﻿Hi.

Hello.

Do you have minutes for an interview?

Sure!

Alright, awesome! How ya doin’?

Good, how are you?

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

Yeah.

Alright. My name's Anthony.

Hello Anthony, I’m Kiana. Hi.

It's a pleasure to meet you.

You too.

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

Uh, hmm.

Well, school's out so...

Yeah.

Yeah.

And you have finals next week?

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

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

K-I-A-N-A

Kianna.

Yes.

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,

@Okay

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.

A deeply held belief...

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

But it could really broach any topic.

Mmm-kay.

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

Let's see...

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

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

I'm gonna ask questions.

Okay, good! ((relieved))

And I want to understand why you believe it.

Okay, cool.

It's gonna be completely like non-confrontational

Okay.

And probably even fun!

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

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

Okay, let’s go with karma.

Karma?

Yeah.

Okay, excellent. Before we even get any further,

Okay.

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

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

Okay.

Good or bad.

And that's karma?

Yeah.

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

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.”

Oh!, interesting.

Karma, for being being ugly.

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

No, if I do.

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

Mm-hmm.

Do you notice a difference in your complexion?

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

Wow!

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

Okay.

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

Okay.

Yeah.

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-

Attribute it to that.

You would attribute it to that?

Mm-hmm.

Okay.

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

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

Ooh.. Uhh..

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

I would say.. %

“”?

## matters. Yes.

What do you study here?

I study communication.

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

Mm-hmm.

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

Okay.

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

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

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

Yeah, break something. Something will- Break a nail

Okay.

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

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

Usually happens within the day.

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

Mm-hmm.

Wow!

@@ 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.

Hmm.

Mm-hmm.

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

If I didn’t litter

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

Mm-hmm.

and you were just good for the rest of your life

Mm-hmm.

would you never experienced bad things?

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--

No.

Okay, let me-- let me--

Sorry.

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

Okay.

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

Yes.

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?

I think I understand.

Do you get what I'm saying?

Yes

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

Right, even if something bad happens--

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?

((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.

Things happen.

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

We have seconds.

Okay.

And we can go longer if you have the time.

Okay.

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

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….

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.”.

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.

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...

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

Mm-hmm.

punishment and things just happening,

Mm-hmm.

why believe in it all?

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

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

Now it isn’t. @

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.

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

Okay, good.

#we #can #meet #again.

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.

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

You're awesome. @Thanks!

You are too!

Thank you so much!

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

@@Yes!

@@@ ((hugs))

Thank you!

Alright, Kiana. Have a nice day.

You too!

See ya! Bye bye.

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))

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

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

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

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

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

Good. How are you?

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

Yeah.

Okay. I just need to get this.

Go for it.

Thanks for coming back.

Of course.

How are your friends?

They're good.

Yeah?

They're great. Yeah.

Are they students here too?

Yeah.

Thank you. Okay.

Yeah.

I appreciate you coming back.

Yeah.

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

Yeah.

Okay. Thanks. I really enjoyed that talk.

Okay, good!

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

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

Okay.

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

I loved it.

Good! @

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

Uh-huh?

was when I usually have conversations with people,

Mm-hmm.

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

Mm-hmm.

they usually are not happy about it,

@

or relieved

KIANA:Yeah?

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

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

Yeah.

“and I’m at a now”, we hugged,

Yeah.

which was I think is great!

@@ ((clears throat))

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

Umm.

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

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.

Okay.

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.

Maybe just bad stuff.

Okay.

Honestly.

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

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

Is being grounded and sensible as possible

Mm-hmm.

a good start for believing true things?

Hmm..

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

Oh!

I'm like “Eh..”

You’re skeptical?

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

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

For the most part, yeah. Yeah.

Okay.

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--

Oh.

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,

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...”--

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

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.

Hmm.

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

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

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

Why maintain at %?

# I don’t want to go to zero. Um--

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

Yeah.

Can we talked a little bit about why you --

Why I don’t want to go to zero?

Yeah.

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

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.

If karma isn't a thing,

Mm-hmm.

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

Yeah. Yeah.

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

Mm-hmm.

Because..

There's no concrete facts.

There's no concrete facts.

Mm-hmm.

What's the harm in being at the %?

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?

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.

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

Yeah.

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

Okay.

If you tentatively lowered yourself to a --

Mm-hmm.

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

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.

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

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.

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

No, go for it.

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

((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.

Until you have facts,

Until I have facts.

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

((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))

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

Oh, okay.

You don’t have any facts now for karma.

Yeah.

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

more honest position to be?

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.

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

Yeah! ##

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

Yes! Mm-hmm.

You will be?

Mm-hmm.

Okay.

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

I'm gonna probably come back for another class.

Cool.

And, uh, but again you have my email.

Yeah.

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

Mm-hmm.

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

Mm-hmm.

I'm your man.

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”))

I want-- No --

Okay.

I want to do as much--

Okay.

research as you feel you need.

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

No, no, no.

like a little more--

No.

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--”

Yeah.

Because I want to believe true things too.

Yeah.

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

Yeah.

so please share that with me.

Okay.

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

Find anything.

facts

Yeah.

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

Mm-hmm. Definitely.

Thanks so much. ((handshake))

[Of] Course.

Have a wonderful weekend.

You too.

And good luck on your finals.

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

Okay. Alright, bye-bye.