Participant number 23 – Male, 23, Hackney

Interviewer: Um… so can we start by talking about what you’ve put first please?

Interviewee: Mhm.

Interviewer: Thank you.

Interviewee: Yup. So the first image represents um… pretty much- pretty much the world as a whole. It’s an image that represents two paths. The path that you see on your right is the path that the common person, the person that likes mediocrity and that’s taught what to do- follows, you know, lives the- live the average life. [Interviewer: mm] They will settle for mediocrity, don’t take any risks, um… do this and you’ll be safe and do this, you have a house. But the person- the path on the left… represents uh the one that wants to break out the mould and um… that wants to walk- take- you know, walk away from the pack. The path of loneliness, you know, to be honest, you know, sometimes it’s seen as a negative thing and a lot of people don’t have the grit or the emotional armour to deal with it. But actually the path of loneliness is actually a very beneficial one to one’s upbringing and to one’s uh… succession in life. Um… you know, uh… there is a- I- I just wanted to read you a quote real quick, can I quickly grab it? [Interviewer: yeah sure] It’s written down [unintelligible 1:44]

Interruption

Interviewee: So it’s a quote by Sinroe Suzuki from Zen Mind, Beginner’s Mind. [Interviewer: mhm] “In the beginner’s mind, there are many possibilities, but in the expert’s mind, there are few”. [Interviewer: mm] Now… for me personally, loneliness can be seen in two ways. It can be seen as something that’s quite soul-consuming and negative and quite depressed, or you can actually take heed from it and realise that… in a way we- we- we- we are born alone and we don’t share graves with anybody. And most of our like experiences in life are for the benefit for ourselves only and only ourselves can put us- go through it, you know? We can have some help on the way, maybe some advice on the way, a little bit of a helping hand. But effectively, whether you like it or not, most things you do in life, you know, will be uh… by yourself, you know? So the sec- the first image is a very powerful image, ‘cause it’s not an image that I’ve come up with my head, it is an image that I’ve seen once upon a time [unintelligible 3:17] but it resonates very well with me. But um… it’s- it’s the lone- it’s the lone wolf that… you know, strays away from the pack and decides to uh find oneself, you know. And then… when the time is right, maybe the paths could uh… criss-cross again, you know? That’s what the first image represents to me.

Interviewer: Mm. Thank you. So it sounds like what you’re saying is um… in life there are two paths, one path is basically for the average people who follows that, you know, part of the conventions and so on. And then the other path, which is the left one, is about kind of, you know, the path of one who takes risks and- and so on.

Interviewee: That’s one way of looking at it. But alter- alternately there’s only the- the- there are only two paths in life. It’s true- truth or the falsehood. [Interviewer: mm] And it’s entirely up to one’s- the- the- the person, how he wants to distinguish what truth and then what tr- what a falsehood is. But you- we all no deep down inside- in our hearts where we act to listen to, that little voice or not, what is truthful and what is false.

Interviewer: When you say true and false, can you tell me more about that?

Interviewee: Well truth and falsehood- again, what- whatever I’m saying it’s subjective. You know what I’m saying, it’s subjective. But truth and falsehood is… to understand what is our purpose… what is our purpose... what is our purpose to… [unintelligible 4:48] our desires, our temptations, is it to… is it to adhere to the way we’re expected to live our lives. You know. Or is there a more divine path that we sh- we should be following. [Interviewer: Hmm] You know. Do we- do we adhere to man-made laws or do we ma- adhere to more diviner laws. You know? Truth-hood and falsehood, you know? Again, it’s subjective. People have different religious beliefs. People have different ways of looking at their life but I- I- life and the world. But I think in every single human being on this planet that there is a voice, something inside you that knows what is good for you and what is bad for you. Whether you choose to listen to it is entirely up to you is entirely up to you. But if you don’t want to listen to that little voice, you’re doing yourself injustice. [Interviewer: Mm] You know? You can stray people away… as hard as you- as much as you want, but you’re doing yourself as injustice as well as them.

Interviewer: When you say astray people, [interviewee: yeah] tell me more about that?

