

SUBTRACT 24:48 FOR TIMESTAMP

24:48 Okay, there's no bad stuff. Okay, Okay, So this is interview Number one.

25:06 Would you like to just introduce yourself like name where you're from major Year.

25:10 That kind of stuff. Hi! my name is ria i'm a junior at B, you And i'm a neuroscience, Major from Singapore.

25:18 So basically, this project is about breaking tradition that's our topic.

25:23 So I just have like some questions about like culture and traditions like from your like hometown, and like how that's translated to your life at school.

25:37 So our traditions important to you. Why or why not? and like you can talk about specific ones, too. personally.

1:00 For me. traditions are really important. So I grew up in Singapore.

25:49 I was born and raised there. but my parents are originally from India, so we follow a lot of the culture and the traditions that they were.

25:56 They grew up doing. I guess like especially important ones for me are like the volley which is celebrated like in October November time.

26:05 It's the festival of light and even to this day, like even when i'm in the Us. while i'm at college, and like when I was at boarding school for the last 2 years of high school I always facetime my parents

26:16 while they would do like the puja which is like the ceremony that we do at home.

26:21 So that's something that's like very very important in my family, and it has been for years, and I think that i'm definitely like, pass that down to my family and to my kids.

26:32 I think It's like very important like even if you're living abroad, or you don't like necessarily celebrate the same way as everyone else.

26:38 I think there's always something special about celebrating it like the way you celebrate it with your family, and like how you know how that happens.

26:47 We do that every year. So that's very important to me in terms of other like traditions, and like culture, i'm like pretty connected with my Indian culture, just because a lot of my from family is there just like even fun, events like

27:04 weddings, which are actually very traditional. they go on for a few days like, no matter whether they're basic in the Us.

27:11 Based in India, or like at a destination wedding i've been to multiple, and they all follow the same kind of tradition.

27:18 So I think that's like really says something to like how traditions like can be replicated all over the world, no matter where you are, and no matter like who you're with which is why I think it's like really important

27:30 to like. carry on your traditions to you know when you move country, because that's obviously inevitable.

27:37 But yeah, those are some of the important things to me.

27:40 So you said that you have been able to celebrate most of your traditions in Boston.

27:45 But does it like look the same like? Is there any issues?

27:48 Because, like there might be different access to like traditional foods or clothing, or just like your family, like, How how does it look different being here versus there?

27:58 Yeah, it's definitely like very, very different again, like as you said, like the food and the clothing like i'm obviously not gonna carry like all this food and clothing like with me from home.

28:10 So the facetime. my parents like Yes, that is very different I think that's the only way it like really can be done.

28:16 Also there is like a time difference with singapore so like it's a very far flight.

28:22 So the travel aspect like wouldn't really work. I think it not necessarily has like, taken away from the tradition, but I think that it definitely like makes it different.

28:33 It makes it feel different. There is like a pretty significant like Indian community at B. You I'm.

4:00 Not super integrated, or like familiar, like with the activities and things that they do.

28:43 I just like prefer to celebrate like, with my sister who's also up view and like with my family, whether that be like, you know, facetime calling them like things like that.

28:55 And then, obviously, when i'm home I will you know kind of make up for that

29:01 But yeah, definitely like looks very different, feels very different. But I think that my parents do try to make it imp like special and make us feel important and included in those traditions, even though like my sister and I are at college right now would you say

29:14 It was like difficult transitioning from celebrating stuff with your family to hear like they just talk about like how that's like impacted you.

29:24 Yeah, no, definitely like when I was home, like in high school.

29:27 We would have like devales like a huge event in or

29:32 I'm like a very big part i'm a big part of like an Indian community at home.

29:35 A lot of my mom's friends like she grew up with like they've been friends for years, like we always do like a big like, or i'll do like a family celebration and then you'll go to like parties you'll do

29:45 fireworks like you'll have like big events that like carry on after that.

29:51 We even have like so puja's like a kind of a traditional like sort of like, where you like, pray to God like we definitely do have those kinds of places in Singapore.

30:00 And I have been there with my family, and those were like very special to me like, especially when I was growing up like It's one or 2 days out of the year where you got to like like, you know.

30:11 Feel thankful like, be blessed by God, like all of that, is very important to me and my family.

5:30 So it is very different. It was a hard transition at first, just because I was so used to doing that every single year, and spending it with the same people.

