



## Interview for Study on Impacts of COVID-19 on U.S. Muslims

Arab and Muslim Women's Research and Resource Institute (AMWRI)

Interviewer/Number of Interview: KN1

Date: 2/10/2021

Name of Interviewee Assigned by Researcher (to protect identity): Respondent

Year of Birth: 1993

Gender: Woman

Country of Origin: U.S.

Year of Immigration: N/A (born in U.S.)

Current State in which respondent resides: California

**Note:** In the transcript, *I* refers to Interviewer, and *R* refers to Respondent/Interviewee. To protect the identity of the interviewee, some responses to questions are not provided. In such cases, this statement will show in the transcript: Information is not being made available. In other responses, specific details that might identify the respondent or family members are omitted or made more general.

### Abstract:

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected U.S. Muslims, even in ways that may have not been foreseeable at the beginning of the crisis. This participant has had the fortune of being financially secure throughout the pandemic but has missed out on visiting family both states and countries away. Though this participant was not a regular in-person attendee of her mosque anyway before the pandemic hit, she has noticed the wider spread impact on her religious community. Tenets of Islam, including the idea that God would not give us anything we could not handle, have been a source of strength. Finally, spending extra time with her infant son has been a silver lining in an otherwise difficult situation. Respondent recommends that Imams and other religious leaders work more on educating the community around social justice issues that are occurring around the nation or around the world or in their own community. She sees a generational gap in awareness of social justice issues and actions that should be taken to promote social justice.

**Key Themes:**

Adaptation (e.g., buying a workout machine to spend time at home); unable to see extended family; basically, her family has been financially secure during Covid; generational gap regarding social justice awareness; strength found in tenets of Islam. Benefit of Covid: more time with infant son

**Edited Transcript**

R: Hello?

*[Recording software says, "This call is being recorded"]*

I: Hello! Is this [the respondent]?

R: Yes this is!

I: Hi! Um, it's nice to meet you over the phone. I'm [Interviewer's name]; I am the student that was emailing with you.

R: Awesome. Nice to meet you as well.

I: Thank you! So, um, I just want to start by saying I believe this was on the consent form, but, um, even though I'm recording this call, just for transcription purposes, um, but we're keeping complete confidentiality for this project. So your name won't be attached to any of your answers or anything like that. Um, so, if that becomes an issue, um, just know that, you know, you won't be tied to this. Um, but I do have like a little spiel to read before we get into the questions, if that's okay with you *[laughs]*. Um, just to tell you a little bit more about what we're doing.

R: Sounds good. Sorry, um, just before you start, do you know how long this, uh, is gonna take?

I: We don't have a certain time limit. We are flexible. I have some guided questions.

R: Okay.

I: You know, if you need to go at a certain time, totally cut me off, and we can do that for you.

R: Okay, no worries. Yeah, it's because I have a call at 12—a conference call.

I: Okay, yeah. But of course if it does get close to time and you wanna hop off, I totally understand that too. *[Laughs.]*

R: No worries, thanks.

I: Alright, yeah! So I'll read you the little spiel and then if you have any questions, we can get into those, and otherwise we can get started! So... there are many issues of concern that our Muslim communities are addressing, and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are one of the

pressing ones. AMWRRI, in collaboration with faculty and students at Marquette University, have created an interview to understand the experiences of U.S. Muslims with regard to COVID-19. Our research project aims to: 1) document the impact of COVID-19 on Muslims' daily lives, especially the fulfillment of religious obligations and communal events such as congregation prayer on Fridays and Ramadan; 2) discover Muslim communities' engagement with social justice issues; 3) empower and connect Muslim communities by creating a digital archive on Muslims' experiences and perspectives; and 4) share our research findings in a variety of modalities and public venues. This research project is led by Dr. Enaya Othman, president of AMWRRI. Dr. Othman is also Associate Professor and Director of the Arabic and Cultural Studies Program at Marquette University. This project is being supported by a grant from Marquette University. And if you have any questions you can contact her.

R: Oh, okay!

