

Tacoma Community History Project
University of Washington Tacoma Library

Zakariyya Alim

May 4, 2020

FILE NAME: chp2020-02_interview1.m4a

00:00:57.990 --> 00:00:58.320

[Gudrun Krause]: Okay.

2

00:01:00.030 --> 00:01:00.390

[Zakariyya Alim]: Okay.

3

00:01:01.380 --> 00:01:01.770

[Zakariyya]: Yes, sir.

4

00:01:01.890 --> 00:01:03.750

[Zakariyya]: All right, so what's on your mind, brother.

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00:01:04.590 --> 00:01:09.900

[GUDRUN]: Okay, so the first question I have to ask this, do you agree.

6

00:01:10.620 --> 00:01:11.850

[GUDRUN]: To have me write

7

00:01:11.970 --> 00:01:19.920

[GUDRUN]: A project and transcribe your interview to go online in University of Washington to calm a library available for the public.

8

00:01:21.270 --> 00:01:21.750

[Zakariyya]: Yes.

9

00:01:22.830 --> 00:01:26.850

[GUDRUN]: Okay, so the next question is,

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00:01:28.110 --> 00:01:34.080

[GUDRUN]: What do you know about our family history and where does the story begin

11

00:01:36.450 --> 00:01:42.360

[Zakariyya]: Well, like most African American families, our family comes from the south.

12

00:01:43.830 --> 00:01:47.160

[Zakariyya]: Come from North and South Carolina.

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00:01:53.250 --> 00:01:53.610

[Zakariyya]: And

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00:01:54.630 --> 00:01:56.250

[Zakariyya]: The story is

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00:01:57.390 --> 00:02:02.130

[Zakariyya]: Has a lot of a lot of aspects but one aspect of the family is that

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00:02:03.210 --> 00:02:06.210

[Zakariyya]: We have a large family in Virginia and that

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00:02:07.980 --> 00:02:14.700

[Zakariyya]: They're our great grandparents moved to Baltimore for job opportunities.

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00:02:16.170 --> 00:02:23.610

[Zakariyya]: And other opportunities now our immediate grandfather. My grandfather was

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00:02:26.550 --> 00:02:28.410

[Zakariyya]: For lack of a better word was

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00:02:29.730 --> 00:02:34.890

[Zakariyya]: Was involved in the furious activity. He was a numbers runner.

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00:02:37.170 --> 00:02:40.980

[Zakariyya]: My grandmother, your great grandmother was a

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00:02:42.030 --> 00:02:54.360

[Zakariyya]: Domestic she did. She cleaned houses and did laundry and so on and so forth. However, my grandfather was more ambitious he opened a small store.

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00:02:55.470 --> 00:03:01.950

[Zakariyya]: And from time to time. As a child I was allowed to work in it. I wasn't allowed to

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00:03:03.480 --> 00:03:10.050

[Zakariyya]: Get involved in anything like trying to cut meat or anything like that, but I could sell Penny Candy and

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00:03:12.930 --> 00:03:15.900

[Zakariyya]: Ice cream sodas, that kind of thing.

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00:03:17.670 --> 00:03:27.660

[Zakariyya]: So after my grandfather. My grandfather passed away and my grandmother passed away from heart disease.

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00:03:28.830 --> 00:03:29.820

[Zakariyya]: And then

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00:03:31.050 --> 00:03:32.280

[Zakariyya]: My grandmother

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00:03:34.590 --> 00:03:41.340

[Zakariyya]: She remarried. Then she passed away, then the husband that she married, he remarried.

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00:03:42.810 --> 00:03:43.170

[Zakariyya]: And

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00:03:45.540 --> 00:03:52.710

[Zakariyya]: They were our grandparents until they passed away. So that's just some of our family tree.

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00:03:54.480 --> 00:03:55.170

[Zakariyya]: Next question.

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00:03:57.270 --> 00:04:00.750

[GUDRUN]: Okay, um, please tell me about your parents.

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00:04:02.400 --> 00:04:08.850

[Zakariyya]: Okay, um, my mother and father. Both were born in Baltimore.

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00:04:09.870 --> 00:04:13.890

[Zakariyya]: My father as a young man was drafted into the Navy.

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00:04:15.630 --> 00:04:20.220

[Zakariyya]: After service in the Navy. He became very disenchanted

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00:04:21.360 --> 00:04:44.640

[Zakariyya]: After getting out through World War Two. He was told that he would benefit from the GI Bill and that he would be able to go to school and be able to buy a home. However, they neglected to tell him that if you didn't have a high school diploma. You didn't qualify for any of these things.

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00:04:45.870 --> 00:04:48.570

[Zakariyya]: And he was a heavy drinker.

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00:04:49.710 --> 00:04:58.800

[Zakariyya]: And pretty much. That was all he got involved with my mother. She was very young when they got married.

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00:04:59.940 --> 00:05:03.300

[Zakariyya]: They had six children, of which I am one

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00:05:04.860 --> 00:05:07.950

[Zakariyya]: She had six children. By the time she was 24 years old.

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00:05:09.930 --> 00:05:24.480

[Zakariyya]: We struggled tremendously financially and so on. And finally, my mother was declared on fit and we were separated and spread throughout the family.

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00:05:25.980 --> 00:05:37.200

[Zakariyya]: I went to school with my Ruth, who was a very dynamic woman and she raised me just like she was my mother.

