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Transcultural Interview

For this interview I’m going to be talking with a dear friend of mine, Kasey F.M. She is a second-year student majoring in Advertising at the university of UNAPEC, in the Dominican Republic. I have known her for almost 6 years now. We used to go to the same catholic private school, for girls only, from high school until I had to move to the United States of America. That never made our friendship fade away, on the contrary, with the years it got stronger and stronger. We don’t talk that much, maybe just a few times in a month, but when we do, there is never awkwardness and there is always something to say to each other. She is a 19 years old girl, born and raised in the capital of the Dominican Republic, Santo Domingo. She really advocates for human rights, especially gender equality and justice for her country with all her heart and soul. She is really passionate about photography; she has an Instagram page where she posts pictures from private projects and sometimes homework assignments. People may say that I know a lot about her because of how long we know each other, but that doesn’t mean that I know what is in the back of her mind. We were talking about how people are so ignorant when it comes to politics or being yourself in society nowadays. And we noticed that we had grown a lot as persons and that gave me the impulse to ask her some questions about the LGBTQ+ community. Because back then I didn’t feel like she was ready to talk about it openly, but now was the moment.

While she was calling me through FaceTime, I was trying to get all my stuff organized so we could start right away. The first thing that I asked her was, what was her opinion towards homosexuality when she was little, and she said that “It is really different to the opinion that I have now. Society demands you to fulfill a stereotype. I used to be disgusted and repudiated towards homosexuality, and it was not easy for me to assimilate what I was, because I thought it was not correct.”I told her that it is understandable because she was younger, and we didn’t have that sense of having our own opinion at those ages. She told me that she declared herself as a lesbian person, and she realized it when she was about 13-14 years old. She was attracted to girls before that, but she never paid attention to it. “It was very shocking, because I had a boyfriend, and then another, and then another one, until the count reached the number 3, and I still liked a girl.”Right there she realized who she was, she couldn’t force herself to be something that she is not. I told her that I think I know who she told the first time about it, and I was right. It was her best friend, who is a friend of ours. “I wasn’t going to tell anyone, but I really was in love with her and wanted to see if I had any chance of dating her. And I was reciprocated.”Between everything, we were talking about what we wanted for our futures, and one thing that came up to our mind was: marriage.

Marriage between the same sex is still a hard situation nowadays because there are some states/countries where they don’t allow it. It is not allowed in the Dominican Republic, and she said that “Gay marriage shouldn’t be called like that, it is still marriage. And it is really important for me because I’m a person that believes with all my heart in love… Everyone should be free to marry whoever, whenever and wherever they want, as long as they are not causing anyone any harm and are happy.”Those kinds of opinions are not easy to take for those who are close-minded, and more in the Dominican Republic, that it is a religious country. And it’s not that easy to handle those opinions and I wondered how she deals with that, and she said that it always depends on the person. *There are some opinions that are like*““I don’t share your idea, but I respect it” and I get it perfectly. But if it’s to offend, criticize and mistreat someone, then no, I don’t accept that.” That it is understandable because nobody likes to see people hurting other individuals. That it is not acceptable, everybody should love their fellow, to give love to the world. And to end the interview I asked her what advice she would give to those people who are going through what she went through and she said “be strong, because sometimes it can be very difficult, but you always will find support from the people who really love you. Be patient, because there will be a lot of people who will attract you. Always be you.”And she ended by telling me that I don’t need to wait to do some homework to have a deep conversation with her.

Reflection

While we were talking there were a few moments where we had our differences. Because she is the type of person that takes every single thing too personal or too seriously. While I am too chill and I’m always cracking jokes. There were a couple of moments that were uncomfortable, but I really wanted to understand her. So, we always ended up making one of us understand the other.

She really opened up to me when she spoke, and that surprised me a little because we usually don't talk for a long time, we only exchange a few words. And I learned many things about his story that surprised me that I didn't know. And I was very happy to know that you have the confidence to tell me those kinds of things since they are a bit complicated to express.