  
and each of us should contribute.

00:25:59.070 --> 00:26:05.720

To the maximum of their ability  
so you know. Mother being in her

00:26:05.730 --> 00:26:11.840

own personal quiet way my father  
in his babatious is you know way

00:26:12.240 --> 00:26:16.650

advocating equality for all I think.  
has shaped

00:26:19.270 --> 00:26:24.020

You know my personality and I think  
all my brothers and sisters you know.

00:26:26.890 --> 00:26:32.610

Do you like since you are specialized  
in like Philosophy of Religion, did you ever

00:26:34.070 --> 00:26:39.870

Doubt you going to class you know  
you Professor tell me one thing how you

00:26:39.880 --> 00:26:45.340

grow up you know like you're like  
contradict things things Really really have to self

00:26:45.350 --> 00:26:51.960

evaluate. If I understand  
what you are asking

00:26:52.000 --> 00:26:57.010

me I would say one thing that was really.

00:26:58.770 --> 00:27:05.240

Awakening experience for me  
is when. In one of my

00:27:05.250 --> 00:27:11.040

philosophy class very early on I remember  
one of my professors Professor McClurg

00:27:12.410 --> 00:27:18.320

at SDSU. I think it was  
an intro to philosophy class.

00:27:19.930 --> 00:27:25.140

and I remember we were studying You know.

00:27:27.700 --> 00:27:29.700

One dialogue happening between

00:27:29.740 --> 00:27:36.700

a Yoshua and his brother can't remember  
now but one thing that stuck out is that you

00:27:36.710 --> 00:27:43.000

are free you are free to make your choices  
and you are responsible for your choices

00:27:43.720 --> 00:27:50.530

and that was like awakening experience  
from what you mean free me yes you on your

00:27:50.540 --> 00:27:56.510

own you are free and you cannot blame you  
know you cannot blame your family you

00:27:56.520 --> 00:28:02.670

cannot blame your religious background  
you cannot blame your social background

00:28:02.920 --> 00:28:09.070

there is no coat hanger you know I know these  
things do exist but ultimately you are

00:28:09.080 --> 00:28:15.280

the one who chooses so I felt wow like  
the rug was pulled from underneath

00:28:15.860 --> 00:28:20.310

my feet because you remember what I  
told you earlier you know being from the

00:28:20.320 --> 00:28:22.610

Middle East you know you  
are always a part of

00:28:22.620 --> 00:28:27.320

a group you are part of the team you  
are part of the family are part of the you

00:28:27.330 --> 00:28:33.860

know this contacts and therefore you should  
always think of the context and this is

00:28:33.870 --> 00:28:39.850

a double edged sword because sometimes you  
blame you know the team and you and you

00:28:40.030 --> 00:28:46.180

I'm doing it for I'm doing it for you  
know. So that was really an awakening

00:28:46.190 --> 00:28:52.650

experience for me as like yeah those  
are all things that impact our

00:28:52.660 --> 00:28:58.520

decisions and our thoughts but ultimately  
you are the one I am the one who chooses

00:28:59.480 --> 00:29:05.590

and therefore I am the one who is responsible.  
You know you can't just like blame

00:29:06.790 --> 00:29:13.450

She made me do it or maybe there was none  
of that either and I found that. So I

00:29:13.460 --> 00:29:14.940

would say that's at its

00:29:14.980 --> 00:29:21.710

a transformative. Transformative Maybe

00:29:21.720 --> 00:29:28.420

moment in my life or period I should  
say I'm still trying to make sense of it

00:29:29.160 --> 00:29:34.390

really I think we continue to make sense  
how much do you impact

00:29:34.470 --> 00:29:40.900

my choices how much do you influence my  
choices what are the ripples that you've

00:29:40.910 --> 00:29:46.890

made that has impact touched me and vice versa  
you know it's like we are not

00:29:47.210 --> 00:29:51.750

circulating on our own you know we  
are not like islands by ourselves. We are ripples

00:29:54.600 --> 00:30:00.830

You know you are rippling me I'm rippling you  
and so forth you know. Rippling

00:30:01.250 --> 00:30:03.670  
effect yeah yeah.