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00:05:38.400 --> 00:05:44.400

[Zakariyya]: And I love her dearly. She just asked now Aunt Ruth was a very accomplished woman.

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00:05:45.510 --> 00:05:45.930

[Zakariyya]: Even

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00:05:47.010 --> 00:05:59.070

[Zakariyya]: After being married and having a child. She still went back to school. She still got her college degree. She also had a master's degree in law. She worked

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00:06:00.270 --> 00:06:01.020

[Zakariyya]: For the

48

00:06:02.100 --> 00:06:06.360

[Zakariyya]: Federal government, state government. She was a tester.

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00:06:07.590 --> 00:06:13.020

[Zakariyya]: She also served as a investigative for pre trial, released in Baltimore City.

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00:06:14.730 --> 00:06:15.780

[Zakariyya]: She had many

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00:06:17.070 --> 00:06:24.930

[Zakariyya]: Interests, which were acting poetry art her college degree was in art, actually.

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00:06:26.550 --> 00:06:26.970

[Zakariyya]: Art

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00:06:28.590 --> 00:06:29.250

Dancing

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00:06:30.750 --> 00:06:43.710

[Zakariyya]: She was a part of the wax, the center. They had a dance club and they would dance a group dance, but her accomplishments, including working for a

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00:06:44.790 --> 00:06:51.990

[Zakariyya]: Client's blouse was very famous nationally. She was a legislative assistant

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00:06:53.130 --> 00:06:58.260

[Zakariyya]: Assistant here in Annapolis, Maryland. She

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00:06:59.610 --> 00:07:11.490

[Zakariyya]: She was just a wonderful person. She was the matriarch for the family. She was a brilliant conversationalist and however number. We found one.

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00:07:13.170 --> 00:07:14.880

[Zakariyya]: That was that we question.

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00:07:16.290 --> 00:07:16.620

[Zakariyya]: But

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00:07:17.940 --> 00:07:30.090

[Zakariyya]: The question had to be respectful and you had better be ready for that answer. So just one anecdote. I asked her one day I said

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00:07:30.960 --> 00:07:52.380

[Zakariyya]: You are pregnant, aren't you, I must have been about 10 years old and she said yes. Now, I wasn't really sure how a woman got pregnant, but I said I think I know how you got pregnant. I said, but I'm not sure. I said, but how does the baby come out and she said, the same way.

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00:08:05.160 --> 00:08:06.810

[Zakariyya]: Okay, can you hear me OK.

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00:08:07.500 --> 00:08:09.030

[GUDRUN]: I can hear you. But I can't see you.

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00:08:10.950 --> 00:08:11.880

[Zakariyya]: Okay, yeah.

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00:08:13.380 --> 00:08:15.210

[Zakariyya]: Oh my battery is going

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00:08:16.410 --> 00:08:18.510

[Zakariyya]: On. Well, I should have plugged this thing up.

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00:08:20.340 --> 00:08:27.060

[Zakariyya]: Anyway, so she said a baby baby comes out the same way it goes in.

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00:08:28.710 --> 00:08:29.550

[Zakariyya]: And

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00:08:30.600 --> 00:08:33.840

[Zakariyya]: A whole year of Android. Okay.

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00:08:34.860 --> 00:08:37.410

[Zakariyya]: Anyway, she said the baby comes out the same way.

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00:08:38.460 --> 00:08:39.840

[Zakariyya]: No, I can

72

00:08:41.850 --> 00:08:51.390

[Zakariyya]: And after that, I have a question concerning anything like that because I knew I did not understand these things.

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00:08:52.710 --> 00:09:02.850

[Zakariyya]: So like I said she was a wonderful person and a great woman just a great woman. She just passed away. God rest her soul.

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00:09:04.170 --> 00:09:04.890

[Zakariyya]: Next question.

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00:09:06.900 --> 00:09:07.380

[GUDRUN]: I'm

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00:09:08.640 --> 00:09:12.390

[GUDRUN]: Looking at your camera because I can't. There you are. Okay. You bet.

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00:09:13.440 --> 00:09:13.710

[GUDRUN]: All right.

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00:09:15.060 --> 00:09:17.250

[GUDRUN]: I would I would be

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00:09:18.600 --> 00:09:19.200

[GUDRUN]: Bad

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00:09:20.970 --> 00:09:27.060

[GUDRUN]: Influence you was listening to the next question. Who influenced you, and how will you will learn up

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00:09:28.650 --> 00:09:31.140

[Zakariyya]: Yes, most definitely.

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00:09:32.220 --> 00:09:34.890

[Zakariyya]: She insisted upon education.

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00:09:36.360 --> 00:09:44.550

[Zakariyya]: And she gave me. She had a master's degree in law. She gave me a complete set of law books, but

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00:09:45.930 --> 00:09:54.660

[Zakariyya]: I was at that age where I thought I knew everything. And so I never really followed up with any of these law books. I still here.

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00:09:57.990 --> 00:10:01.980

[Zakariyya]: So to say that she influenced me. It's an understatement.

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00:10:03.390 --> 00:10:06.480

[Zakariyya]: We have a long tradition of college graduates in our family.

