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Donor # 4317 Interview Notes

I really had fun talking with donor 4317 today. He's pretty adorable: extremely good-looking, charming, intelligent, likes cracking slightly dorky jokes, and speaks with an open heart. When I read his donor narrative and he described himself as angelic, with an extremely positive disposition, I have to confess I was worried I was going to have to spend an hour with one of those people who are enthusiastic in an over the top way, but this donor is not like that at all. He strikes me as someone who is genuinely happy to be alive and tries to enjoy every activity. We spoke of many things, from his work in theoretical chemistry to his high school marching band to playing card games with his mom.

The donor was wearing blue jeans and a white T-shirt with a design that mirrored the pattern in his sneakers. The more I looked at him, the more I noticed how attractive the donor is, with clear blue eyes, beautiful full lips and a well-shaped nose. He is tall, thin and built like a long distance runner.

The first question I asked donor 4317 is how he came to be interested in theoretical chemistry. He said that he has always tried to pursue the most difficult areas of thought and that brought him to chemistry. During his undergraduate education, he worked for a couple years in a lab but he was clumsy and often dropped things. He told me that there are people who have "golden hands" and everything they touch or mix turns out perfectly. The donor is definitely not one of those people and felt it would be better if he was behind a computer screen instead of a test tube. He described his job as the intersection between math, physics, computer science, and chemistry. He is currently working as a researcher in a chemistry lab and is pursuing a doctorate in chemistry.

Donor 4317 moved to the Bay Area about a year ago and spent a lot of time trying to compare it with other places he has lived, but gave that up because it just doesn't compare. Having grown up in Oklahoma he says that anyplace is awesome compared to being *a Jew in the buckle of the bible belt*. Although he eventually found a group of friends who were open minded with whom he felt comfortable being himself, for a long time, as one of the only Jewish kids many of his friends believed he was going to hell. Now, he feels fortunate to have had such an experience, where he didn't have to pretend to be someone he is not for the sake of social acceptance. The donor also told me that he had a really wonderful high school experience. In the Bay Area, he says he still feels like *a little fish in a big pond sometimes*.

This donor loves to play the trumpet, and will join any band, orchestra, or musical ensemble that will have him. In high school he played in the marching band, and said it was the greatest experience ever. The band received accolades and he was section leader for 3 of his 4 years with the band. He told me that it was fun because they were based on a military format and he got to do things like assign pushups when someone misbehaved. He, in turn, told me that he had been assigned plenty of pushups his first couple years. Playing trumpet is the way donor 4317 stays sane and he particularly enjoys blending sounds with other musicians to make beautiful music.

I asked donor 4317 if his parents played a large part in his academic achievement and he told me that his mom, who is a grade school math teacher, was instrumental in giving him a head start as a good student. It is obvious that he cares a great deal for his mom, and his voice was filled with emotion as he told me about her. He says she has the heart of an 8 year old child, and that he enjoys

playing with her. From what I heard it sounds like the donor resembles his mother in his childlike wonderment and enjoyment of the world, as well as in his aforementioned clumsiness. The donor is also very close to his brother, and they went to the same university for their undergraduate degrees. Donor 4317 described his dad to me as brilliant, and that he has an answer for almost every question posed to him. He said that his dad is the type of person who is very aware of his actions and surroundings and never does anything like loose his keys or forget where he put something. Because his dad is like this, the donor said that he doesn't understand how other people can do these things, and it sometimes contributes to him loosing his temper. The donor's mom seems to be the exact opposite, often loosing her keys and having a flighty nature. He says they balance each other very well, and have been in loving relationship for 30+ years. Family is an important part of this donor's life but he is also happy living in a different place than his parents. He joked about how his mother wants him to move close to her and have babies and mused as to whether he would want the same when he is her age.

Overall I would describe this donor as a thoughtful, caring individual with a sweet temperament and love of life. He is obviously very intelligent, but does not come across as egotistical or arrogant in person. He is happy to be part of the Identity-Release® Program and could not think of a single reason not to do that.

Interviewer: Danielle Klinkow

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