﻿SE; Hi.

IL; Hello.

SE; Do you have minutes for an interview?

IL; Sure!

SE; Alright, awesome! How ya doin’?

IL; Good, how are you?

SE; I'm good. I'm #live #stream #recording. ((or “live-streaming and recording”)) You down with that?

IL; Yeah.

SE; Alright. My name's Anthony.

IL; Hello Anthony, I’m Kiana. Hi.

SE; It's a pleasure to meet you.

IL; You too.

SE; Such a smiling #faced. Are you happy #about #something or you have good news?

IL; Uh, hmm.

IL; Well, school's out so...

SE; Yeah.

IL; Yeah.

SE; And you have finals next week?

IL; Yes, I had some earlier this week and, you know, I have some today.

SE; Okay, okay. May I get the spelling of your first name?

IL; K-I-A-N-A

SE; Kianna.

IL; Yes.

SE; Alright. Cool. Ki.. ((maybe writing it out phonetically, “key”?)) Alright, my name’s Anthony, and what I do is just flag down random people walking by,

IL; @Okay

SE; to ask them if they hold any deeply held belief that they want to spend five minutes chatting about, and I time it for five.

IL; A deeply held belief...

SE; Yeah and it could be about anything. Usually it's like spiritual stuff IL; Mm-hmm.

SE; But it could really broach any topic.

IL; Mmm-kay.

SE; Like gods, karma, magic, ghosts. That type of stuff

IL; Let's see...

SE; You want to burn five minutes and just chat about something like that?

IL; Yeah, let me- Would you chat with me, or am I just strictly talking?

SE; I'm gonna ask questions.

IL; Okay, good! ((relieved))

SE; And I want to understand why you believe it.

IL; Okay, cool.

SE; It's gonna be completely like non-confrontational

IL; Okay.

SE; And probably even fun!

IL; #Okay #go #for #it. #I’m #down #for #anything.

SE; Timing for five minutes. Alright. Okay, so you could pick any topic you want.

IL; Okay, let’s go with karma.

SE; Karma?

IL; Yeah.

SE; Okay, excellent. Before we even get any further,

IL; Okay.

SE; how do you define it?, because I want to make sure I understand it.

IL; Hmm, let's see I would say, good or bad, what you do could eventually come back to you.

SE; Okay.

IL; Good or bad.

SE; And that's karma?

IL; Yeah.

SE; Do you have a really vivid example of something that happened that you would say “Karma”?

IL; Ooh.. For me personally, I feel like whenever I say something mean about someone in my head, or if I speak out in public, um, I’ll like breakout. And honestly that's probably not why I breakout but I'll be like ((pointing at face)) “Karma, these pimples: karma.”

SE; Oh!, interesting.

IL; Karma, for being being ugly.

SE; If you don't think or say anything bad about pers--

IL; No, if I do.

SE; Yes, yes. But if you don’t say anything bad, or think anything bad about a person,

IL; Mm-hmm.

SE; Do you notice a difference in your complexion?

IL; Honestly, like right now my skin’s on a good, on a good turn and I haven't been thinking ugly thoughts, @so…

SE; Wow!

IL; But that's just a small tidbit of something. Like if I litter,

SE; Okay.

IL; something bad’ll- I have bad luck, so something bad will happen I'm just like “It's because I littered.”.

SE; Okay.

IL; Yeah.

SE; So if you were driving home, heading home, and you toss out some trash on the road and something bad happened to you later you would-

IL; Attribute it to that.

SE; You would attribute it to that?

IL; Mm-hmm.

SE; Okay.

IL; @ I'm strongly believer in karma, and if I do something good-

SE; You’re really strong? Yeah. How sure are you that it's true? Zero to a hundred?

IL; Ooh.. Uhh..

SE; %: all confidence, no doubt. % all doubt.

IL; I would say.. %

SE; “”?

IL; ## matters. Yes.

SE; What do you study here?

IL; I study communication.

SE; Okay. % confident that karma is real, that it happens.

IL; Mm-hmm.

SE; Okay. Let's go to this example of you heading home

IL; Okay.

SE; Trash out the window. What would be an example of something happening that you would attribute to that action?

IL; Hmm.. Common things that have- I either break something or...

SE; You’d break a dish or something, and-?

IL; Yeah, break something. Something will- Break a nail

SE; Okay.

IL; Just little things. I'm just like “You know, this is because I littered.”.

SE; Okay. Is there a certain amount of time that can pass?

IL; Usually happens within the day.

SE; Within a -hour period of time, you'll get karmically punished for a bad action?

IL; Mm-hmm.

SE; Wow!