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00:10:08.010 --> 00:10:14.880

[Zakariyya]: And I am a college grad, but I didn't graduate from Morgan, the way most of our family did

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00:10:17.640 --> 00:10:26.790

[Zakariyya]: advice she gave the most wonderful advice and thank God. Most of the time I was intelligent enough to listen to it.

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00:10:29.370 --> 00:10:34.950

[Zakariyya]: She was like a mother to me, so to say that she influenced me is an understatement.

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00:10:37.170 --> 00:10:38.460

[Zakariyya]: Next question.

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00:10:40.020 --> 00:10:42.000

[GUDRUN]: Okay, um,

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00:10:43.710 --> 00:10:44.310

[GUDRUN]: Where is it

93

00:10:48.240 --> 00:10:51.750

[GUDRUN]: What have been your experiences as a working person.

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00:10:52.650 --> 00:10:53.340

[GUDRUN]: As a, you know,

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00:10:54.780 --> 00:10:56.430

[GUDRUN]: On your unusual employee.

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00:10:57.420 --> 00:10:57.990

Also

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00:10:59.340 --> 00:11:03.180

[Zakariyya]: Well as a working person actually I worked hard.

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00:11:04.770 --> 00:11:17.250

[Zakariyya]: I had several jobs, I was, I worked in the insurance industry for several years and then I went back to school. I had some jobs as a label.

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00:11:18.510 --> 00:11:34.470

[Zakariyya]: janitor. Very, very early age and but I went back to school and I became a respiratory therapists and that was the heart of my career, I worked as a respiratory therapist for 30 years and retired from Johns Hopkins.

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00:11:35.550 --> 00:11:36.240

[Zakariyya]: Hospital.

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00:11:37.470 --> 00:11:39.090

[Zakariyya]: Speaking of Johns Hopkins.

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00:11:40.110 --> 00:11:42.930

[Zakariyya]: When we go back and look at our family tree.

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00:11:45.150 --> 00:11:48.000

[Zakariyya]: My grandfather's my grandmother's first husband.

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00:11:49.200 --> 00:11:51.450

[Zakariyya]: I'm sorry, my father's

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00:11:53.220 --> 00:12:05.280

[Zakariyya]: Mother, who we call grandma Tootsie she was married to a man named Seth Hopkins and of the Johns Hopkins family.

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00:12:05.910 --> 00:12:14.130

[Zakariyya]: So we are related. Now, when she passed away, grandma can see we called it when she passed away.

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00:12:15.690 --> 00:12:16.590

[Zakariyya]: We didn't know

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00:12:17.610 --> 00:12:24.420

[Zakariyya]: That we were in any way related to the Hopkins family, but we were all

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00:12:25.890 --> 00:12:45.390

[Zakariyya]: And I remember it clearly because on one side of the room. There were all of these five people, and on the other side of the room stood all the black people and we all looked at each other like, what are you doing here. We didn't know each other. We didn't know that we were related.

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00:12:47.610 --> 00:12:49.350

[Zakariyya]: Festus a little

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00:12:50.610 --> 00:13:03.420

[Zakariyya]: Family, you know. But anyway, I worked as a respiratory therapist, and now I'm retired. And I still have a few things I do to keep busy. So that's pretty much it for my work.

112

00:13:04.770 --> 00:13:06.900

[GUDRUN]: Okay, so, um,

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00:13:08.370 --> 00:13:12.450

[GUDRUN]: Oh, you and your family and your work affected by the

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00:13:13.740 --> 00:13:14.280

[GUDRUN]: Damage

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00:13:15.750 --> 00:13:20.880

[Zakariyya]: Well, naturally, like all American families. We are definitely affected.

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00:13:23.010 --> 00:13:27.330

[Zakariyya]: Immediate immediate family. Now, my wife and I

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00:13:28.530 --> 00:13:29.310

[Zakariyya]: She

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00:13:30.570 --> 00:13:36.360

[Zakariyya]: Is working reduced hours. Hours have been reduced. She works on the clinic.

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00:13:37.380 --> 00:13:43.020

[Zakariyya]: I had part time for Uber and I haven't been driving every since

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00:13:44.220 --> 00:13:47.820

[Zakariyya]: The stay at home owners wage and slightly before

121

00:13:49.110 --> 00:14:01.560

[Zakariyya]: So to say that we are affected is true but Almighty God has blessed us we've been able to hold things together, make it through and I pray

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00:14:02.880 --> 00:14:08.070

[Zakariyya]: That the rest of the people will be blessed to do the same. The family.

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00:14:09.120 --> 00:14:24.270

[Zakariyya]: Is in a pretty good position because or one bring to the family owns a business, but their hours are reduced they've reduced their own hours. The other part of the family, my son and my daughter, my daughter works from home.

124

00:14:25.290 --> 00:14:30.330

[Zakariyya]: And your brother who just came back from Kuwait.

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00:14:32.640 --> 00:14:44.820

[Zakariyya]: He has he has another job. But he hasn't taken it yet. There'll be a few weeks before he takes it. So right now, everything seems to be holding together and I

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00:14:46.260 --> 00:14:46.680

[Zakariyya]: Say,

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00:14:48.240 --> 00:14:48.900

[Zakariyya]: We I thought it

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00:14:50.010 --> 00:14:50.340

[GUDRUN]: Very

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00:14:51.420 --> 00:14:53.070

[GUDRUN]: Okay, so, um,

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00:14:54.630 --> 00:14:57.210

[GUDRUN]: What do you think should be done to improve

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00:14:58.320 --> 00:15:00.390

[GUDRUN]: Our situation, meaning

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00:15:01.770 --> 00:15:02.310

[GUDRUN]: Don't doing this.