00:30:09.590 --> 00:30:15.660  
And so, I'm really  
interested by that. In addition to just

00:30:16.560 --> 00:30:22.760  
you know eye opener was there  
other occurrences like that.

00:30:23.830 --> 00:30:30.520  
You never looked at life that way. The other

00:30:30.530 --> 00:30:35.640  
seeing is probably I mean there were  
so many moments like after I finish my

00:30:35.650 --> 00:30:41.040  
undergraduate courses you know and I started  
my first semester of graduate course

00:30:41.730 --> 00:30:48.680  
my family said OK you know you came here  
to study and this is all we can afford.

00:30:49.760 --> 00:30:56.380  
For you to do. You know we cannot  
pay for your graduate studies

00:30:57.100 --> 00:31:02.540  
and at that time I was already subsidizing  
you know I was working part time on

00:31:02.550 --> 00:31:09.320  
campus I was grading you know for one of  
my professors I was tutoring I was working

00:31:09.330 --> 00:31:14.700  
at this place called Paper Chase  
on campus where it used to be

00:31:14.710 --> 00:31:18.770

a place where students would come and  
type their papers can you believe it's like

00:31:18.780 --> 00:31:20.030

a computer room but it was

00:31:20.040 --> 00:31:25.480

a typewriter room right OK so I was working  
part time here and there and so forth

00:31:25.490 --> 00:31:30.780

and the copy center and when  
my parents told me you know.

00:31:34.680 --> 00:31:41.380

We don't have it we don't have the money  
to keep paying for your tuition and. It

00:31:41.390 --> 00:31:47.230

was you know another. Wake up  
experience you know I'm on my own.

00:31:48.610 --> 00:31:55.590

I need to start working you know  
so I remember I applied to start

00:31:55.650 --> 00:31:58.340

teaching on campus English as

00:31:58.350 --> 00:32:04.520

a Second Language. And first I started  
translating and then step by step they asked

00:32:04.530 --> 00:32:10.800

me to teach classes so it was interesting  
to find out that I actually can support

00:32:10.810 --> 00:32:17.640

myself. You know pay my bills and pay  
for my tuition and then I applied

00:32:17.650 --> 00:32:20.320

for a scholarship at S.D.S.U

00:32:20.330 --> 00:32:27.110

You which my the chair of my department  
told me about you know. They knew that you

00:32:27.120 --> 00:32:30.480

know I was having difficulty  
and they said well you are

00:32:30.490 --> 00:32:35.100

a good student you have three  
point seven nine G.P.A.

00:32:35.720 --> 00:32:41.270

Why don't you apply so that was  
interesting to me apply for

00:32:41.280 --> 00:32:45.310

a scholarship. So I applied I got

00:32:45.320 --> 00:32:52.150

a scholarship can you believe it?  
You know at once and major major.

00:32:55.110 --> 00:33:01.890

help for me to finish my M.A and I'm really  
ever so grateful for any program that

00:33:01.900 --> 00:33:07.550

helps students. Was there anybody like

00:33:07.560 --> 00:33:14.210

a mentor besides yourself you know  
really pushed you. Like inspiration

00:33:14.750 --> 00:33:21.670

to you there weree so many you know my classmates  
my classmates my professors my

00:33:21.680 --> 00:33:28.580

friends you know. I remember one classmate  
You know and one of the salmon ours



00:33:28.650 --> 00:33:35.120

in the because we've foreign students we  
sometimes we are so aware of our accent

00:33:35.800 --> 00:33:42.790

and our voice level so sometimes. I Q i  
just for myself you know I went into

00:33:42.800 --> 00:33:47.570

major anxiety before I could raise my  
hand and say something or ask you know.

00:33:49.720 --> 00:33:54.900

So I remember one time like this was in

00:33:54.910 --> 00:33:59.270

a seminar you know when I started my  
master's program and there would be

00:33:59.280 --> 00:34:04.140

discussions you know and people would talk  
you know how American students are very

00:34:04.770 --> 00:34:11.130

dynamic you know or verbal  
and i'm just like oh my gosh what

00:34:11.969 --> 00:34:18.210

I want to say something how is it going to  
come out and I you know I said something

00:34:18.250 --> 00:34:24.530

you know. Like in the most quiet voice you  
know hoping that nobody hears me you know

00:34:25.250 --> 00:34:29.199

I'll do my talking because I think I  
really have to say this you know I really

00:34:29.210 --> 00:34:35.889

believe this is the moment for it so I  
don't remember what I said so and this guy

00:34:35.900 --> 00:34:41.350

sitting next to me I don't I still  
remember his name James BOWDEN. Said.