30:27 I have, like, you know, grown up with So was it a little bit difficult at first.

30:32 I think I kind of have been able to get more used to it now, because I've been like in the us.

30:36 This is my fifth year, 3 years in college, and 2 years in boarding school.

30:44 So. it was difficult, I think, like the first year I felt like I was kind of missing out.

30:45 It didn't feel the same my sister was home so I was just like facetime.

30:50 My whole family like from the Us. at a completely different time but I think I've been able to get more used to it.

30:58 Now my parents come up and like visit a lot more often.

31:00 So like if we're ever together during those special like holidays or special occasions like will definitely like do things together that you know, kind of try to replicate what we did back home.

31:13 Okay, another question. What were people's attitudes towards your traditions? or were there any misconceptions like you know, from friends, or just like other people in your life when you talk about traditions like, Do you ever receive like

31:25 criticism or questions. I think like with Indian culture like there are probably some misconceptions like the volume is supposed to be a festival of light like while there is that like serious aspect to it there's also like the

6:30 fun aspect where you like, celebrate life and kind of like, you know.

31:46 Light is how you like kind of like steer clear of like evil, a lot of like the deeper meanings behind.

31:56 These kinds of traditions are kind of not really understood that.

31:58 Well by like, you know, my friends, and like other people who like don't follow these traditions.

32:03 And then there's also like the big wedding traditions like the wedding ceremony is like very traditional in India.

32:12 While there are like multiple events like I don't think people really know what those events are like.

32:16 People just kind of think of them. Oh, like Indian weddings they go on for 4 days, but I don't think like there's like the wedding.

32:21 But then there's like what else is there I don't really think people fully understand that I would say I received any criticism from any of my traditions or any of this like particular cultures that I follow but but definitely questions

32:35 surrounding them, and like what actually like goes on to be very honest like.

32:40 I don't know the deeper meaning behind every single tradition.

32:45 I never grew up in India, and I haven't been back for a few years now.

32:48 But I don't really do have an understanding of them like I resonate a lot with them, and I enjoy celebrating them a lot.

32:54 I think it like is definitely part of my identity But yeah, I feel like people in general have been like quite accepting at Bu, and there is like a nice, you know, a large international community. where people are very like respectful very accepting of other

33:10 people's culture. So I appreciate that a lot that's. good have your views of traditions changed like from past generations like.

33:19 Do you think you view traditions differently than like your parents do, or their parents like you?

33:25 Are there ever like, not like issues, but kind of like different views on like how important traditions are.

33:33 Yeah, definitely. I feel like my parents parents are like my Mom's like how my mom grew up and how my dad grew up.

33:41 There's definitely a big difference There not that this is like a particular tradition, but it's very common for Indians to be raised vegetarian.

33:51 Like my parents never enforce that on me and my sister.

33:53 My parents are not vegetarian like certain things in our culture like beef and pork like you don't eat that.

34:02 So I think there is definitely a big difference between generations.

34:05 Now I think there has been a lot of change in traditions and cultures, and how they are

celebrated over like the last decade or not even decade over the last century.

34:14 Like, you know my grandparents celebrate the volume very different from like me, and and how my family do it.

34:21 But I don't think there's like any right or wrong way, like I don't think anyone's like celebrating it like the way like it should be celebrated or followed by everybody I Think you family and each household that kind

34:31 of does their own like celebration. but I would definitely say that, like the older generation, has like much more strict views, much more like religious views, especially like just like small things like my mom is like vegetarian every thursday like my sister and I don't

34:50 follow that it's, just something that she believes in and she's been doing like for the last you know 10 years.

34:57 Not that it's right or wrong, but I would definitely say there is like a very big generational change.

35:01 And also like depending on where you live in the world there's a big, you know, difference with that i'm sure how the volume celebrated in Indian families in the us is like very different to Singapore which is you know very

35:11 different to India. Obviously, India has like the largest you know Indian communities.

35:18 So there's gonna be you know, more celebrations like you know more pujas, more, you know, ceremonies and things like that that I see and like in Boston, for example, can you explain what a pooja is yeah

11:00 so it's basically like a kind of you're saying like Thank you to God like you like kennels like my parents, like you usually get these like special suites that are like sold around the volley time there's a

35:45 bunch of like special desserts that are sold around sold and like eaten around.