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00:15:03.480 --> 00:15:03.990

[GUDRUN]: Pandemic

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00:15:17.250 --> 00:15:18.360

[Zakariyya]: By The Sea sea

135

00:15:22.650 --> 00:15:23.070

[Zakariyya]: Everything.

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00:15:24.960 --> 00:15:29.790

[Zakariyya]: We know about covert 19 is changing. It's still evolving this information.

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00:15:31.290 --> 00:15:32.340

[Zakariyya]: We need to

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00:15:33.570 --> 00:15:40.110

[Zakariyya]: Keep ourselves abreast of the changes and not to be nothing, and that can

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00:15:41.580 --> 00:16:04.650

[Zakariyya]: Have the experts, because we cannot now as a retired healthcare worker. I can tell you that I've been exposed to diseases that you never even heard them. However, I did follow universal precautions. I did do as I was instructed to do and an almighty God brought me through

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00:16:09.180 --> 00:16:12.150

[GUDRUN]: Do you feel that you've been discriminated

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00:16:13.440 --> 00:16:16.560

[GUDRUN]: As an older person or persons of color in how

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00:16:17.940 --> 00:16:18.600

[Zakariyya]: Well,

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00:16:19.830 --> 00:16:26.700

[Zakariyya]: Discrimination is a problem that we don't just faces for the people we faced this problem.

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00:16:28.140 --> 00:16:41.550

[Zakariyya]: I face this problem when I was your age. And before I faced this problem from the time that I could recognize it, which was about age 15 or 16 on on down now.

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00:16:42.750 --> 00:16:46.260

[Zakariyya]: Nothing too tragic really happened to me but

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00:16:48.030 --> 00:16:53.220

[Zakariyya]: The fact that discrimination was ever present I was never really able to

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00:16:54.390 --> 00:17:02.130

[Zakariyya]: overlook it. Because when you walk into a store, you will follow it around the store when you

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00:17:03.210 --> 00:17:10.680

[Zakariyya]: stood near someone or stepped onto the elevator white women in particular were cooked their purse some black women as well.

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00:17:11.910 --> 00:17:12.810

[Zakariyya]: When you

150

00:17:15.780 --> 00:17:21.570

[Zakariyya]: When you would just go any place and do anything like even going to a restaurant and sitting down.

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00:17:22.590 --> 00:17:35.670

[Zakariyya]: Sometimes the waiter or waitress would be rude to you and spamming your, your water that you might ask them to have a drink or so and so they would slam the glass on the table.

152

00:17:36.180 --> 00:17:49.260

[Zakariyya]: Be slow about bringing your food and so on and so on. So I learned to respond by not confronting all the times. Sometimes I did.

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00:17:50.310 --> 00:18:02.340

[Zakariyya]: But other times I just let it reflect that I gave you. And I would say if your service had been more appropriate your tip would be better.

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00:18:03.240 --> 00:18:16.440

[Zakariyya]: So yes, I was discriminated against. Now on the job. Certainly there was discrimination on the job, or how did it manifests itself. Well, most people will not porn.

155

00:18:20.370 --> 00:18:20.760

[Zakariyya]: Person.

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00:18:22.110 --> 00:18:23.250

[Zakariyya]: To get your teeth, not

157

00:18:24.300 --> 00:18:25.440

[Zakariyya]: Doing something like that.

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00:18:26.070 --> 00:18:34.080

[Zakariyya]: But the person and and wiser smarter. What they would do pass you over for promotion.

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00:18:35.160 --> 00:18:40.230

[Zakariyya]: And what happened was, you end up training someone and they would become

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00:19:00.960 --> 00:19:03.420

[Zakariyya]: And that usually would shut them down.

161

00:19:05.970 --> 00:19:08.760

[GUDRUN]: I need you to repeat that because you you cut out for a second.

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00:19:09.960 --> 00:19:16.080

[Zakariyya]: Okay, well you got discriminated on the job by being passed over for promotion.

163

00:19:16.860 --> 00:19:20.940

[Zakariyya]: Many times you've trained your replacement

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00:19:21.330 --> 00:19:26.940

[Zakariyya]: The person you train will become your boss your supervisor your manager and then

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00:19:27.960 --> 00:19:35.850

[Zakariyya]: They will try to correct. And often, I will say to them, remember I trained you

166

00:19:37.380 --> 00:19:38.880

[Zakariyya]: You didn't train

167

00:19:40.260 --> 00:19:45.120

[Zakariyya]: And usually that will stop right there.

168

00:19:47.130 --> 00:19:49.770

[Zakariyya]: So yes, I did face discrimination.

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00:19:51.480 --> 00:19:51.900

[GUDRUN]: Okay.

170

00:19:53.310 --> 00:19:55.410

[GUDRUN]: Um, do you think

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00:19:57.000 --> 00:19:59.970

[GUDRUN]: The government reacted appropriately to the situation.