00:34:42.670 --> 00:34:48.989  
Najah You should talk more often you should let  
us hear your voice I really enjoyed what

00:34:49.010 --> 00:34:54.179  
you said. Really? are you making fun  
said no I really mean it.

00:34:55.860 --> 00:34:57.010  
So that was really

00:34:57.300 --> 00:35:03.080  
a very interesting moment I mean it's one  
thing to hear it from your professors but

00:35:03.090 --> 00:35:08.140  
to hear it from your classmate that you  
has that you have something good to

00:35:08.150 --> 00:35:13.120  
contribute or we won't you know let along  
we just want to hear what is your

00:35:13.140 --> 00:35:19.410  
contribution that really gave  
me tremendous confidence to

00:35:19.810 --> 00:35:25.030  
become more engaged in our class discussion  
because I think foreign students

00:35:25.040 --> 00:35:30.280  
sometimes we're too shy and I see it sometimes  
in my classes you know foreign students

00:35:30.530 --> 00:35:36.950  
they sit at the periphery of the class  
you know just not to be noticed

00:35:37.700 --> 00:35:44.270  
and sometimes they are very

hesitant to say. Things you know

00:35:44.740 --> 00:35:46.890  
and even when they say they say it in

00:35:46.900 --> 00:35:53.390  
a very soft voice because you know  
We are unsure of how we come

00:35:53.400 --> 00:36:00.260  
across we don't want to offend anyone and  
we are also not so confident in our

00:36:00.270 --> 00:36:06.450  
with our English skills language skills so  
it's good to help each other you know if

00:36:06.460 --> 00:36:12.120  
you have foreign students in your classes  
you know and this come around early in

00:36:12.130 --> 00:36:18.710  
class is really wonderful it's goes  
well bothways. So when you came.

00:36:19.950 --> 00:36:22.380  
To America did you just come with one

00:36:22.390 --> 00:36:27.920  
sister Yes well I came with my sister  
Wedad which is my friend you know we are

00:36:27.930 --> 00:36:34.760  
she is my sister and my friend but  
my older sister was already studying. To

00:36:34.920 --> 00:36:35.660  
U.C.L.A.

00:36:35.670 --> 00:36:41.200  
With her husband so since they're  
your family we're you're the only ones

00:36:41.210 --> 00:36:46.480

that helped you with your transition  
like obviously you know being new to

00:36:46.670 --> 00:36:51.840

America reflecting english. New to America or  
nude to America?

00:36:55.870 --> 00:37:02.010

Oh yeah New sorry Why did  
anybody help you with your transition like

00:37:02.020 --> 00:37:05.990

really get you acquainted to the people  
introduce you to people or were you just

00:37:06.000 --> 00:37:12.550

like on your own? I mean you know  
getting to know people

00:37:12.560 --> 00:37:18.870

happens gradually happens  
gradually. I remember when

00:37:19.780 --> 00:37:25.310

we moved to this apartment the manager of  
the apartment Betty she was an eighty

00:37:25.320 --> 00:37:31.840

year old lady from Minneapolis she  
was amazing at helping us and

00:37:32.300 --> 00:37:38.830

the owner of the apartment you know. Mr and  
Mrs Fyne swaog you know I still remember

00:37:38.840 --> 00:37:44.890

them because they were so kind they brought  
us furniture you know they just gave us

00:37:44.900 --> 00:37:49.640

furniture you know say here you you  
ranted this apartment from us it has no

00:37:49.650 --> 00:37:53.620

furniture you seem to want you  
want this and that they gave us

00:37:53.920 --> 00:38:00.630

a bed or an armbar and then  
our postman Mr Bott turn

00:38:01.620 --> 00:38:05.900

he I guess the manager told him there are  
two girls from Iraq they just rented this

00:38:05.910 --> 00:38:12.610

apartment downstairs and they  
were just chit chatting about us and

00:38:12.620 --> 00:38:16.970

then one morning he knocked and he said I  
heard you guys don't have any furniture

00:38:17.270 --> 00:38:23.440

so I just noticed. The street  
next door street someone

00:38:24.030 --> 00:38:29.350

had a whole set of beautiful  
little tanned furniture you know.