IL; @@ And I-- I don't know, I just attributed it to those things, because if you can live a good life, ultimately, good things will happen to you. That's how I feel.

SE; Hmm.

IL; Mm-hmm.

SE; If you did live-- If you didn't litter--

IL; If I didn’t litter

SE; and didn’t think bad things about people or call them names or whatever

IL; Mm-hmm.

SE; and you were just good for the rest of your life

IL; Mm-hmm.

SE; would you never experienced bad things?

IL; I think it all goes into my mindset as well, so if I think -- if I live a good life

and something does -- something bad does happen to me, I feel like I would have a better mindset towards it. Like, “Oh it's not that bad.” You know what I mean? Like--

SE; No.

IL; Okay, let me-- let me--

SE; Sorry.

IL; No, it’s fine. Umm.. So if I did something bad

SE; Okay.

IL; And something bad happened, I would attribute it to that thing and be like “I'm not living a good life.”.

SE; Yes.

IL; But if I lived a good life, and something bad happened to me I would have a better mindset towards it. Like it wouldn't-- it wouldn't get to me as much is if I did something bad before. Does it-- Am I making any type of sense?

SE; I think I understand.

IL; Do you get what I'm saying?

SE; Yes

IL; You have a better outlook on life when you do positive things.

SE; Right, even if something bad happens--

IL; Even if something bad happens to you, you’ll be able to handle it better because you’re just like -- Yet how would you know that, you being good and avoiding all this-- How would you know that it's not karmic punishment?

IL; ((To herself)) How would I know it’s not--? Mmm.. I guess it really just so goes back all into how I -- Like, my mindset, just, I'm doing positive things, so this can't be a punishment for all the positive things I've done. It’s just.. things happen. I don’t know, I’m # crazy.

SE; Things happen.

IL; Yeah. I'm like, am I -- am I crazy?

SE; We have seconds.

IL; Okay.

SE; And we can go longer if you have the time.

IL; Okay.

SE; How do you differentiate karmic punishment from “things happen””? ((timer beeps))

IL; Hmm…. I think it would be just, things that are just -- “How did this happen?”, “Why did this happen?”-- Uh.. Ooh, that is a good question. You're making me rethink my whole life. Hmm….

IL; I don't know. I feel like it would just -- If did something bad, and something bad happened immediately after, like, this is-- This has to correlate. Like, this is punishment. God's telling me “Don't do that again.”.

IL; I don't know. That was a good question.. Because I don't-- I'm trying to think of anything, bad that's happened and I feel like I've been doing good. I usually just brush it off, ‘cause I-- like I said, my mindset’s in a different place if I haven't done anything wrong. I'm just like, it'll get better.

IL; It's almost like a ((gesturing)) snowball effect for me. If I do something bad and something bad happens, I'm just like “Oh my gosh!”, and then my mindset is in such a bad place. Maybe karma is not even just something bad happening to you, but just getting you in a-- in a space that just -- well, at least for me, getting you into space that just-- to make you live a better life in the end.. Huh.. Now I'm like that percentage looks a little.. %. I'm gonna stick

with it...

SE; If you have no way of telling the difference between karmic--

IL; Mm-hmm.

SE; punishment and things just happening,

IL; Mm-hmm.

SE; why believe in it all?

IL; Hmm…. I guess it’s just something I live by. Something to get me through. ((quietly)) Honestly.

SE; Is % the most accurate spot to be on the confidence.

IL; Now it isn’t. @

IL; I would-- Now you're going to make me go back home and think about this and, I'm like I need to tell him. Okay.

SE; I'll give you a card when we’re done so you can--

IL; Okay, good.

SE; #we #can #meet #again.

IL; Because if I get it, I'm gonna be like, okay I have it. Let's see. I would say, now that I'm a little unsure…. I would go with , because I still believe it, but I'm like “Where am I going with this?”. now.

SE; ((hands card)) Thank you so much for your time.

IL; You're awesome. @Thanks!

SE; You are too!

IL; Thank you so much!

SE; You want to give me a hug, don't you?

IL; @@Yes!

SE; @@@ ((hugs))

IL; Thank you!

SE; Alright, Kiana. Have a nice day.

IL; You too!

SE; See ya! Bye bye.

IL; See? Look! I [did a] good thing and now I see two great people! ((walks over to two friends, hugs & converses with them))

((a few minutes later))

SE; Oh, Kiana! Hey Kiana! Kiana! Do you have a minute? Do you have one more minute, or are you in a hurry?

IL; I’m about to go turn-- I can-- I have to turn this in.

SE; Okay. I’d love to ask you one more question.

IL; Okay. If you’re going to be out here, I’m going to come right back.