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00:20:00.660 --> 00:20:01.410

[GUDRUN]: What could they have

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00:20:01.530 --> 00:20:06.180

[GUDRUN]: What could they have done differently. I'm speaking about the

174

00:20:06.990 --> 00:20:07.830

[GUDRUN]: Pandemic and you

175

00:20:09.180 --> 00:20:09.600

[Zakariyya]: Well,

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00:20:12.180 --> 00:20:15.720

[Zakariyya]: The government did finally react, however.

177

00:20:16.740 --> 00:20:18.990

[Zakariyya]: I feel like that reaction will slow

178

00:20:20.520 --> 00:20:22.080

[Zakariyya]: And week

179

00:20:23.430 --> 00:20:26.940

[Zakariyya]: At the star. Now this pandemic.

180

00:20:27.960 --> 00:20:29.940

[Zakariyya]: This disease.

181

00:20:31.020 --> 00:20:40.410

[Zakariyya]: This virus has been so insidious so infectious that time was of the essence.

182

00:20:41.580 --> 00:20:47.670

[Zakariyya]: So that when the President said that there were only 15 cases, but then

183

00:20:49.620 --> 00:20:51.420

[Zakariyya]: On a Muslim thousands of

184

00:20:53.310 --> 00:21:00.030

[Zakariyya]: 2002 Grand Slam 10s of thousands of people die, then they, he said.

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00:21:03.660 --> 00:21:11.640

[Zakariyya]: Far from disappeared. They said that the virus would might kill 60,000 people. That was the highest to literally

186

00:21:13.110 --> 00:21:32.610

[Zakariyya]: go past 60,000 and they revised up to 130 4000 but I can tell you now that the virus will kill more than 130 4000 people and that their numbers will be revised up word again.

187

00:21:33.810 --> 00:21:36.930

[Zakariyya]: Also, one thing that could have happened was,

188

00:21:39.030 --> 00:21:42.210

[Zakariyya]: wearing a mask and girls could have been made mandatory.

189

00:21:45.510 --> 00:21:47.370

[Zakariyya]: sequestering

190

00:21:52.020 --> 00:21:55.410

[Zakariyya]: sooner and should not be lifted now.

191

00:21:57.540 --> 00:22:01.230

[Zakariyya]: This is more than a matter of opinion because men.

192

00:22:02.400 --> 00:22:18.330

[Zakariyya]: Are saying exactly what I'm saying that we are not ready. So no, I think the endemic. I think that, in particular, our leader. His response was poor incompetent and negligent.

193

00:22:19.470 --> 00:22:22.200

[Zakariyya]: I hope I didn't sound too opinionated, I

194

00:22:22.980 --> 00:22:25.350

[GUDRUN]: Know this is important so

195

00:22:25.860 --> 00:22:27.390

[GUDRUN]: What could they have done differently.

196

00:22:28.890 --> 00:22:29.400

[Zakariyya]: Okay.

197

00:22:31.050 --> 00:22:37.380

[Zakariyya]: The main thing that could have been done differently was stay at home, could have been instituted sooner but

198

00:22:38.580 --> 00:22:51.300

[Zakariyya]: The other thing that could have been done was the President could have used the defense production at to order companies to manufacturer mask loves

199

00:22:52.710 --> 00:22:58.620

[Zakariyya]: The agents that are needed to conduct the test for cold at night.

200

00:23:01.440 --> 00:23:02.910

[Zakariyya]: They could have been more

201

00:23:04.020 --> 00:23:16.830

[Zakariyya]: Stations driving walking. And the main thing that should have been was that there should be no cost to the individual for conducting the test now.

202

00:23:17.550 --> 00:23:32.610

[Zakariyya]: My question to the federal government was what do we pay taxes for if the federal government cannot or will not come to the aid of the people at a time of crisis. Then, when will you cook.

203

00:23:33.660 --> 00:23:36.000

[Zakariyya]: And when will you help me.

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00:23:39.600 --> 00:23:39.930

[GUDRUN]: So,

205

00:23:41.580 --> 00:23:43.110

[GUDRUN]: When I lost my place for a second.

206

00:23:46.440 --> 00:23:50.160

[GUDRUN]: Due to your health issues. Has your life become more

207

00:23:55.590 --> 00:23:56.460

[Zakariyya]: More complicated

208

00:24:01.980 --> 00:24:02.940

[Zakariyya]: Because of the pandemic.

209

00:24:04.620 --> 00:24:05.190

[Zakariyya]: Well, yeah.

210

00:24:07.350 --> 00:24:09.300

[Zakariyya]: Yes, well I'm, I'm in the blue.

211

00:24:11.400 --> 00:24:12.210

[Zakariyya]: I am a senior

212

00:24:13.470 --> 00:24:16.410

[Zakariyya]: I am 70 years old I

213

00:24:17.580 --> 00:24:24.480

[Zakariyya]: Do have a poll morbidity type two diabetic. So I am in a high risk.

214

00:24:26.820 --> 00:24:31.680

[Zakariyya]: And this certainly does complicate my life more high

215

00:24:34.500 --> 00:24:40.230

[Zakariyya]: Tech my precautions. I'm following the guidelines of the CDC.

216

00:24:41.310 --> 00:24:49.650

[Zakariyya]: And this is all that I can do and social distancing. And this is all that I can really do personally speaking,

217

00:24:51.210 --> 00:25:01.200

[Zakariyya]: And so we need the experts, not the President, who has shown that he's definitely not an expert on this.