00:38:31.240 --> 00:38:35.540

For the salvation to come and take it or  
they were going to do you want it? And we

00:38:35.550 --> 00:38:40.520

said yes somebody else we want it becomes  
we had you know so so everybody was

00:38:40.560 --> 00:38:47.210

helping us you know classmates our manager  
the manager of the apartment the owner

00:38:47.220 --> 00:38:54.040

of the apartment even even the postman  
you know. It's amazing you know

00:38:54.080 --> 00:38:54.740

it's takes

00:38:54.750 --> 00:39:02.660

a whole community to work together.  
Sometimes it just takes one person to make

00:39:02.670 --> 00:39:07.480

you at home and we'll come you  
know I just didn't I never felt

00:39:09.220 --> 00:39:15.130

abandoned you know everybody was I think  
it's still the case but everyone helps one

00:39:15.140 --> 00:39:21.690

another you feel it that way on campus  
Yeah it's really community based Yeah and the

00:39:21.700 --> 00:39:27.260

wonderful thing I mean if you talk about  
help at SDSU you we have the E.O.P.

00:39:27.940 --> 00:39:32.530

Office which is educational  
opportunity program that's

00:39:32.540 --> 00:39:39.010

a program that is set out to  
help students academically so I

00:39:39.020 --> 00:39:45.490

used you know to be one of their  
students that went there for help

00:39:45.890 --> 00:39:51.090

and I remember you know someone  
helping me on how to use comma properly you

00:39:51.100 --> 00:39:52.380

know how to formulate

00:39:52.390 --> 00:39:58.720

a thesis statement what is an introduction  
you know that was amazing and then I

00:39:58.730 --> 00:40:05.610

found out you know once I became better at my classes I applied and I was hired as a tutor.

00:40:12.940 --> 00:40:19.500

Do you share that with your students now. Motivation-wise? I always ask my students to go to the tutoring center.

00:40:21.170 --> 00:40:27.990

It's an amazing thing and I offer extra credit by the way. And YES YES YES YES.

00:40:29.060 --> 00:40:35.640

Because it's usually the best students in the in the tutoring center or or or. The

00:40:35.650 --> 00:40:41.870

tutors are ready. Or are working on their graduate work so they are going to be you know

00:40:42.710 --> 00:40:48.490

they are acclimating themselves to become you know faculty in the future or working

00:40:48.500 --> 00:40:55.430

on their thesis and so forth in class do you talk to your students

00:40:55.440 --> 00:41:00.090

share your stories and try to motivate them especially if you seem the struggling?

00:41:01.870 --> 00:41:08.530

Yes Yes But I think I need I need to share more. I need to share my need to

00:41:08.870 --> 00:41:14.770

come back to these stories because these are not stories of weakness this is

00:41:14.830 --> 00:41:18.580

stories of strength you know and sometimes it's like I was

00:41:18.590 --> 00:41:24.310

a tutor and I was being tutored I guess I  
wasn't good enough but actually to admit

00:41:24.420 --> 00:41:30.270

that I wasn't good enough and to go to the  
tutoring center is already a story of

00:41:30.280 --> 00:41:36.860

success you know. You know I need help

00:41:37.530 --> 00:41:40.160

and I asked and OK there  
is a hell there is

00:41:40.170 --> 00:41:47.160

a helping center I am seeking help.  
In class we talked about virtues

00:41:47.170 --> 00:41:50.530

from Aristotle Yes So there's  
a really being having

00:41:50.540 --> 00:41:56.760

a sort of humility is. Something that you  
want to preach to your student about being humble?

