A-“We have a few questions about memes–the ones you see on the phones and stuff. I got a few questions about them. Are you ready?”

**I-“Yeah, are you going to ask me anything about twitter, facebook, anything else?”**

A-“Yeah, that’s all Included. Alright let’s begin. Here’s the very first question. How would you define a meme?”

**I-“Umm, I would define a meme as a picture, group of pictures followed by with some text that you could possible put together to make some sort of comic, joke, you know, something at someone’s expense, just about anything really, as long as it’s hilarious.”**

A-“perfect, perfect. Let’s move on to the next question–there’s nothing that you want to add to that?”

**I-“ahhh, you know, you could also use it to make somebody feel better. I mean, you could really use memes for anything.”**

A-“Perfect. Alright, here’s the next question. Your first experience with the meme. Do you remember? Is there any particular moment you can think of when you were first exposed to memes?”

**I-“that’s a though one, really for anybody to answer, I mean, memes have been around for quite a while now. I think the first meme came out when I was still in high school–maybe even middle school. I mean, to put, you know, emphasis when I first saw a meme, man, it takes me way back, as far as I can tell you, it’s been a long time. As far as memes, probably something from an anime, something from a cartoon. It could have been one of the very early memes where it was just like, you know, the typical “aww yeahs” all the drawing ones.”**

A-“Alright, perfect, perfect. There’s no particular meme that you remember from back them?”

**I-“Ahh, other than the one from, I think it was Spiderman where they had, what was his name? Jonah, Jonah something. They had him just like laughing back and they just put the aww yeah text behind it.”**

A-“Perfect. Alright, I guess we’ll move on to the next question.”

**I-“That’s fine.”**

A-“This is more of a preference. What do you prefer, a GIF, or video, or an image?”

**I-“hmmm, I mean what is it in relation to?”**

A-“ahh, any, it doesn’t matter. Any kind of meme. Just, do you. Prefer watching GIF’s, would you rather your memes be an image–a still image with words, or do you just find videos that are funny?”

**I-“I mean, I prefer them all, but I mean, it would depend on the situation, sometimes, you know, still pictures not good enough to get out the message you are trying to send. Sometimes, you gotta get something that, you know, shows from a scene of a tv show or a movie, sometimes the moving picture itself is just funny. I don’t really have no preference, as long as, you know, the memes is perfect for the situation, and it’s, you know, funny.”**

A-“we’ll move on to the fourth question. What memes do you find most relatable?”

**I-“hmmm, generally anything that, you know, is funny about anime or social things that are going on in the world right now. I think right now all the super bowl memes are going around. You know, a lot of things are going around about Cardi B and any antics she’s up to. Those kind of memes these days.”**

A-“Alright. Um. Do you-we’ll move on–this is a bit more personal, if that’s alright with you?”

**I-“Yeah, go ahead man.”**

A-“Do you use memes as a way to communicate? With your friends? With your spouse? Probably with your co-workers, anybody in particular?”

**I-“Yeah, I mean, I think everybody does these days. Memes are a perfect way to convey a message to just about anybody, whether it’s just a simple ‘hey look at this funny picture or hey look at this’, you know, I wonder if this has anything to do with that new story. I tend to use memes just to make fun of my friends on a daily basis. It doesn’t really have to be anything specific. Just a simple ‘hey, you know, you’re salty’ you know you send a picture of a bag of chips.”**

A-“Umm, this is also in the same realm, and I just thought of this one in the spot real quick. When you see a meme, let’s say, on twitter or facebook, or wherever, when you see a meme that you think is funny, do you go ahead and immediately sent it to your group of friends or do you save it for like an occasion when the meme can become applicable?”

**I-“It depends of the situation. Some mems that I find, I find only funny to myself and I’ll look at them, acknowledge them, you know, get a good laugh about it and, you know, scroll on–but there are some “like, yeah, this meme’s a good meme, I should save this for when somebody’s got something smart to say, I’ll catch them like that. I surprise and hit them with the meme. Somethings I got friends, they’ll think they’re clever and send memes to me, I’ll just save their memes and use them right back against them.”**

A-“So you like recycling memes?”

**I-“Yeah, I mean, if the shoe fits.”**

A-“Perfect. This next question is also a little bit personal, so, if you want to answer it its fine, if you don’t, we can skip it. But, would you rather use memes to express yourself instead of words, take for example, you’re feeling down or tired, or happy, would you use a meme to express that emotion–with your friends?”

**I-“humph, that’s a good one actually. Honestly there is no substitution for pure words when it comes to serious situations. When it comes down to it, if you’re feeling something deep, emotional, something that troubles you, you know, memes could be a way cope with it, but if you really having a problem, there is no substitution for pure words. If you need to talk about something, you need to talk about it, you know, via mouth or text. Memes could be sued to deflate a situation but, yeah, I just, I don’t agree with them being used to solve emotional problems.”**

A-“It makes sense. It’s deep. But it makes sense. This is also in the same realm. Say, if you’re feeling down, would you use a meme to lift yourself, say you had a bad day at work, would you scroll through your phone looking for memes to make yourself feel a little bit better?”