218

00:25:02.670 --> 00:25:03.030

[Zakariyya]: We need

219

00:25:04.620 --> 00:25:10.920

[Zakariyya]: To talk to be allowed to speak on into rocketed by this man.

220

00:25:12.060 --> 00:25:25.200

[Zakariyya]: This is not a political situation and it shouldn't be kicked around as a political football, because what it means is that people are going to die, who didn't necessarily need to die.

221

00:25:26.100 --> 00:25:26.490

Mm hmm.

222

00:25:27.870 --> 00:25:29.310

[GUDRUN]: Okay, so

223

00:25:31.440 --> 00:25:43.200

[GUDRUN]: I'm assuming you've never experienced something like this in your life, but have your parents or grandparents told you something. Told you stories about something like this that has happened when they were alive.

224

00:25:44.940 --> 00:25:47.040

[Zakariyya]: Well, my parents.

225

00:25:50.100 --> 00:25:53.460

[Zakariyya]: My grandparents, my grandparents never really talked about

226

00:25:55.620 --> 00:25:59.460

[Zakariyya]: The Spanish flu 1918 to 1920

227

00:26:00.990 --> 00:26:02.460

[Zakariyya]: Parents talked about

228

00:26:04.260 --> 00:26:07.200

[Zakariyya]: They were children during the Great Depression.

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00:26:08.250 --> 00:26:19.380

[Zakariyya]: And I said, So how was it, they said well things weren't really that different for our people. They said, We will either employed.

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00:26:20.070 --> 00:26:29.220

[Zakariyya]: Before the Great Depression. We will under employed during the Great Depression, and we will under employed after the Great Depression.

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00:26:30.210 --> 00:26:52.740

[Zakariyya]: So I said, So, what do you mean, so they said well last night, your dinner was pat rolls greens mashed potatoes. They said you had ice tea drink and after dinner you ate two pieces of cake master. Okay.

232

00:26:53.910 --> 00:26:58.440

[Zakariyya]: They said, but then for us was macaroni and cheese.

233

00:27:00.060 --> 00:27:13.950

[Zakariyya]: I said and what else they said, that's all. They said, We got a plate of macaroni and cheese. And that was there. I said no dessert. They said no no dessert or they said we would have beans and cornbread.

234

00:27:15.120 --> 00:27:21.540

[Zakariyya]: And that was it. That was dinner plate of beans with a piece of corn bread, and that was dinner.

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00:27:23.010 --> 00:27:28.200

[Zakariyya]: So they talked about the disparity.

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00:27:29.550 --> 00:27:32.910

[Zakariyya]: Of things, the lack of, you know, having

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00:27:34.170 --> 00:27:35.790

[Zakariyya]: abundant food or

238

00:27:37.290 --> 00:27:43.950

[Zakariyya]: Or having satisfying work a dignified work that they could really, you know, appreciate doing

239

00:27:45.420 --> 00:27:47.430

[Zakariyya]: So these are the things they talked about

240

00:27:50.370 --> 00:27:51.000

[GUDRUN]: Um,

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00:27:53.370 --> 00:27:56.220

[GUDRUN]: What do you know about the Spanish flu. And do you see

242

00:27:57.720 --> 00:28:00.030

[GUDRUN]: Any connection to it, you know, from

243

00:28:01.080 --> 00:28:04.290

[GUDRUN]: You know, from the Spanish flu to the coronavirus

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00:28:06.240 --> 00:28:09.600

[Zakariyya]: Well, I do most certainly see some connections.

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00:28:11.520 --> 00:28:30.570

[Zakariyya]: The Spanish food. First of all, they called it the Spanish, but the Spanish flu really began maybe in Britain or China or the United States. The first case in the United States involved as a soldier, and one of the military bases.

246

00:28:31.020 --> 00:28:46.350

[Zakariyya]: An American soldiers carried the flu overseas during World War One. So, how it became known as the Spanish food. I'm not certain, but it definitely did not begin in Spain.

247

00:28:47.250 --> 00:28:47.790

[Zakariyya]: Now,

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00:28:48.300 --> 00:28:56.580

[Zakariyya]: The Spanish couldn't kill somewhere between 20 and 50 million people. And I think the numbers been

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00:28:58.170 --> 00:29:15.720

[Zakariyya]: Accepted numbers been 20 minutes but as far as Americans are conservative 670 5000 Americans died from Spanish food 675,000 okay now during the Spanish flu.

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00:29:17.100 --> 00:29:25.080

[Zakariyya]: was finally determined that the people should wear a mask and that if they could slow the transitions or transmission

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00:29:25.770 --> 00:29:45.030

[Zakariyya]: from person to person that this would help control that Pandemic How ever even at that time there were people who were against wearing facemask they will call the anti mass lead and they held demonstrations.

252

00:29:46.320 --> 00:29:49.500

[Zakariyya]: With a refused to wear a mask now.

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00:29:50.520 --> 00:30:01.140

[Zakariyya]: Immediately when the government rescinded this law to wear a mask. When she left the house, the Spanish flu flu spread

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00:30:01.950 --> 00:30:12.090

[Zakariyya]: The pandemic, he's back up again and more people that so today we have people doing the same thing that was done.