Interviewee: Astray people from- from the path of- [interviewer: yeah] mm. One must ask themselves what it is, why has- why have we been created. [Interviewer: mm] I don’t believe in just… you know, spontaneous creation. Same way Steve Jobs created the iPhone, everything has a creator. Uh, things cannot simply create themselves. [Unintelligible 6:32] definitely goes against the laws of this- of the- of science at least, in that respect. I believe… I- I didn’t have any particular- I did have a rel- a particular religious belief growing up. Whether I want to belief in it outright. I didn’t really at first, but then I start- and my mind like ponders. My mind like ponders so… I’ve come to the realisation that things must be created, or things rather cannot create themselves. It’s impossible. Um… um, I believe there is a creator and that things have an order… and that we were created for a purpose. Purpose is to worship the creator. Uh… and to live our- our best a productive- most productive lives, to do good to one another… by doing good- it’s easier to do good than to do bad. You have to go our of your way to do some- to do something bad. But to do good is very very easy. Smiling to somebody, giving good like tidings, advice to somebody… these um… these- these are good things, you know. Uh… it’s good energy. When someone is good or does good things, you feel their energy. You feel their energy, you feel their vibe. You gravitate towards them naturally. Um… when someone does bad things, you wanna stay away from that person. It’s like a bad stench. Don’t wanna be around someone that has a bad stench. Unless they have a good stench, you know? Um… a good smell, I should say. Um… yeah.

Interviewer: Um… okay. And- and how- and how does that impact uh the experience of loneliness?

Interviewee: How does that impact the experience of loneliness… to- to know that- loneliness, just to feel that you are- to feel that you are alone and um… ‘cause they say- they say in certain passages that I have read in certain scriptures that the- the… the devil, they say, the devil himself attacks those who are lonely and puts thoughts into your head… uh…thoughts of despair and negative feelings. But [unintelligible 8:52] we’re not really actually alone. We’re constantly… you know, the creator can see all and hear all. He’s all knowing, he’s omnipotent, he’s all- ever-present. The fact that we’re not- we may not- we may be alone from- we may be away from other human beings, but we’re not actually truly ever alone. And once you r- grasp the fact that the creator… and the most high is around us, and is constantly seeing and- seeing us, and is with us and sustaining us, you can never truly feel alone. You can never truly af- feel alone. If you choose not to believe in that fact, then you’ll have this feeling of emptiness and this loneliness that all-consume. But if you realise that the one that created you, that sustains you every single day… is with you, then… with me, [unintelligible 9:44] personally, I don’t think it- you know, I don’t... I don’t think um- like to me, that’s empowering. That’s empowering, you know. I always choose to- to beg to differ and say, you know, religion is just a way of just making rationality of things and co- a coping mechanism. Some religions maybe, perhaps… perhaps… perhaps there’s some truth. But again I don’t think there’s the one- the one thing you can’t deny is that things are created. So there must be a creator. Can’t just- just came to be. You know, science would disprove that as cause and effect. [Interviewer: hmm] Mm.

Interviewer: Um… so you’re saying that the people for example on this column, on the right column [interviewee: mhm] that you drew, um… so these people are following sort of-

Interviewee: Following their desires. Following- follow- following what society’s dictated to them. Following what man’s told them what to do. You know? Um… [interviewer: and-] this indoctrination. But… at times there are ones that just break free from the mould, you know, take off all the sludge off them and whatever they’ve been told to- to think and do. Uh… there are those that wish to live their lives differently and holistically and seek a higher purpose.

Interviewer: So are you saying that these people are more vulnerable to feeling lonely? Tell me more.

Interviewee: They are. Of course they are. So long as they follow their desires, of course. Of course. [Unintelligible 11:25] if you follow your desires, you will follow loneliness. You follow short term happiness, you will only find the loneliness. And despair. You will need to find something… longevity. Long term happiness.

Interviewer: When you say short term happiness, [interviewee: yeah, short term happiness-] can you tell me more about that?

Interviewee: Short term happiness is the things like… chasing materialistic things, you know, clothes and uh money and women and… drugs and alcohol. Make you feel good in the short term but in the long term, it’s detrimental. Extremely detrimental.