**I-“Yeah, I can say I do that. you know, if its not something that terribly ails me, then yeah. If I’m just having a bad day at work or, you. Know, I saw something that upset me a little bit, I could use memes as a way to cheer myself up, you know, just something, you know, to keep my mind occupied, you know, on something else rather than the thing that made me angry.”**

A-“Umm, this next question is also one that just came up randomly, now while we’re doing the interview, but do you think memes are excluded from being judge for being dark comedy, like, I know comedians have that protections, do you think memes also have that protection of not being–uh, I don’t know if you understand, but ahh.”

**I-“politically correct?”**

A-“Yeah. Like if a meme is deep too racy too dark. Do you think memes are protected just like comedy? Like how people view comedy.”

**I-“When it comes to memes, considering it’s the internet and you can’t really post something down on the internet without getting out and being too extreme or not extreme. It’s the internet. It is what it is. Is not like comedians, where you can publicly shame somebody for saying something too racy. If a memes is deemed too racy, once it’s on the internet, it’s a done deal. You’re not going to do anything with that.”**

A-“And now that we’re speaking about the internet. Do you think memes have a toxic culture on it? Do you think memes are, in some way, a tool to bully others?”

**I-“Oh yeah, for sure. I mean, it’s the internet. Once somethings on the internet, you can pretty much use it however you want. You can it use it to, you know, to pump somebody up, to take somebody down. You can use it to, you know, I wouldn’t think people would, but I’m sure you can probably use it to blackmail somebody. If you wanted to. But yeah, there’s definitely a toxic culture around memes. Just about anything on the internet.”**

A-“This is also a personal one you don’t have to answer it if you don’t want to. But have you ever been a witness to somebody getting bullied because of a meme or have you, yourself, ever been bullied?”

**I-“I wouldn’t necessarily call it bullying, but I mean among my group of friends, we’re know to talk pretty big trash using memes, just in general, mean, hurtful things, but I mean, it’s all for fun. We’re never actually trying to put each other down.”**

A-“Perfect, alright. I think I got one more question for you. And this one is more of an–this one is not going to have a definitive answer, but do you think memes should stay for the long run, or do you think, do you see them ending?”

**I-“The thing with memes is that it’s not necessarily not a something that is just made up, flowing out, its, it’s like anything else that happens, you know, a set of memes comes out, it runs its course and then it just goes away. It’s a fad. We’ve had memes come and go all the time. I’m sure you still remember fucking salt bae from, like last year, I don’t even remember when that happened.”**

A-“I do. I do.”

**I-“but uhh, I mean, that came, ran it course and left the next month. We got another SpongeBob meme. We got Arthur memes–there all fads. They’ll come and go. They’ll always come and go. For all we know, five years from now, the memes will be completely different.”**

A-“Can I ask you one more question?”

**I-“Go ahead.”**

A-“Do you think memes, the way we have them now, do you think people of past generation had their versions of memes? Do you think people from the 20’s had memes to look at in the newspapers, or in the 40’s through the radio, or even through the 60’s with the introduction of colored television?”

**I-“I mean, not per say, memes, I don’t know if you would take it this far, but you could say memes could be used as political cartoons. They’re silly ways to describe a situation, describe something that’s going on in the world and if you want to look at it that way, you could say memes are a new type of political cartoons. You can get any message off of a meme basically. I’m sure, back them when they were actually using political cartoons, those can be considered memes. Hell, people used to use cartoon strips to get their ideas across in politics as well. I can’t see why they couldn’t get a couple jokes off there like memes out of a newspaper strip.”**

A-“Perfect. Perfect. I think that’s all the questions I have for you today. Is there anything else you want to add to it. Anything you feel that you should state that I didn’t ask or anything that comes to mind?”

**I-“I mean, when I think about it, the whole thing with memes is not to take it too far and to, you know, adapt it to your life as something that is a part of you–that completes you. It’s something that should be a part of your life to, you know, augment you. To keep you from, what’s the word I’m thinking of, to keep you from um, you know, ahh, sorry. I’m having problems thinking of the word. But I’m sure you understand what I mean. Memes are a good part of life its just that, like everything else. It should be too much part of your life, you know, take over you. It shouldn’t consume you. I shouldn’t dictate how you are personality wise. It’s fun to use. It’s fun to play with. But you know, don’t overdo it.”**

A-“Alright. I guess that’s where we’ll end things off. I appreciate the interview.”

**I-“Yeah man, thanks, you know, for asking, and taking the time.”**