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00:30:13.050 --> 00:30:25.170

[Zakariyya]: In 100 years ago in during the time of the Spanish flu nowadays we have people who are refusing to wear a mask, who are demonstrating against

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00:30:25.800 --> 00:30:40.200

[Zakariyya]: The stay home policies and who are acting like they never heard of it, but because you refuse to follow these guidelines that in and of itself exposes you not only you.

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00:30:40.770 --> 00:30:53.520

[Zakariyya]: Took over 19 it also is exposes all of your co workers, your cohorts, your friends, and more importantly, your family, and more importantly your seniors.

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00:30:54.990 --> 00:30:56.640

[Zakariyya]: Grandparents, and so

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00:30:58.050 --> 00:31:27.540

[Zakariyya]: So you may or may not become critically ill if exposed, but people with these co-morbidities yes you are exposing them and yes you could cause dear beloved loved ones to die of copilot 19 because of your arrogance and insolence everything used to follow intelligent precautions.

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00:31:29.010 --> 00:31:34.050

[GUDRUN]: Okay, so how are you supporting a central workers in our family.

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00:31:35.760 --> 00:31:39.300

[Zakariyya]: Well, thank God, a central workers and our family.

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00:31:40.440 --> 00:31:45.420

[Zakariyya]: Most seem to be in a pretty good position.

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00:31:46.440 --> 00:31:48.660

[Zakariyya]: And we haven't had to

264

00:31:50.760 --> 00:32:13.530

[Zakariyya]: You know, run over here with \$100 a run over there for \$4,000 not so far. So for us it's just a thing of keeping in touch. Checking in with people to see how things are and trusting that they will be fruitful in their communications with us with each other.

265

00:32:15.360 --> 00:32:18.210

[GUDRUN]: Okay, do you agree with the protest.

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00:32:19.560 --> 00:32:20.820

[GUDRUN]: For opening up the country.

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00:32:24.030 --> 00:32:47.850

[Zakariyya]: No, I don't agree because the government had already set a date to start reopening which is which was made 15 or the first week in June. That is not a interminable amount of time to wait to protect life, the people who are

268

00:32:50.730 --> 00:32:51.780

[Zakariyya]: Open the country.

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00:32:52.800 --> 00:32:58.800

[Zakariyya]: Have a financial concern which I have that concern as well. What

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00:33:00.300 --> 00:33:06.720

[Zakariyya]: As far as I believe I believe that the people are more important than a momentary

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00:33:08.310 --> 00:33:31.530

[Zakariyya]: Financial inconvenience. I also believe that the government should do more to help the people through this pandemic. If we say the people we save the country if we save the country we save the markets you please say the markets we say your business and your money.

272

00:33:34.710 --> 00:33:44.250

[GUDRUN]: And yes, question is how do you think this pandemic will change our way of life. And do you think things will change at all.

273

00:33:45.660 --> 00:33:48.360

[Zakariyya]: Well, how will it change our way of life.

274

00:33:49.770 --> 00:34:05.850

[Zakariyya]: It's unmistakable that it will change our way of life. And some of these changes are going to be for the best and some. I'm not sure, but things will change as far as how we do business.

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00:34:07.320 --> 00:34:08.550

[Zakariyya]: Going to the doctor.

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00:34:10.320 --> 00:34:11.100

[Zakariyya]: How we need

277

00:34:12.120 --> 00:34:24.210

[Zakariyya]: What we do when we meet, like for instance a shaking hands. That's a custom that's going to go by the roadside for time and maybe for a couple

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00:34:25.470 --> 00:34:28.710

[Zakariyya]: Businesses have found out that they can operate.

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00:34:30.360 --> 00:34:42.960

[Zakariyya]: With fewer people I expect that to continue, I expect employment to take back up, of course, but there will be lasting effects now will things change.

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00:34:44.070 --> 00:34:48.870

[Zakariyya]: Well, some things will change, but other things will not

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00:34:50.160 --> 00:35:00.420

[Zakariyya]: More recently, there was an African American who was shot two months ago and he was jogging. He was chased by two white men.

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00:35:01.680 --> 00:35:20.460

[Zakariyya]: One of who worked in the district attorney's office as a detective thing father and son. They chase this man they accosted this man and when this man fought back or try to defend themselves. They killed this man.

283

00:35:22.560 --> 00:35:32.640

[Zakariyya]: Now this was over two months ago and these people were not arrested because that detective that worked in the DEA his office. He knew

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00:35:33.270 --> 00:35:59.010

[Zakariyya]: Everybody, so he was friends. So they did not arrest him so to district attorneys to recuse themselves from this case because they definitely show preferential treatment, which means that they violated their oath of office, and both need to be removed. The two men that were arrested.

285

00:36:00.390 --> 00:36:11.610

[Zakariyya]: Or just denied bail. But they wouldn't have been arrested if they hadn't been such a social outcry demanding justice. So to answer your question.

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00:36:12.360 --> 00:36:29.280

[Zakariyya]: Have things changed. Yes, but many things continue racism continues sexism continues discrimination continues redlining continues denying

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00:36:29.880 --> 00:36:40.950

[Zakariyya]: African Americans and other people call but I'm speaking specifically about African Americans denying us loans home mortgages.

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00:36:41.460 --> 00:36:56.460

[Zakariyya]: business loans and so on and so forth. This continues even when we have decent credit scores, it contains. So some things have changed, but the hearts and minds of some people

289

00:36:58.050 --> 00:37:05.340

[Zakariyya]: may eventually change but for right now there's still too many people whose hearts are filled with hate

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00:37:07.410 --> 00:37:14.070

[GUDRUN]: I will follow up question. Do you think when you were younger, and you, you were discriminated against.

