Transcription.

“So, this interview is about meme culture. So, let’s begin:

**“Sure” the interview sounds cheerful and willing to answer questions.**

“What memes do you find more relatable?”

**“ahh”** the interviewer takes a moment to think**. “probably the most relatable ones are the ones that in everyday life. Something that you can look at an ohh, that could happen in my life or something like a passing thought you have inside your head where you go ohh, I had that thought before–those are usually the most relatable ones.”**

“Okay, what do you prefer. Gif or images?”

**“Umm, usually an image.”**

“why?”

**“Gif take too long to load. An image is quicker–it’s easier to consume. A gif, anyone that has a slower connection, or you, if you lose connection for a little bit you’re sitting there and you’re stuck and you’re waiting, while an image, your phone already pre loads it so you have multiple ones to look through.”**

“Tell us about a time you related to a meme.”

**“umm. Ohhhh probably, (**the voice felt more comfortable as he remembered something funny**) the surprised Pikachu meme is probably the one I most relate with because you’ll say or do something and someone points it out and you just kinda like ohh I didn’t realize that.”**

“How would you define a meme?”

**“umm, a meme. A meme is really just an online joke. It’s kinda like an inner circle. You’re either in the joke or not in the joke. And you know, everyone knows this it seems like. And you can just go up to any random person and unless they’re within the millennial or gen z, most people don’t understand them too well.”**

“why do you think that?”

**“It’s just, it’s the age gap. With millennials and gen z, we’ve grown up with the internet. We’ve grown up with being globalization being connected with each other, while the older generation, they didn’t grow up with that. They were more isolated inside their towns, so they don’t understand really the jokes. They don’t understand probably like the suicidal humor, the dark humor that memes can sometimes portray they don’t. And its nor their fault that they don’t understand it, it’s that they just didn’t grow up with that. It was more of a taboo thing of them to speak on those subjects.”**

“Why do feel like memes are an appropriate way to express your emotions.

**“It’s comedy. Comedy has no bounds. Comedy can say anything it wants to, and you can’t critique it because its comedy. And that’s what memes are. They bring up either emptions people don’t want to validate or emotions they are feeling they don’t to know express or talking about. And so, they can bring it up into the memes. And it’s funny. And It’s an easy way to laugh at it.”**

“What was your first experience with meme?”

**“Ohh, my first one has to be the troll meme. 10-13 years ago, I first got internet. I got online. Got on skype, I was actually using the little AT&T, the little wireless one only has 5 gb usage per month and the first thing I heard about was trolling. And I didn’t understand it. I didn’t understand the troll face. And it just sort of kept popping up and up and up until I got interested and started looking into it and that’s how I got exposed to rage comics which led to 9gag which led to reddit and everything that’s great about reddit.”**

“What’s great about reddit?”

**“ohh, everything. You can find memes. You can find, uhh, different resources that you’re looking for like places to stay–you can find a subreddit for that–if you’re looking on healthy ways to eat or how to work out, you can find experts on there just sharing information freely. If there is anyone that’s going through mental illnesses, you can find help, you can find communities–resources there. It’s pretty much what you make of it.”**

4:00 Mark.

“Do you use memes as a way to communicate?”

**“umm, not really, not sort of memes of communication. I use them more as a way to start conversations with friends. Keep, filling the gap in conversations, or really use them just to share a joke. Like, If you found a funny joke and you’re like “ohh, look at this”, someone’ll laugh at it. And usually when someone looks at it and smile or they laugh, it makes you feel good about yourself. And it’s like “ohh, what I found funny, they found funny too”, like its self-validation (deep).**

“Do you think meme culture is toxic? Think bullying.”

**“It can be. Just like with comedy, it can be. And you really have to tiptoe around that fine line of what goes too far and what’s okay because it’s a real iffy situation. It’s okay to laugh at something but it’s not okay to laugh at something at that something’s expense. If that make sense.**

“Could you please expand? Like give me a specific example.”

**“ahh, probably, ohhh, hmmm, I can’t really think of one. And I hate to use the president one because the president, taking a job like that, you’re open to all critiques and criticisms. And you just have to accept that. but, any individual, like the meme that went around about “everyone, we have announcement to make, stop bullying,” that was a nice way but that could have gone badly. That could have gone very badly. It could have turned on that kid and that instant, sudden internet fame could, everyone knowing and seeing his face, could have led to more bullying to him. It could have led to bigger bullying in school. It was a really iffy situation–luckily it turned out for the better. Like everyone joined in on it, it was just a good laugh and fun. But it’s kind of that fine line you dance around whenever you bring individuals. Especially people who are under the age of 18 or 16. People who are young and most vulnerable to that bullying. That’s when you start dancing around that fine line.”**

“Do you regularly use memes to cope with emotions?”

**“umm, personally, sometimes. I wouldn’t really say I use it as a resource for coping. But whenever I’m in a down mood, I will go on reddit and I will just look through memes just passively scrolling through and laugh at a few. Its more so of a, kind of like to take your mind off things like, some people that like to sit down on their bed and relax and listen to music. Some people just like to turn the tv on and mildly watch it. Some people just like to go on a walk outside. It’s more of a way to clear your head and reset. More so of a way that directly coping.”**

“Do you think you would rather use memes to state emotions than using words?”

**“ummm. Not really. From my own personal use, I know people who will send memes, especially in the gif format, as a way to express emotions than text messages. My family is very prone to doing that, but ahh, me personally, I don’t really use it as a way to express emotions. Like I said, I see it more as a comedy, as an inside joke, and it’s a way to make someone laugh. And that’s always a good feeling.**