00:41:56.920 --> 00:42:03.470

Yes It's to know what I am  
unable to do you know to

00:42:03.480 --> 00:42:09.290

admit that specially you know like you  
said that's the first step to open oneself

00:42:09.780 --> 00:42:16.670

and I don't know everything I don't  
know that I am able to do this maybe I

00:42:16.680 --> 00:42:20.050

need help . That's I think you  
are right It is

00:42:20.060 --> 00:42:24.800



a virtue to know oneself and  
it's also from the Buddhist.

00:42:27.730 --> 00:42:34.590

Tradition you know like in the four four  
noble truths to know that you know there

00:42:34.600 --> 00:42:41.420

is something that I am. in n need don't you  
know the mood that says you know you have

00:42:41.430 --> 00:42:44.730

to admit that you are going there going  
suffering you know you can spend it and you

00:42:44.740 --> 00:42:50.590

where you want to say you know. I am In need of  
something it is something I am in need.

00:42:51.600 --> 00:42:58.460

that's a really good things Good thing to. Do you are

00:42:58.470 --> 00:43:03.710

you are you going to the two things and.  
You are you are you being too dirty.

00:43:07.090 --> 00:43:08.240

As athletees we have manditory study hall

00:43:08.250 --> 00:43:14.810

a tourist Yes So even if you don't  
want to go to study hall too bad. Yeah

00:43:15.400 --> 00:43:18.020

it's going to nice because it takes

00:43:18.030 --> 00:43:24.440

a lot from someone that they need help. And you know  
what now I am I have this honors

00:43:24.980 --> 00:43:31.970

class you know at Miramar  
college and part of the

00:43:32.010 --> 00:43:38.180

honors your requirement is that  
I have seven honor students

00:43:38.540 --> 00:43:43.560  
and part of that assignment is that  
each of you will come to conduct

00:43:43.600 --> 00:43:49.780  
a study group. You know so  
we have so far we've done.

00:43:50.920 --> 00:43:57.490  
Five study groups and they conducted in  
and help the community of the class to

00:43:57.500 --> 00:44:03.980  
prepare for these projects.  
and they are also working on

00:44:03.990 --> 00:44:10.990  
another project which is called  
Life After Hate on you know

00:44:11.030 --> 00:44:17.890  
how to engage someone who's  
being. Someone

00:44:17.900 --> 00:44:24.750  
who who is being. In the  
hate path OK whatever you

00:44:24.760 --> 00:44:31.120  
whatever. Yes yes outsiders  
Yes and how this

00:44:31.740 --> 00:44:38.460  
it's based on this. Program  
that was started by

00:44:38.470 --> 00:44:41.150  
this white supremacy and X.

00:44:41.230 --> 00:44:48.040  
White supremacist member. Who had

hurt you know he who he was actually

00:44:48.050 --> 00:44:54.300

he was enlisted and told to you  
know and brainwashed if you will

00:44:54.730 --> 00:44:56.790

and after

00:44:56.980 --> 00:45:02.560

a period of time he came to his senses and  
now he started this program on life after

00:45:02.570 --> 00:45:09.490

hate which really captured my heart  
or so we're working on this in

00:45:09.500 --> 00:45:16.370

class and it's going to be our final project  
for the honor student and the gist of

00:45:16.380 --> 00:45:23.160

the program is that how do you  
bring someone how do you invite

00:45:23.170 --> 00:45:28.550

someone out of their comfort zone because  
you know we get into comfort zone right

00:45:28.560 --> 00:45:35.480

and to groupies you know like my groupies.  
You know yeah and what regard regardless

00:45:35.490 --> 00:45:42.430

of your groovy you know. It  
blocks one in this frame of mind

00:45:42.440 --> 00:45:49.340

so so so that that gentleman you know I  
wish I can I can't remember his name he

00:45:49.350 --> 00:45:52.050

said you know and being

00:45:52.060 --> 00:45:58.370

a white supremacist you know  
he felt so empowered by the

00:45:58.380 --> 00:46:04.480

brainwashing that you know that  
he had received from his "Cell".