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00:37:17.580 --> 00:37:23.520

[GUDRUN]: That had an influence becoming involved in the black power movement of the late 60s and early 70s.

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00:37:25.440 --> 00:37:27.990

[Zakariyya]: Oh, wait a minute. I'm sorry. Say that question again keep

293

00:37:29.220 --> 00:37:40.020

[GUDRUN]: Saying, when you were younger, and you got discriminated against. Do you think that had an influence on your being involved in the black power movement on the late 60s and early 70s.

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00:37:42.270 --> 00:37:43.770

[Zakariyya]: Well it most certainly did.

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00:37:44.820 --> 00:37:46.290

[Zakariyya]: I was only

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00:37:47.340 --> 00:37:58.770

[Zakariyya]: I never really joined any of the organizations that were actively involved in the black power movement. However, I did feel a need to go out and vote.

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00:37:59.520 --> 00:38:15.180

[Zakariyya]: I did feel the need to educate myself in so far as the history about people and the political situation facing us, and I didn't feel it was a need for us to face the truth.

298

00:38:15.630 --> 00:38:21.330

[Zakariyya]: About the obstruction that stood in the way

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00:38:22.500 --> 00:38:29.730

[Zakariyya]: Of most of our people, but like most of my people and Ruth was definitely

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00:38:30.960 --> 00:38:35.970

[Zakariyya]: Influential influential as far as this is concerned, she was not a military

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00:38:36.990 --> 00:38:52.020

[Zakariyya]: But she was by to be by no means considered to be weak or ugly or she was not in effectual and she was definitely instructive. You know, pointing me to certain books to read

302

00:38:52.920 --> 00:39:06.480

[Zakariyya]: She supported me if I talked about joining most organizations, but she did insist that are not enjoy enjoy that are not join any of the most radical groups.

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00:39:08.160 --> 00:39:09.540

[GUDRUN]: Okay, um,

304

00:39:10.740 --> 00:39:18.540

[GUDRUN]: I was gonna ask a remember you told me a story and you were going to Morgan. You were in. Was that your teeth.

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00:39:22.860 --> 00:39:23.190

[Zakariyya]: Yes.

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00:39:23.250 --> 00:39:25.170

[GUDRUN]: Yes, I remember you told me

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00:39:27.600 --> 00:39:29.040

[GUDRUN]: You guys went to a drill team.

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00:39:29.040 --> 00:39:29.880

Competition.

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00:39:31.440 --> 00:39:32.340

Everybody else

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00:39:35.250 --> 00:39:35.640

You got

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00:39:40.890 --> 00:39:54.090

[Zakariyya]: It wasn't, it wasn't quite that simple because they will other. There are other. There were a few other drill teams that were black are predominantly black but what happened was we put on a very good performance.

312

00:39:55.200 --> 00:39:58.800

[Zakariyya]: And right at the end, we did a black power salute.

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00:40:00.450 --> 00:40:04.380

[Zakariyya]: And I remember that the auditorium, which has about

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00:40:06.060 --> 00:40:07.740

[Zakariyya]: 10,000 people

315

00:40:09.360 --> 00:40:17.220

[Zakariyya]: I do remember that you could hear a pin drop. People were absolutely shocked. And of course, we did not win.

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00:40:22.680 --> 00:40:24.240

[GUDRUN]: Oh yeah, well,

317

00:40:25.380 --> 00:40:26.940

[GUDRUN]: The last question I have.

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00:40:30.720 --> 00:40:35.490

[GUDRUN]: I want to thank you and once it's transcribed.

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00:40:35.670 --> 00:40:43.110

[GUDRUN]: And it's in the archives. I'll make sure you can look at it online. You know, I make sure you get a copy

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00:40:44.100 --> 00:40:44.520

[GUDRUN]: The link.

321

00:40:45.240 --> 00:40:51.810

[Zakariyya]: Up yourself. Thank you. Before you go, just tell Gudrun, I said. Happy Mother's Day.

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00:40:52.170 --> 00:40:52.500

I will

323

00:40:53.790 --> 00:40:56.070

[Zakariyya]: I hope she has a wonderful day tomorrow.

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00:40:58.350 --> 00:40:59.250

[Zakariyya]: And I was

325

00:41:00.600 --> 00:41:12.720

[Zakariyya]: On it on the record that you are great son, you went out and you did many that I asked you to do. And so people should understand I

326

00:41:13.770 --> 00:41:22.050

[Zakariyya]: Retired from the Army 23 years he served his country and for that the whole family was me proud. Thank you, son.

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00:41:22.560 --> 00:41:23.130

[GUDRUN]: Thank you.

328

00:41:24.150 --> 00:41:25.170

[Zakariyya]: That's alarm or later.

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00:41:26.010 --> 00:41:26.910

[GUDRUN]: Muslim love you.

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00:41:27.870 --> 00:41:28.440

[Zakariyya]: Love you too.

331

00:41:29.820 --> 00:41:30.000

Bye.

332

00:41:31.080 --> 00:41:31.290

Bye.

333

00:41:37.140 --> 00:41:37.620

[Zakariyya]: Okay.