35:49 Then you kind of you pray like we always put on like a song on, repeat, and we pray like it's like God is blessing us.

35:58 We bless our house. we like, Say, thank you, like my dad usually walks around.

36:02 The house with like a candle, like kind of like waves.

36:05 The flames onto like parts of our house. We use the flames on to us.

36:08 Like to say, thank you like to bless ourselves like it's the festival of light, like we keep all the lights on in our house, even like during the day we we don't need them It's just like a part

36:20 of and it's like one day a year but yeah so that's like what my family does.

36:26 I'm sure other people do a differently you tie like a special like string around your wrist called Rocky.

36:34 So we do that, too. but yeah that's how my family doesn't, and afterwards we usually like you know, celebrate eat Indian food Fire crackers are a big thing you often like dec decorate your house with like colored rice called

36:47 Rongoli. My sister and I used to do that when we were younger so just like a bunch of things that we do during that time, just to like, you know.

36:58 Say, like, thank you to God and, like, you know, bless ourselves and everything around us basically.

37:03 Okay, cool. Do you want to talk about like food and how that's played like a pardon traditions?

37:08 Because I know, like traditional foods, are like a big center of like holidays and

celebration.

37:14 So you want to just talk about specific foods that like have like made a particular impact on your childhood.

37:19 Or yeah, yeah, for sure, like I grew up obviously eating Indian food like my parents cook a lot of Indian food in their house like they.

37:28 You know my parents like love. it like my dad needs his like special doll, like every single Sunday, like that's kind of like how he's like grown up.

37:35 But then also, like India, so huge, different parts of India have different kind of foods. And I actually have been exposed to a lot of them like through my parents, because they're both from different parts of India.

37:47 I would say, like the most like traditional like food I like like Dosa's. Italy's just like very like rice-based kind of food are kind of my favorites those are like the biggest once for me It

38:00 is hard like being in like Boston where I don't get to eat the same kind of foods I do eat at home, and you know it's not it doesn't like taste like home.

38:11 It's like it's fine it's it's you know like does the trick temporarily?

38:15 Yeah, it does the trick temporarily but it doesn't you know definitely doesn't taste like home food is like a very big part like India's again.

38:24 Like India, so huge. There are so many different types of food, dances, cultures like traditions, that people follow like the specific things in each part of India, like no matter like different parts where you live.

38:38 Like everything is so so different. I don't think that people like realize that, like the extent of languages, because there are like a 1,000,000,000 people there, It's a very like dense. country.

38:50 So yeah, no food is definitely a big, big bit like very big part, especially when we travel to India like having special meals.

38:58 There's a single ass thali which is like a big silver or gold plate, with like literally 12 different things on it. That's like.

39:05 Also like a very electric traditional meal that you know you have once in a while.

39:10 And then again, like the special suites that you have on the valley like you only get them around that time.

39:19 Yeah, things like that I think have made like a big impact on me I don't do eat a lot of Indian food when i'm home which I don't get to eat a lot as much.

39:27 Here. but you know i've kind of learned to get used to that.

39:30 So it's been it's been all right yeah so would you say the traditions you mostly practice are like Indian.

39:36 Are they like ever Singaporean traditions that you celebrate, or like stuff that has to do with like your religion?

39:43 Or is there kind of crossover? do you want to just like, explain that? Yeah.

15:00 So Singapore. I don't really celebrate any like Singapore traditions as per se.

39:53 But so we have Chinese New Year in singapore which is you know, very big. thing, because we have a large Chinese community.

40:01 There is, I believe it's called lo hey? which a lot of Chinese restaurants do it's like late January, February kind of time, and I was in an international school so I had a week off for

40:12 Chinese New Year, and you know my family would like go to restaurants, and we would

participate in that like.

40:19 Obviously, we you know, didn't grow up with following Chinese tradition, but because we I've like lived there for 20 years.

40:25 We kind of have like a adopted to it and then There's also onpal, which is like this red envelope.

40:33 You know my mom, like kind of like likes to you know give it's like where you give like a little bit of money.

40:39 We like our security guards like for the people who like work for us.

40:44 So I think it's very important to adapt like there's no point living in a completely new country where you just like, do not like, reject all their traditions and cultures like you need to respect that and and you know we

40:55 love participating in them, too. like. When I was younger we used to do the lantern Festival around Chinese year.

41:02 We used to go around our building with lanterns like eat moon cake.