SE; Okay, thank you. ((To the camera:)) Alright, she says she’s coming back. ((A few more minutes later)) How are ya?

IL; Good. How are you?

SE; Good. Would you mind holding my board? ((hands board to her))

IL; Yeah.

SE; Okay. I just need to get this.

IL; Go for it.

SE; Thanks for coming back.

IL; Of course.

SE; How are your friends?

IL; They're good.

SE; Yeah?

IL; They're great. Yeah.

SE; Are they students here too?

IL; Yeah.

SE; Thank you. Okay.

IL; Yeah.

SE; I appreciate you coming back.

IL; Yeah.

SE; Alright, so, can we pick up the discussion a little bit?

IL; Yeah.

SE; Okay. Thanks. I really enjoyed that talk.

IL; Okay, good!

SE; How did you feel about it? And you’re not going to hurt my feelings.

IL; I don’t know, I was just ((motioning with hands)) all over the place. ((coughs, drops paper out of her pocket))

SE; Okay.

IL; #And #I’m #like-- oh! ((notices the dropped paper, picks it up)) I felt I was all over the place.

SE; I loved it.

IL; Good! @

SE; I thought it was really really enjoyable on my part. One thing that struck me,

IL; Uh-huh?

SE; was when I usually have conversations with people,

IL; Mm-hmm.

SE; and they realized that they might be not as confident in the belief that they were at the start,

IL; Mm-hmm.

SE; they usually are not happy about it,

IL; @

SE; or relieved

KIANA:Yeah?

SE; and that's kind of the impression that I got from you at

the end, that when you realize that “oh wow, ”

IL; Yeah.

SE; “and I’m at a now”, we hugged,

IL; Yeah.

SE; which was I think is great!

IL; @@ ((clears throat))

SE; Can you-- Can we talk a little bit about why you were-- were happy about it?

IL; Umm.

SE; Or were you-- was it completely unrelated to that?

IL; Umm, I would say I was just like, “Wait, think about this. You're -- you’re living by karma, but, just a simple question you're just like, what do I say?”. You know what I mean? So it’s just like, oh, I just thought about it and I was like -- well, still I guess it's just living, living in a good way.

SE; Okay.

IL; So maybe, maybe I'm not living by karma, but I definitely do feel like sometimes things happen because of what I did, previous to it.

IL; Maybe just bad stuff.

SE; Okay.

IL; Honestly.

SE; Do you want to believe things that are true, in life?

IL; I want to, but I try and be as grounded and sensible as possible, so--

SE; Is being grounded and sensible as possible

IL; Mm-hmm.

SE; a good start for believing true things?

IL; Hmm..

IL; It may not be because I'm always, quick to, not believe things.

SE; Oh!

IL; I'm like “Eh..”

SE; You’re skeptical?

IL; Yeah, I need to have concrete facts, a good portion of the time.

SE; Do you believe that skepticism is one of the best ways to arrive at truths?

IL; For the most part, yeah. Yeah.

SE; Okay.

IL; Unfortunately yeah. Cause I feel like it's just such a-- Like my friend, we're complete opposites and she's very, like she believes damn near anything you tell her. And me, I'm like--

SE; Oh.

IL; Recently she just, um, supposedly ((air quotes)) “won a car” or a trip, you know in those sweepstakes things, and I'm just like ((skeptical noise)) “Hmm...”. And I didn't want to knock her shine because she was so happy,

IL; But I was like “Hey, how about, um, just make sure that,

you know…”. Like she could have very well won a car, and I was just like ((skeptical noise)) “Hmm...”--

SE; Is there a balance between skepticism and gullibility? Are they interrelated? Do they affect each other? How does that work?

IL; I think so, because if you were like me and wanted concrete facts and all this stuff you wouldn't fall for things as easily as someone as my friend would.

SE; Hmm.

IL; ((Correcting her previous statement)) Some things as my friend would. She, really does believe a lot @ a lot of things that you tell her.

SE; Do you have concrete facts to maintain at the % that karma is a thing?

IL; ((Pauses) I don't. I don't.. Hmm… I don't...

SE; Why maintain at %?

IL; # I don’t want to go to zero. Um--

SE; You don't want to go to zero. ((emphasis on “want”))

IL; Yeah.

SE; Can we talked a little bit about why you --

IL; Why I don’t want to go to zero?

SE; Yeah.

IL; I don't want to go to zero because... I really do believe that some-- like, I'm gonna just attribute to the bad--

IL; Let's talk about the bad stuff right now, because I guess I don't ever think about good karma.. but I- I really just think about the bad, I guess.

SE; If karma isn't a thing,

IL; Mm-hmm.

