Vinayak Nair is interviewing a respondent who has agreed to be recorded for the purpose of studying the memes.

Umm.. So, let’s just go ahead and jump right into it.

**Alright.**

Umm.. What memes do you find more relatable (pause) to yourself?

**What memes do I find more relatable to my self? (laughs softly) Just.. you know… memes have been around for a really long time, and so you can pull honestly anything from remembrance. Yeah.**

Absolutely anything.

**Yeah, they move so fast. But I really like the cat ones.**

Yeah, yeah, and why would that be?

**I have cats of my own, and (pause) relatable cause a lot of things you know they meme about usually very true and silly.**

Ok. (laughs)

**(**laughs)

Uh.. so let’s move on to question 2. Umm… what format do you prefer? Uh.. a regular image.. uh.. or a GIF or a video?

**I like GIFs and videos.**

Ok, ok. Any particular reason?

**Uh.. just more action, more movement.**

Ok.

**Usually seeing things in motion is more entertaining or enjoyable.**

Yeah, yeah. Uh.. so let’s move on to question 3. Um (long pause) ya know regarding question 1, uh.. tell us about a time that you related to a meme. Ya know, for instance, like maybe ya know, a cat GIF where a thing happened and you’re like oh that thing happens all the time.

**Yeah, um.. I don’t know if this is technically a meme or not, but back in the early days of youtube, there was that one cat video of kinky. That there was some parker ranger or something that was doing this adoption thing , and the cat just flips out cause its on a leash and what not, and just ends up wrapping itself around the guy’s leg..**

I do remember that one.

**Yeah. That was funny. Something similar happened to my cats when we tried to put them on a leash.**

Ah, ok, ok. Now where gonna move on to like more you know, kind of.. this is kind of abstract like um.. how would you personally define a meme?

**Um.. its, its anything that’s you know, a picture or video or GIF or anything that is taken out of context of its original content and has some kind of other.. I guess abstract meaning behind it, whether its with captioning or ya know the video itself or anything.**

Yeah, ok. That makes sense. Yeah, yeah id agree cause ya know we basically came to the same conclusion n our little group that we had too so..

**Yeah. And its one of this things that is, there’s these meanings behind everything and its like everyone just understands and gets it, like you don’t have to explain it. People just understand it and yeah…**

So why do you feel like uh.. memes are an appropriate way to express emotions?

**(sighs) Its a lot easier to see emotions and images and videos, and so when you take ya know, the original content of whatever the meme is and then uh… interject your own feelings or anything into it, it makes it a lot easier. Like the old man ah (frustration) I don’t remember what the thing is called, the old guy who is kind of like half smiling and looks like he….**

Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. I know exactly what youre talking about. Um.. this is gonna be ya know a bit harder. Um, do you recall your first experience with what can be considered a meme?

**The earliest remembrance is that dinosaur one. The picture of the dinosaur um..**

Yeah, yeah, do you use memes as a way to communicate?

**Yeah, pretty often. Usually I do it as a way of laughter , humor but..**

Is there any particular form that you use, uh.. like you know, not format. Any particular platform you use to communicate memes to other people?

**Personaly, I use instgram.**

Ok. Um.. do you think meme culture is toxic?

**At its core, I don’t think it is, but there’s always the possibility of any kind of toxicity being entered or anything whether it’s the way the meme is created or just the actual meme. Theres always that possibility.**

Um.. this is kind of almost a repeat question but uh, do you regularly use memes to cope with emotions?

**There are definitely times where I do.**

Why do you think you would use memes to say emotions instead of words?

I think communicating emotions straight forward is the best way but definitely using memes as an alternative way can be just as powerful.