41:05 That is also again something I grew up doing like I wouldn't like for me, like when I was younger.

41:12 It was more like fun. it wasn't like Oh, i'm celebrating something that's like a part of my culture.

41:17 Part of my tradition, but I guess like now that i'm older.

41:20 I've like learned to respect and like accept that more like that's also going to be a part of kind of who I am, because I grew up.

41:28 Yeah, I kind of became your tradition exactly like we took our obviously our own interpretation on it, like we're not.

41:35 My family is not super religious like. obviously I missed Chinese new year when i'm in like at school. but no definitely like has been become like a part of me, and like how i've grown up and like I like that my family is able

41:49 to like, accept and Like be like just because we're in and doesn't mean we can like you, know, celebrate other things from other cultures.

41:57 And you kind of touched on this earlier.

41:58 But do you like plan on passing down all of these traditions?

42:03 Share children, even if they grew up like in the United States or in a different country.

42:08 Yeah, no, for sure like I know that I probably will stay in the Us.

42:13 Like i'm planning to go to medical school here and like raise my family here, so I know that celebrations will be very different to how, like you know, when I grew up like the small things like the Fourth of July like I have never

42:25 celebrated the Fourth of July. really because i'm never in the States like in the summer, whereas I know it is like a huge thing here, you know, like Labor Day like we don't I don't really like do that but I feel

42:36 like moving like to a new country, or like you know growing up in a new country, where, like you know, I wasn't raised war. but I am going to raise my children.

42:45 I think it's very important to integrate like not only that country's traditions and celebrations.

42:53 But also like your own, like I didn't celebrate thanksgiving until I moved to the Us. But I know.

42:57 Oh, yeah, that's so interesting. yeah but I know that's like a huge thing here.

43:03 So that's also gonna you know have to be something I get used to like when I went home.

43:10 I think it was like some time during the coga time, or something like my family like did not celebrate Thanksgiving like I saw all my friends, you know, when you know, with their families and things like that.

43:19 Like. it was a normal day for us. but yeah I definitely like, Do think it's important to pass down things to your family like. I will definitely continue to, you know, celebrate the valley and celebrate like these kind of you know

43:36 traditions that I grew up learning like I want to have a traditional Indian wedding, like, just because i'm in the Us. doesn't mean I can't follow those but I also like i'm very open to you know celebrating

43:48 how other people celebrate here, too, I think it's important to have a blend of both.

43:54 Okay, So the last question is, how do you think your traditions have like shaped who you are and your values?

44:01 I think that like growing up, or being originally from India, growing up in Singapore, moving to the Us.

44:08 Like, I think, having all these different cultures introductions has just made me a much more open-minded and adaptable person.

44:15 I feel like i'm able to like kind of settled down much more quickly than other people like i'm able to like, integrate myself into different kinds of communities, and i'm able to like have my identity be more than one thing because of

44:29 like all the exposure i've had and kind of like i'm just. i'm become like a much more multi-dimensional person when it comes to culture, like i'm able to accept different kinds of culture like I

44:41 do and like, do what works best for me. because there's no right or wrong way to celebrate like there's no right or wrong way to celebrate thanksgiving.

44:51 There's no right or wrong way to celebrate the volume, like everyone does it in their own way.

44:55 What their family with their friends like. so I definitely think that it has just made me much more accepting.

45:04 I'm much more like respectful of other people now like how, having all this exposure, and like a lot of people, have accepted me like I'm, obviously not the like one dimensional person.

45:16 And you, you know, sometimes like a lot of my friends like especially in the Us.

45:20 This is like all they've known I feel like i've known like a lot more, and have like been able to like understand, and also like a appreciate how people celebrate. and when people celebrate like not a lot of people here

45:30 celebrate the valley, but, like everyone at home, does so i'm not gonna be like, you know.

45:36 Why are you not celebrating this like? Why do we have school on the valley like that?

45:38 Just we just didn't have that at home and I just need to you know.

45:42 Be mindful and understanding that this is not how things are done here.

45:47 But yeah, I think just one of the big things that just made me like like a bigger risk.

45:52 Take grave. i'm able to like put myself in like uncomfortable situations, because I like know so much more, which just makes me like a risk taker like I feel like i'm like very down to like try new things and be more open

46:06 to things because of my exposure and that's like something i'm like very, very grateful for
okay great, perfect.