I: Okay! Um, do you have any questions for me?

R: Uh, no! Go ahead!

I: Okay, great. Well again, thank you for agreeing to being interviewed, and it looks like you actually recruited a lot of other people that we're gonna be interviewing, which is great. I know we really appreciate it. So, we'll start with just a little bit of demographic information. What is your age?

R: 27.

I: Okay. And were you born in the U.S.?

R: Yes.

I: Okay. And so how would you identify yourself in terms of nationality?

R: Um...I would identify myself as a Palestinian-American.

I: Okay. And what's the highest level of education you've completed?

R: Um, law school.

I: Okay. And what's your marital status?

R: Married.

I: Alright. And then, including yourself, um, how many adults live in your household?

R: 2.

I: Okay. And how many children 18 or younger?

R: 1.

I: Okay. Great. Um, a little guy, you said, right?

R: Yeah...20 months.

I: Oh, wow, that's exciting. [*L.O. laughs.*] Such a fun...I mean, every age is very fun, but like, that's a very fun, uh, a fun time.

R: Yeah, it definitely is. [*Laughs.*]

I: Cool! Awesome. Well those are all the standard questions that we have. Um. So, we first wanna explore the pandemic's impact on your personal well-being. So, your personal relationships, financial, physical health, emotional health, um, so we'll be exploring that, and I can guide you with questions but feel free to share whatever feels salient for you. So, um, overall, how would you say the outbreak of COVID has affected you personally in terms of your financial, social, uh, physical health situations?

R: Um...so, okay, well, let's start off with financial. Um, me, personally, not so much, only because, um, I guess in my line of work there's, I mean, the clients are always there, especially, um...so, for example, so I do criminal defense work, and [*K.N. says, "mm-hmm"*] I mostly do appeals cases. And so those cases are always there, so the pandemic didn't really affect that. So finance-wise for me and my career, like, you know, thankfully it didn't really take a hit. Um...however, my husband works in IT staffing and, um, so he basically helps, like, companies reach out to him and, you know, they, oh, we're looking for an engineer or we're looking for, you know, you know, any type of role and he basically helps them find candidates for the roles. And so because of the pandemic, of course a lot of companies, you know, either shut down or put, you know, freezes on hiring.

I: Sure.

R: So, in his line of work, it did affect a little. But thankfully, I would say, it wasn't too hard of a hit. But I mean there was a certain point where, um, there wasn't really much going on because a lot of companies were just on hiring freezes. So that's for finances. Um, and then I would say personally, I think it did take a big, you know, has taken a big toll just in that we're in California, and my family lives in Wisconsin. Because of the little guy and everything going on, we didn't—we, you know, haven't really been traveling since the pandemic started. [*K.N. says, "mm-hmm"*] Um, so it's been hard because, you know, we haven't been able to see my family, my parents, my siblings, and you know, I wanted my son to obviously see his grandparents, and get to know them more, um, and so we weren't really able to do that. Um, we have, um, FaceTime, which thankfully is helpful, but of course it's not the same. I mean other than that, I mean that's just been the main thing personally. You know, it's just kinda, you feel a little bit sheltered and like you can't be as social, obviously.

I: Mm-kay, that's really helpful, and uh, I actually am a nanny part-time uh, outside of school for family friends and the baby is 13 months old so she was born, kinda, right on the cusp of all of

this so I definitely get that, um, that sense of, you know, as a parent I can imagine it's really difficult 'cause you want your kids to be able to hang out with, you know, cousins and grandparents and aunts and uncles and whatnot, but that's just obviously not really a feasible option right now.

R: Right.

I: Yeah, I understand. Um, and so, do you have any family, um, like, close personally to you that live in other countries than the U.S.? Or all they all kinda here?

R: Um, yeah, that live like, you mean, overseas?

I: Sure, yeah.

R: Yeah. I have, um, I have family in Palestine. So all of my dad's side, most of my dad's side, I should say, primarily lives over there so like my aunts and uncles from my dad's side, um, live over there. Um, and then I have my grandma—I have one grandma that's still living, and she lives over there. Um, and then my, um, mother- and father-in-law also live overseas.

