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Donor # 4339 Interview Notes

Donor 4339 is an interesting study in contradictions. He is quiet and reserved with a hint of *fun guy* just below the surface. He kept a steady and easy smile on his face while we talked, that to me expressed his shyness and maybe the fact that he was not completely relaxed. He came across as reserved and mature in our interview, but as we spoke I glimpsed a spontaneous and open person behind his shy first impression. Casually dressed in a knit cap with a college logo, jeans and a pair of vintage Converse All Stars, Donor 4339's natural talent for storytelling and his natural and easy demeanor came out most when talking about his family.

He was born in India, the 2nd child in a large family (his father has seven siblings!). He said at one point that he can really feel the differences in Indian culture and United States culture and how it has affected his family. He is very close with his parents and his siblings, in a way he describes, as not so much of a choice, but simply the way their family structure operates. Family decisions are made communally, with everyone getting an equal say in decisions that affect the group as a whole.

In talking about his childhood Donor 4339's multifaceted personality came into clearer focus. He describes himself as being an annoying and hot tempered child, quick to anger while having developed into a mellower adult who forgives easily and works hard to be open to new ideas, people and ways of thinking. He is still quick in many things, however: quick to forgive, a quick thinker, easily adaptable -- flitting comfortable between multiple contexts, and quick to own his mistakes. The donor is also a speed demon.

Donor 4339 recently learned to ride a motorcycle, a skill that fulfills his daredevil tendencies perfectly. He is characteristically balanced in his need for speed, balancing his love to go fast with some very stringent rules about safety. His love of things fast and adventurous does not end here, the donor has always loved amusement parks, roller coasters and rides liable to make you throw up, and he aspires to learn how to skydive in the next few years. I found his unique combination of maturity and thrill-seeking charming.

He does well in both cities and rural areas, specifying that could he choose, he would live in farmland. Although athletic, the donor is currently more focused on his studies than sports. In the past he has really enjoyed playing cricket, as both pitcher and batter. For such a mature person he has a surprisingly silly side, making jokes throughout the interview. He tells good stories, which seems to be a theme in his life. He loves movies that have a good narrative, storyline being his main criteria for whether he will like a movie or not.

I found Donor 4339 to be a very interesting young man. His seeming inconsistencies and contradictions (recently learned to cook and recently built his own computer) are intriguing and meld together into a well-rounded and very sweet individual.

Interviewer: Jil Vest

Date: September 3rd, 2009