SE; and I'm not saying that it is or isn’t--

IL; Yeah. Yeah.

SE; I’m trying to be very neutral here, but if karma isn't a thing

IL; Mm-hmm.

SE; Because..

IL; There's no concrete facts.

SE; There's no concrete facts.

IL; Mm-hmm.

SE; What's the harm in being at the %?

IL; I guess because #it -- #some #of #it-- it seems like I’m-- I'm unsure of myself. If I put it at one, I went from to one-- so I’m like let me just give it a . I don't want to be-- Is it too-- is it too fast? Is it moving too fast?

IL; Yeah. Because I’m like, I can't go from an to a in a matter of minutes. I’ll arrived at one maybe. Maybe. One day. But not right now. @@ Because I’m like you-- that can’t happen. I feel like that's like a -- Well, Santa Claus, I would be a concrete fact type thing you can go from to a zero.

SE; Because there's no concrete facts to back it up.

IL; Yeah.

SE; If you tentatively lowered yourself to a-- you mentioned --

IL; Okay.

SE; If you tentatively lowered yourself to a --

IL; Mm-hmm.

SE; Would you have the option of being able to jump back up to a ?

IL; If I did my research. More research, yeah. If I-- if there were concrete facts somewhere on the internet and I look them up, which I don't really know.. But yeah, because I think-- I think karma’s just a belief-- just a belief system type of deal.

SE; Do you have any concrete facts to justify your position in karma?

IL; Honestly, it's just what I attribute it to, so any bad thing I'm like “Oop, karma. Oop, karma.”. But not, because I think it's all really just life, but, put a name to it.

SE; I want to ask to a question. I don't want to be insulting at all.

IL; No, go for it.

SE; How is the belief in karma any different than the belief in Santa?

IL; ((To herself)) “How is the belief in karma any different than the belief in Santa?”.. ((tongue clicks) It’s honestly not. It is-- they are kind of the same. From what I know, because I don't know my whole research on, um, karma, but when you-- facts, yeah, they're the same.

SE; Until you have facts,

IL; Until I have facts.

SE; What would be a more accurate position to be on the confidence of your belief in karma?

IL; ((pauses)) If I had facts, it would be.. I would say at like -- ((there’s some talking over here; hard to pick out exactly what’s being said))

SE; Well, the question was “Until you have -- Until you have those facts--”

IL; Oh, okay.

SE; You don’t have any facts now for karma.

IL; Yeah.

SE; So until you have those facts, what would be a more accurate, a

more honest position to be?

IL; I’m at now…. I would go with.. Oh, hmm.. I'm feeling a number. I'm feeling a number. Let's see. I would say.. like . I don’t want to knock it down too much.

SE; Could we meet at some other point, like a week or two from now?

IL; Yeah! ##

SE; I know -- I know the semester is ending. Are you going to be-- #get ((or “again”?)) here next semester?

IL; Yes! Mm-hmm.

SE; You will be?

IL; Mm-hmm.

SE; Okay.

IL; Mm-hmm. I graduate in May. Mm-hmm.

SE; I'm gonna probably come back for another class.

IL; Cool.

SE; And, uh, but again you have my email.

IL; Yeah.

SE; And I know we’re complete strangers, but like if you want to meet here on campus or in a public place--

IL; Mm-hmm.

SE; or if you wanna, talk about this belief some more --

IL; Mm-hmm.

SE; I'm your man.

IL; And I'll read-- I’ll do my-- Am I allowed to do my research, or do you want it to be straight ((motioning hand, indicating “off the cuff” or “stream of consciousness”))

SE; I want-- No --

IL; Okay.

SE; I want to do as much--

IL; Okay.

SE; research as you feel you need.

IL; @ I was like this can come from up here I guess and let me have--

SE; No, no, no.

IL; like a little more--

SE; No.

SE; Like if you said “Anthony, I've done a whole bunch-- a bunch of research and I know #now karma’s actually true. I need- I need to tell you about it--”

IL; Yeah.

SE; Because I want to believe true things too.

IL; Yeah.

SE; So if it's true, I want to know about it.

IL; Yeah.

SE; so please share that with me.

IL; Okay.

SE; But if you do research, and you're not able to find anyth--

IL; Find anything.

SE; facts

IL; Yeah.

SE; for it, then maybe it is time to reevaluate your position on it again.

IL; Mm-hmm. Definitely.

SE; Thanks so much. ((handshake))

IL; [Of] Course.

SE; Have a wonderful weekend.

IL; You too.

SE; And good luck on your finals.

IL; Thank you so much. ((walking away)) ##

SE; Okay. Alright, bye-bye.