I: Okay.

R: Um...and then I have, um, an aunt and an uncle from my mom's side who live there, and a couple cousins as well.

I: Yeah, so a good amount of family, um, living overseas. And has the pandemic affected the way that you're, you know, communicating with them? I can imagine maybe you didn't see them in person all that often anyway, uh, just given how far that is, but have you noticed any differences because of COVID?

R: Um, with my in-laws, yes just because we, we, you know, we probably would have seen them had COVID not happened. We actually wanted to take a trip overseas this past summer, or last summer, I should say, but then COVID hit so we weren't able to do that. Um, and so I—I basically would've been able to see everyone there had we gone. But COVID put a halt on that.

I: Sure. Sure, yeah. Um, and so I can imagine maybe, like with your family in Wisconsin, that FaceTime has become—and maybe even Zoom or whatever—has also become a big form of communication with them as well. Is that fair to say? Do you usually do that, or phone calls? Like what's your main method of communicating with them overseas?

R: Um, FaceTime, and then, via phone.

I: Yeah. Okay. Do you feel like you have experienced any difficulties with using technology and virtual platforms to communicate with family both in Wisconsin and outside of the U.S.?

R: I wouldn't say so, just because I think, I guess my generation *[laughs]* is very used to technology.

I: Sure, sure.

R: I don't think I've had any, you know, difficulties communicating. Um, for example though, if I were to talk to my grandma, my grandma doesn't really know technology so it would have to be, like, one of like my aunts, like, you know, putting the phone for her. You know what I mean? Kind of explaining like she couldn't do it herself. Um...

I: Sure. So it's almost like, um, it's almost like, I wonder if you feel that—the technology's not a problem for you but maybe it's tougher for other family members.

R: Right, exactly.

I: Okay, yeah, that makes sense. Shifting gears a little bit, this is kind of a different question, um, or a different category of questions I suppose, but um, we're wondering if there are any new things that you have started consuming since the pandemic. For example, like, an app that you've downloaded, or a blog that you've begun reading, or a podcast you've been listening to.

R: Um...trying to think...I don't think there's, like, any new apps that I've really signed up for. Um...I've definitely been watching more, like, I guess you could say, like in the evenings especially like more series, like, on Netflix just trying to find new things to watch *[laughs]*. Because I feel like there's obviously nothing else to do. Um...I think that's pretty much the only really new thing. Other than that, just trying to keep myself busy around the house—reorganization, stuff like that.

I: Sure. Yeah.

R: Um, yeah, but those are pretty much the main things. I would just say trying to find new, like, series and stuff on Netflix that, you know, we've been getting into and that's about it.

I: Yeah. And luckily I feel like they, uh, never stop putting them out! So there's always something else on there.

R: Exactly, exactly.

I: Yeah. Okay. And then going back to, um, the sort of, like, financial situation it sounds like you were, um, maybe not personally impacted but your husband was and, um, you know, your situation has turned out okay but of course there are implications of that regardless. Um, I think we all have experienced some sort—some sort of, excuse me, financial stress *[Respondent says, "right"]* because of the pandemic. So, um, how, like, before and after the pandemic, do you feel like it affected, like, the hours a week you would work? Especially since you're working, I would assume, in a billable kinda manner? Or do you think, because those clients are still around, that wasn't really affected?

R: Um...I would say maybe a little bit, just in the sense of, um, I, so—we have—the firm that I work with has like two sets of clients. So the first set is clients that, you know, basically can't afford attorneys. And so, um, they're provided attorneys, which is us. And the government basically pays us to represent them. Those are the appeals cases. And so those, kinda like I mentioned, they don't stop. It's just, I mean these are people that are still incarcerated. You know, they're—they're not going anywhere, and their cases obviously aren't going anywhere. So, um, it hasn't really affected that line. The other side of clients are private clients—so people

who approach us themselves and are willing to pay out of their own pocket. Maybe I would say there's been a small decline in that—we haven't seen as many people coming forth, and it possibly could be because of the pandemic. You know, maybe they have a financial strain.