00:46:06.070 --> 00:46:12.590

And you know what got him out of it is  
when he started this business of selling

00:46:12.600 --> 00:46:19.320

music and albums he opened this shop somewhere  
in the Midwest and he found out that

00:46:19.350 --> 00:46:26.210

his clients went from all  
all walks of life White

00:46:26.260 --> 00:46:32.900

Blacks Asians, Arab you know and  
he found that that. Those

00:46:33.180 --> 00:46:39.940

those people those customers where we're  
enjoying you know music and they wanted to

00:46:39.950 --> 00:46:44.730

share with him the music they enjoyed and  
they talked about and he said what got

00:46:44.770 --> 00:46:50.470

him out of that comfort  
zone is that he was he was.

00:46:51.770 --> 00:46:58.260

Invited to enjoy something and what  
I really loved about that is that

00:46:58.580 --> 00:47:04.540

arts came to save him you know. As

00:47:04.550 --> 00:47:11.480

a person. Me music, dance and food you

00:47:11.490 --> 00:47:17.770

know. Artistic expression it's the artistic expression which was the music got him

00:47:17.780 --> 00:47:24.740

to think outside of his box and it was in the. Other It is likely is this you know

00:47:24.750 --> 00:47:29.830

both of us enjoy music him and his clients and he said he said some of those

00:47:29.840 --> 00:47:36.090

clients where the target of my hate but I found that you know what they enjoy what

00:47:36.100 --> 00:47:43.070

I enjoy or they invited me to enjoy something that I haven't tried before. And the

00:47:43.080 --> 00:47:49.970

love that they shared with him in that enjoying that was the turning. I would

00:47:49.980 --> 00:47:55.560

say the turning moment in his life. Its differences and.

00:47:57.090 --> 00:48:04.060

Finding Common exactly between. US Yeah so that's what I'm

00:48:04.630 --> 00:48:10.840

trying to do in this project is that if. You see what

00:48:10.920 --> 00:48:16.990

was how can we bring our ourselves out of our comfort zone

00:48:17.830 --> 00:48:24.040

whatever it is you know food. Music, ideology

00:48:25.720 --> 00:48:32.490  
religion you know. Break that tradition  
because you know sometimes traditions

00:48:32.490 --> 00:48:38.670  
are you know they shackle us  
especially if they are not understood

00:48:39.720 --> 00:48:46.050  
critically understood you know. Like this  
is the way we do it you know who are you

00:48:46.270 --> 00:48:50.520  
this is the way we've always grown this way  
who are you you know to question that.

00:48:58.540 --> 00:48:59.390  
We got over.

00:49:08.080 --> 00:49:08.190  
It.

00:49:16.250 --> 00:49:22.540  
I think it's. Time to miss  
so much Yeah but I can't.

00:49:26.050 --> 00:49:32.810  
Thank you for do you. Think  
you kind of am I really am

00:49:33.190 --> 00:49:40.110  
just so happy that you are  
working on this project. Like I

00:49:40.120 --> 00:49:44.890  
opening for me it's like it's for me just  
hearing different perspectives and just

00:49:44.930 --> 00:49:48.640  
knowing like how you just how you see it  
that you'd like changed your major and.

00:49:49.730 --> 00:49:54.580

Yeah like my mom's like really set in  
her ways too and she and I told her she

00:49:54.800 --> 00:50:01.690  
wasn't really happy or change just so  
we think after like I had to explain

00:50:01.700 --> 00:50:07.430  
to her and just knowing that like just  
three years or six you change your subject

00:50:07.440 --> 00:50:12.760  
you're successful in it and I want to inspire  
others inspiring you know continue on

00:50:12.770 --> 00:50:19.720  
doing. More competent doing  
it and it's I mean I think we

00:50:20.170 --> 00:50:24.390  
if you really love something you will  
pursue it with right if you truly love

00:50:24.400 --> 00:50:30.370  
something you will pursue with and I think  
the world doesn't stand watching say Oh

00:50:30.410 --> 00:50:36.420  
she loves it too much and I get that  
actually the world respond to you. And helps

00:50:36.430 --> 00:50:42.980  
you out. So you know. People don't  
just leave us alone they keep helping.

00:50:44.070 --> 00:50:51.050  
Yeah thank you. THANK YOU THANK

00:50:51.060 --> 00:50:55.550  
YOU THANK YOU I'M SO HAPPY  
TO BE HERE. You're welcome.

— End of Transcription —