Interviewer: When you say detrimental-

Interviewee: Detrimental to… I mean, like really truly if I asked you… are drugs good for you? Is alcohol good for you? They make you feel good for a very short period… you know? Show me someone that takes alcohol and drugs every single day and feels constantly happy about themselves. Show me someone that shops every single day that feels constantly happy about themselves. Show me that- the one that… sleeps around and does this every single day and still feels happy about themselves. I mean they can lie to people, they can’t lie to themselves. You can see it’s evident within themselves- within their faces.

Interviewer: And how does that make you feel?

Interviewee: How does that make me feel? Well, if- with other people doing this? Doesn’t really affect- doesn’t really affect me. Just- just the way how the world is. Some people- you’ve just gotta wait for- wait until people break out their own mould, in their own time. People wake up in different stages. You can’t change- you can’t um… you can take- take the horse uh to water and all but you can’t force the horse to drink out the well. So, it’s up to them, when they want to… when they wanna drink and wake up. You can only advise.

Interviewer: So what you’re saying is um… um… people who, people who experience loneliness because they follow their own desires, they go after material possessions or things that make them- give them sort of a short term happiness, as opposed to-

Interviewee: That’s- that’s one of- one aspect of feeling lonely. There are other things. There are problems from the st- from the start of the race, you know. Like… uh… for instance, feeling… like a… for instance, say for example… the child that was raised in care and that is raised by foster parents who doesn’t look like her or him… raised in an area where they’re seen automatically as an outcast. You know um… not fitting into- other kids that don’t fit into school… you know um… into different things. It’s exactly- it all boils down to this picture. The one- like this is mainstream society and this is someone that’s just trying to do their own thing. You know? The right represents the mainstream society, where everyone’s told what to do, do this, you look cool. Fit in, fit in, fit in. Adhere to this, adhere to that. Don’t stray, you know, you’ll get what you want. It’s indoctrination from… and it starts as early as primary school. While you’re at nursery. You do this, you do this, you do this, you do your exam in this way, exam questions are structured in a certain way, they’re looking for key words. Yet if you stray, if you input your own- uh… if you put- if you put into your own input and… dive more deep into the subject matter, it’s seen as the wrong answer. But is there a right or wrong answer when it comes to these exams? Do you understand? Then you’re made to feel like an outcast or you’re stupid. Constantly. But infact you’re actually quite intelligent. It’s crazy so it’s indoctrination, conditioning… to make you… you know, like a little nut or- or bulb in- in- in- in the great- in the greater machine, you know? So it’s- if you’re faulty you’re- you’re an outcast. You’re thrown away. So where are outcasts thrown into? Places like jail. Or… you know, other places. You know? That’s what it is. So loneliness… loneliness, it’s not always a bad thing. It’s not always a bad thing. It’s how you see it. It’s… it’s a matter of perspective. [Interviewer: mm] such things [unintelligible 16:20].

Interviewer: So peop- someone who’s on this path, kind of deviating from what the norm is and what the expectations and conditionings are, [interviewee: mhm] so this person you’re saying that loneliness is not always a bad thing for this person.

Interviewee: It’s not always a bad thing, no.

Interviewer: And when you said fitting in earlier, [interviewee: mhm] you said like… constantly trying to fit in, fit in. [Interviewee: mm] Tell me more.

Interviewee: Just- just being a yes person. Yes sir and do this and do that. [Unintelligible 16:51] I have an entrepreneurial mind set, you know. And entrepreneurs are rebels… and risk takers… through nature. Phil Nike is a great example of that. Phil Nike is the guy that created- the CEO of Nike. He um… intelligent, [unintelligible 17:09] he was. And um… he went to Stanford business school, got his grades, was really good at doing the track but he… his father was the person that seeked respectability. His mother was quite a shy woman, you know… uh… grew up in Oregon- I think Portland Oregon, grew up in. Um… grew up in an American society where- it was a hard-working environment he grew up in and… and then yeah, he wanted to do something crazy and he was a risk taker and then he- he went out to Japan and started his own company called I think The Blue Ribbon, you know? He had a deal with Onitsuka His father didn’t want him to do stuff like that, his father just wanted him to do something mediocre. But he says, in the book, in his memoirs, mediocrity- he hated nothing more than mediocrity. He didn’t wanna be the average guy, he didn’t wanna be a- a sales person selling encyclopaedias in Hawaii. No… all risk- all risk- all entrepreneurs share- share the same traits- similar traits at least. [Interviewer: mm] To take risks. Mediocrity kills creativity. Or creativity is what has made the world into what it is now. [Interviewer: mm] You know people like Da Vinci and… you know, um… Rumi and a load- a load of things, just lots- there’s a load of people, you know. And I was seeing- they were seeing themselves seen as outcasts at one stage in their- in their respective little communities. [Interviewer: mm] But they stuck to their path and made something of themselves… not only changed themselves and their communities but aspects of the world. [Interviewer: mm] So yeah, fitting in is not always- yeah, fitting in is boring.