I: Yeah, yeah, that makes sense. Um, and I can imagine you know, like you said, maybe even more of a decline in terms of, like, the opportunities that your husband might have had to staff.

R: Yeah, exactly. So, yeah, for him, um, it was definitely, yeah, like, there were, I mean there were people that he, like candidates he had found for the roles for certain companies, and then once, kind of, March, April came around, which was, you know, when the pandemic started, um, these companies were kinda like, nope, never mind, like, we can't hire them right now, we're gonna put a freeze. And so it definitely like, affected his end. But thankfully, more recently it's been picking back up. But it did, it—you know, he did take a, take a little hit with that.

I: Yeah. Yeah, that's understandable, um, just given the nature of his position. It's so crazy, at least in my personal opinion, there's so many things that have been affected, like, downstream from this public health crisis that I never would have thought of. Um...

R: Right.

I: Just the things that have been closed, and the people that have been laid off, and people whose work has decreased, like your husband for example, like, it's just—it's so crazy.

R: Right, right. I know. Definitely crazy.

I: Um, oh yeah. Um, so, that being said do you feel like there have been financial needs that you're unable to meet? Or do you think it's—it's been more like, you're able to keep up with things, it's just kind of a different situation?

R: Um...I would say thankfully, and gratefully, I would say we have been able to keep up with things. The only thing I find, I find that we are telling ourselves or doing is, you know, like yeah, we're fine now but maybe, you know, we should be saving more or, you know, taking that a little bit more seriously just in case down the road, like, something happens worse pandemic-wise. You know what I mean?

I: Sure, sure.

R: Um...but I mean, as for now, thankfully we haven't really felt that we've been strained.

I: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. Yeah, that—I think that's wonderful, of course. But I definitely get that feeling, too, of what's to come. Because I think you and I can probably agree it's been so unpredictable up to this point. Um, that I can imagine unpredictability is maybe the most predictable thing we have right now *[laughs]*.

R: Right, right, exactly *[laughs]*.

I: Yeah. Um, and do you feel like family or friends, both like in the U.S. and outside, have been needing your help financially? Or otherwise?

R: Um, I don't think so. I wouldn't say, like, I don't—we haven't been approached by any friends or family asking for, like, any assistance. That could be either because they just don't want to ask or because they don't need it or, I'm—like, I'm honestly not sure. But I can tell you we have not been, you know, contacted for that reason.

I: Sure. Sure, yeah. Um, sometimes no news is good news. *[Both laugh]* I hope that that's the situation here.

R: That is true.

I: Um...and then just finally for this sort of realm of questions, you know, in terms of your overall physical and emotional health, what kind of challenges have you faced, um, if any, because of this crisis?

R: Um...so...physically...so I used to go to the gym very often. Obviously, you know, when the pandemic hit, everything shut down and I stopped going. So physically I feel like—well I feel like it's physical and mental, 'cause I feel like it was kinda, like, you know, a stress reliever mentally to kinda work out and go to the gym. And now, you know, I haven't been able to do that. So that's definitely affected me. Um, I ended up buying, like, a, like an at-home, like, cardio machine.

I: Okay.

R: Um, to at least, like, kinda have somewhat of a normal workout routine. It's just—it's not the same. You know, obviously the gym has a lot more equipment. Um, but I mean that's what I ended up doing, you know, for that. And then, uh, mentally, I would just say...overall, it, you know, it—it's hard and it's sad—kinda like going back to what I was saying before, not being able to see family, you know, and it's been so long. You know, it's been, you know, over a year now, and so um that's definitely had, like, you know, I would say a mental—a mental toll on me.

I: Yeah, definitely. That's really understandable. It sounds like you, you know, in terms of the physical setback of not being able to go to the gym, you found kinda something to replace it, at least for the time being.

R: Yeah.

I: What sort of strategies do you feel like you've used to cope with just the—the stress and maybe even sadness of not being able to see your family? If any?

