Tanish Interview Transcript

Mitchell: Tanish, could you tell me about yourself?

Tanish: Hi Mitchell. My name is Tanish, like you said. I am currently studying at Dartmouth College, and I’m a sophomore. I’m from India originally, but I’ve lived in Singapore and Dubai as well as Mumbai. I strongly believe in my culture and practices in my everyday life.

Mitchell: Great. I’m doing a project on superstitions and I was wondering if you could tell me any superstitions that you’ve learned or grown up with.

Tanish: Sure. I actually have a lot of different superstitions. Firstly, I believe never to sleep on my stomach, not to cut my nails at night, never to sleep with wet hair, never to shampoo my hair at night, never to clean anything at night, not eating yogurt at night, not let books touch the floor or touch my feet, and not to waste food.

Mitchell: Great, where did you learn these superstitions and where do you think they come from?

Tanish: I learned a lot of these from my mom, my dad, and also my grandmother, pretty strong from the female side. I learned most of these as a kid, but I’m still told all these today and I think a lot of them come from my Indian belief system and Hinduism.   
Mitchell: To what degree do you believe in these superstitions? Why do you think they exist?

Tanish: I think they exist a lot because of tradition. Being clean might possibly come from the caste system. I think a lot of it might come from the ingrained caste system that has been in my culture for centuries, as well as a religious sense of belonging.

Mitchell: Last couple things, could you tell me your major?

Tnaish: I’m majoring in math.

Mitchell: What’s one of your favorite hobbies?

Tannish: To play tennis.

Mitchell: What’s one thing that you’re scared of?

Tanish: The deep sea.

Mitchell: Thank you.