Interviewer: Okay, thank you. Is there anything else you wanted to say about that box?

Interviewee: No I think I’m- I feel I [unintelligible 19:00] enough.

Interviewer: Okay, cool. We’re gonna move onto the next one. Is it okay if I close the door? Because I’m gonna have to listen to this recording [unintelligible 19:07]

Interviewee: Yeah yeah yeah of course.

Interruption

Interviewer: Can we start by talking about what you’ve put next please?

Interviewee: Yeah. That one there, I’ve crossed it out, so I just kind of just elaborated there so um… [unintelligible 19:46] [interviewer: sure]. A quiet and hot African Savannah, a lone lion, cast away from the pride walks away into the sunset into a distant land. Now, this is an image… that I once see watching David Attenborough program about a lion- a young lion who… uh, who didn’t even challenge- necessarily challenge for to be the main- to be the top lion in that pride, but was seen as a threat from the alfa lion at the time and they had a fight, he was savagely beaten and then… because he was savagely beaten, he was cast away from the pride. And once cast away from the pride, the image was um him walking into the- into the Savannah, flat-top African trees surrounded him. Um he’s so injured and now very hungry, he couldn’t even hunt the wildebeests- and even the wildebeests surround him and the antelope and stuff like that knew he was so injured that they could just walk around him without him evening trying to pounce on him. Now I think this is an image… that resonates with a lot of young males of a certain age group. Uh, under the age of thirty-five. Uh… the feeling of being- when life gets you down, um… you’re beaten, and you’re licking your wounds, sometimes people add salt to your wounds and… you’ve got no one around you, no support system. And then the young lion sits underneath a tree and just thinks what to- what to do. Now he knows if he sits there long enough, he could die from his wounds, you know? [Interviewer: mm] So he must get up. You must get up, lick your wounds and start all over again. And this is a very powerful image for me because I feel like… I feel like this young lion on many occasions. I’ve had to start my life from scratch, you know- plenty- plenty of- uh… quite a few occasions. And it’s the same image that’s in my head, it’s the same image that’s seared into the back of my brain. Um… I associate myself with- with the traits of a lion, you know. The resilience and the hunger, the ambition… you know, the power and you know… but yeah. Like… it’s hard to be a lion in our current day society, you know. As a… uh… to- to- to be seen as a lion you see, lion’s seen as an aggressive, killing machine that should be feared. But rather than be feared it should just be respected. And seen all… you know. But yeah, that’s what that image represents to me. I don’t really have that much to elaborate about that. I just feel it’s… pretty much what I said, really self-explanatory, you know. [Interviewer: mm] Yeah.

Interviewer: So it sounds like what you’re saying is um… you know, you see yourself as that lion, [interviewee: mm] kind of having that ambition [interviewee: mm] and having that sort of hunger to go for more [interviewee: mm] and having uh things. And uh… and- but society kind of um… limits you in that way.

Interviewee: Limits you, yeah yeah yeah. Limits your creativity, limits the things you can do, limits your power and it’s… yeah, just- yeah. It does, definitely. Definitely, definitely. Hundred percent. Once hundred percent.

Interviewer: When you say society, tell me more about that.

Interviewee: I wouldn’t say just society, I would say um… I wouldn’t say just society. It could- it could easily- it could be your won- it could be your own community. It could be your own family. Could be your own friends. In- in- in… in my case society isn’t the problem. I’m saying… um my own community, to be honest. You know… yeah.

Interviewer: And how does that make you feel?

Interviewee: Well at first it makes you feel a bit upset and… can’t grasp why- why those- those who are most closest to you uh… wanna hinder you like that. But then you- you realise that not everyone’s your friend and not everyone wants you to succeed… and to prosper. And once you realise that… it just becomes so much more easy to navigate around.

Interviewer: When you say they hinder you, [interviewee: mm] can you tell me more about that?

Interviewee: Ah… just- that’s just- that’s just like everyone. People- they say- they say uh… have you ever heard of um idols become rivals? And uh… everybody wants you to do good but never better than them. [Interviewer: mm] And that’s- that exists. People are in competition. Human beings are naturally competitive. You know. To eat, to- to gather resources, it’s just within our nature. However um… and that’s uh… it’s still ingrained into us, you know, people want you to do good, but you need to look at if- someone’s reaction and look at them into the face. And when you tell them some- some good news and see how they react to that, and then you would see whether they’re rooting for you or whether they- they’re- they’re on the side lines really wanting you to fail and trip over and that marathon [interviewer: mhm] you know? Yeah.

Interviewer: And when you say, you know, there’s a lot of competition and- and- and rivalry and stuff and- and that’s the nature of us, can you tell me more?

Interviewee: Mm. Mm… mm… mm you don’t know the answer to that. It’s just how humans are like. We’re in competition with one another. It’s- it’s just- I don’t really have much to elaborate on that one.

Interviewer: How does that make you feel?

Interviewee: How does that make me feel?

Interviewer: Seeing the competition, the way you have- you have to compete…

Interviewee: Even more… even more hungrier… and determined. It’s cool. It’s actually good. No competition makes you fat and lazy and complacent. When you’ve got competition, you- you know, it’s like… it’s like kind of like ummm… being chased by a fire ball, you know. If you don’t- if you stop, you’re getting burnt. Carrying on and you’ll never get burnt. Gotta keep running. That’s what it is. The marathon continues.

Interviewer: Mm… is there anything else you wanted to say about that box?

Interviewee: Oh, the last one? [Interviewer: no, no-] Oh,no no.

Interviewer: Um okay. We’ll move onto the next one.

Interviewee: Yup. This one here, it’s quite a funny one, ‘cause it doesn’t really bother me to much ‘cause it’s actually- I see the funny side to this now. Sitting on a tr- um- a Lond- on the underground tube, in London, amongst hundreds of others, and yet feeling like you’re the only one that exists. Quite funny. The irony of this one is uh… now I don’t know if you travelled on the tube that.. but the London underground system is… state of the art of the- state of the art it is… a very very lonely place. You could be surrounded by thousands and thousands and hundreds and hundreds of pe- at- pe- of people at one- at one given stage, but feel like you are the only person in the world. You look around to your left and your right and you see people on their kindles and their ebooks and their phones, listening to music, playing candy crush or whatever, yeah? No one interacts with one another, no one checks up on one another, which is- you know it’s quite even odd for even me to say that, because it- it’s not like I would turn around and ask the person so how was your day and what not. Y- I mean, tech- technically there’s nothing actually wrong with that actually, because I’ve been in society’s where their… public transportation, like places in Africa and Malaysia and what not… people ta- people are talking- someone will strike a conversation, people will get involved and now everyone’s talking to one another. I’ve been in certain places in Africa where people randomly stop to talk to you and compliment you on something and then you would have- strike a conversation and get to know that person. And even that person will probably invite you to- to get something to eat right there and then. Stuff like that, it doesn’t- it’s none- it doesn’t exist in London. Every- again, everyone’s in competition, everyone’s in this rat race, everyone’s in- everyone’s in distrust of one another. Nobody trusts one another. Bit of an- anyone that wants to strike up a conversation and talk to someone or does something from the goodness of their heart, their thinking you know what, there’s some sort of a- agenda, they want this, they want that, they’re trying to do this to me. There’s this fear, there’s this paranoia. That’s what’s created this- I think that the London underground, there’s just that treatment where the energy that runs through it is very extremely negative. Extremely negative. Everyone looks at each other in a funny way and it’s something- like for example, you have a day, I think um… a woman- I think the train jerked a little bit forward- a woman almost fell. She… had to almost break her fall by [unintelligible 29:18] a man and I think she dropped her phone and everyone in the train looks to stare at her to see- you know, something’s a bit odd- out of the ordinary has happened and you can see she’s become quite red and quite embarrassed. And the guy that’s looked at her just simply looks at her with disgust and then I just thought to myself this is so unnatural. So I picked up her phone for her and said are you okay? I said, you know what I’m getting off in two stops. I know you’re younger but just sit down, in it, ‘cause I know it’s a bit rough and bumpy. She sat down. And I said- I said don’t- don’t worry about him, he was probably just having a bad day, you know, probably has no social skills, you know? Um… and that- and that made her smile. Again, and it comes back to the point where you’re so easy- it’s easier to… it is easier to be kind to someone- kind to someone than it is to be bad to them. [Interviewer: hmm] So yeah, the London underground’s a very fucked up place, sorry mind my profanity, but it’s really fucked. Uh… it’s- I try to avoid it at all costs to be honest. I’d rather walk or even cycle to the places, honest to god, especially these summer months now, ‘cause it’s- it’s hot as fuck. [Interviewer: mm] Um… yeah.

Interviewer: When you mentioned that you could be, you know, around thousands of people [interviewee: yeah] and still feel lonely, [interviewee: yeah] tell me-

Interviewee: It’s the truth [interviewer: more about that] because you’re… it’s- it’s- it’s in it- it’s in- it’s in that image. You’re round- you’re round- how does that make sense? You’re round thousands and thousands of people but yet you’re alone. You’re- you’re alone, you know? You’re by yourself. Just… it’s… it’s mad. Every other place in the world that I’ve been to, when I’m round that amount of people, they’re either doing the same things that I’m trying to do, or going to the same place that I’m trying to go to. Like for example Eid. Eid prayers. When there’s hundreds of people walking to the Mosque, they’re all doing the same things you’re doing. You can talk to someone. [Interviewer: mm] Um… like, it’s crazy. I think the only time when you’re around hundreds and thousands of people here- to be at a festival, and you’re doing the same thing as other people. Now if there’s alcohol and drugs and shit like that involved, then everyone’s just all chatty-patty and… yeah, you know. But when people are sober [laughs]… but you know what that’s like, in it. It’s awkward.

Interviewer: So it sounds like- mhm- so it sounds like what you’re saying is… if you’re surrounded by so many people but you don’t have anything in common with them, you’re not doing the same thing as them [interviewee: mm] then… that can lead to feeling lonely.

Interviewee: It… that- not- not necessarily. Like, ‘cause I- to be honest, I don’t give a shit. Like to be honest. Every- everyone has their own… when you’re going on- when you’re going on the train, you’re going somewhere. You’re going out to meet someone, you’re going to [unintelligible 32:07] and what not. But you- you’re taking the tube system where… you’re- you’re ride- it’s literally silent at times. If you look around you can close your eyes, sometimes you think you’re by yourself. You look up and there’s actually a train full of people. You know. Train full of people. You’ve just been herded or shuttled or [unintelligible 32:26] from place to place to place to place. And just look at how civilisations were… long time ago when people were travelling. People would stop to- to talk to the travellers. People would offer water. People offer food. Sit down, what you doing, how are you. Learn from one another. But… now every- every day’s- everyone’s just two busy. You know.

Interviewer: And how does that make you feel?

Interviewee: To be honest, I mean, it makes me feel a little bit- little bit sad and a little bit upset and lonely. But to be honest I don’t- I think I’m just so… conditioned to that aspect. You’re just- I just truly have this I don’t give a shit mentality. Do your thi- do your thing… it’s… not really bothered by it no more. Yeah.

Interviewer: And earlier you said rat-racing. [Interviewee: right] There’s a rat racing environment.

Interviewee: The rat race. Yeah that’s- that’s- [interviewer: tell me more] that’s what the world is, it’s the rat race. Chasing money, chasing- chasing this world. The rat race. Put rats in a race to, you know, get the cheese. They dodge- forever try to chase the cheese, you know, and once the cheese finishes, they need to go get more. They’re- they’re just stuck in a race. It’s never ended, is it?

Interviewer: And how does that make you feel?

Interviewee: I’m not part- I’m… I’m- I wanna say I’m not part of it, ‘casue I am to a degree, but I’m… waking up from it and I’m not chasing it completely as much as I wanted to before. That’s- that’s the truth. I’m seeing things for what they truly are. And it’s quite- it’s quite empowering. It’s quite- I think it’s quite calming… [interviewer: mm] when you see things for what they are. Yeah.

Interviewer: Um maybe I should ask this question like this, how do you feel about, you know, that you’re in this rat racing environment. Maybe you’re not participating in it but how do you feel about it, that- how do you feel about it being there? And that people are kind of in- fallen into that rat racing-

Interviewee: I mean, to be honest, like everyone in civilisation, people fall into many traps from people that engineered society. Socially engineered it. But there are… there are… times we always live under tyranny and what not but do you know what it is, I pray for better days. I just pray for better days to be honest. I’m hopeful like that. I’m hopeful- call me naïve but… I’m just hopeful. I’m not- I’m not really pessimistic, I’m quite optimistic actually. Very optimistic. All things… are the way they are now because that’s what it is right now. Things change in a day. And I’ve seen that. Things change in a day. I was homeless, I was broke, I’ve been up, I’ve been down. Things change in a day. You know. Same way I’m hungry now, one hour later I could be- my belly could be full. You know, same way my hair’s all out now, next minute I could cut it all off. You know things [interviewee clicks his fingers] change like that.

Interviewer: Um, and how do you feel about things changing [interviewer clicks] like that?

Interviewee: Just the way life is. It’s- it’s- it’s- it’s cool like that. It doesn’t really [unintelligible 35:59]. It’s- it’s natural- it’s like asking me how do I feel about breathing. It’s- it’s as natural as that. [Interviewer: hmm] Just as natural.

Interviewer: And when you say you pray for a better world, you know, what do you mean when you say better world?

Interviewee: Uh a better world where there’s- there’s ju- just- there’s justice. There’s justice. There’s justice and there’s ex- there’s justice and… and um… people can live much more organically. And holistically. No- not to be- feel- be made feel- to feel like a statistic. When education becomes free. When you’re not charged for education. Knowledge is for- knowledge should be for free. Like our great universities that existed in Constanople, in Bagdad and Cordem and Spain [around 36:50?!?!?]. How education was free. Now it’s a business. I wish education was free. Wish people were allowed to live off their own land, grow their own food. And… you know… decide their own futures. Decide the way they wanna live.

Interviewer: When you said organically and holistically, [interviewee: mm] tell me more about that.

Interviewee: Organically- the organic way human beings exist is not to exist in cities. Not cities, not at all. No. Live off your own land. Grow your own food. Farm your own animals. Trade. Trade, you know, trading… we should go back to trading. Not using paper money, but trading. For example I have silk, you have spices, I give you silk and your spice- and your spices. It’s an eye for an eye. You have something that I want, and you- I- and I have something that you want. That’s fair. That’s- that’s- that’s what real fair trade is, you know. But yeah.

Interviewer: How is it now?

Interviewee: You know it’s exact- you know- you know exactly what it’s like now. It’s not- it’s… it’s a weird question to ask me. You know exactly what it’s like now. We don’t trade, we use paper money. We use bonds, we use things that have no worth or value. [Unintelligible 38:24] supress you human beings. And to enslave us. So long as we chase money, we’re enslaved. So… slavery’s just evolved. [Unintelligible 38:41]

Interviewer: And how does that make you feel?

Interviewee: It is what it is. It is what it is. Till someone wants to change it. [Unintelligible 39:01] I’m not a revolutionary, I’m not- I’m not gonna try and change the world or anything like that. I’m just- I’m just calling for it what it is. This is exactly what it is. Just gotta deal with it really. Yeah.

Interviewer: Is there anything else you wanted to say about that box?

Interviewee: No.

Interviewer: ‘Kay. So um… can we… we ideally wanted four. Um- it’s okay- I mean ideally. But um, can you think of something else for this box?

Interviewee: The hard- there’s just no other image that I can think of in my head.

Interviewer: Okay. No worries. So we’ll move onto the next one. Let me just cancel this- actually we don’t need to cancel it for anything, we can just go straight to the next one.