R: Um...so we've been spending like a lot of time outdoors. You know, kind of just like, walking around the neighborhood, or just, you know, um, you know, when it's nice out here...I mean thankfully, we don't have any snow going on *[laughs]* here so we're able to enjoy at least, you know, the nice weather that we have. So that's something that like, you know, even if I'm just outside for 20 minutes, I feel like it helps a little bit. Um...so you don't feel like you're just boxed inside the house all day.

I: Sure.



R: Um, and then, um as I stated before, like, FaceTime does help. Even though it's not the same, it does help. You're able to see your family and communicate with them that way. Um...so that's been, that's been...and then, the workout machine also, like I said, like that's not only physical but it does help mentally as well.

I: Sure, sure. Yeah. Uh, I'm glad to hear that you—even if it's not the same, which, I—I mean I wish it could be of course, um, that you have some strategies and some things you can do. And I'm also very jealous of your weather *[laughs]*.

R: *[Laughs]* I can...I, I do—I have to admit, I do kinda miss the snow. I miss the 4 seasons. But at the same time, um, I don't miss like cleaning off my car from the snow, shoveling the driveway. *[laughs]*

I: Yes! That's, I feel like, where the pretty snow gets, you know, the other things get in the way of it just looking nice. *[Laughs]*

R: Right...exactly. *[Laughs]*

I: Alright. Well, uh, that's good to know. So then the next category or domain of questions covers the impact of the pandemic on your religious practices and beliefs. So, to start off with, how have you been able to continue different sorts of religious traditions or other religious programs with the pandemic coming on...and I know it's—it's hard to meet in person and for a while it wasn't really allowed at all. So, what has that looked like for you?

R: Right. Um, so...to be honest it hasn't that—not—honestly hasn't affected me too much only because um, like I—I'm not really like a frequent, um, how should I...like a frequent, uh, visitor at the mosque here. Um, and I don't mean that in any negative terms, just um...so like I, I pray at the house rather than, you know, driving to the mosque. And so I'm still able to do that. Um...I would go once in a while for like, the Friday prayer, which is like, you know, like the Friday services. Um, so, in that sense obviously can't go because it, you know, shut down but um, like, I'm still able to pray at the house and, you know and that's kinda what I was doing as well before the pandemic even occurred. So that's something that really hasn't affected me.

I: Yeah, that makes sense. Um, have you practiced anything related to your religion or religious activities in a virtual manner?

R: Um...I think once during the pandemic. Um, I didn't know the person personally—I didn't know the person personally, but um, a—he was like a young, I think a young teen, who passed away, um, somewhere here in California and they had like a virtual kinda funeral service I would say. And they just allowed people to share their memories of him and stuff like that and so we tuned into that just because, um, a family friend had like sent us the link for it, and you know...that was, I think that was the only thing I really tuned into. So it was more of like, a religious kind of service for him.

I: Yeah, yeah. How did you feel about the idea of...or the experience, even, of practicing your religion in a virtual manner? What was that like for you?

R: Um...definitely different just because I have been to these types of, uh, services in-person of

course, um and they usually are in-person. But, um, it kinda made me feel sad though, and not, not just, I mean not for me, but for kinda the family. You know, where they can't—they can't have that sense of comfort, kind of, in-person with their, you know, their other friends and other family for something that's normally done in-person at the mosque you couldn't do. So it kinda made me sad to see that. Um...but I mean...I mean I understood it just, obviously, it's a matter of keeping everyone safe, you know, amid the pandemic. You know, but it was definitely hard to, it was hard to watch.

I: Yeah, definitely, that makes sense. And I think given the nature of what the practice was, um, since it was more of like a funeral setting, it probably was bringing up a lot of feelings in everyone anyway. But it is really difficult that that had to take place online. 'Cause there is something about, like you said, that physical in-person comfort when you're able to have that.

R: Mm-hmm...right. Exactly.

I: Yeah. Um, have any of your religious leaders, like at the mosque that you do sometimes attend, drawn on Muslim scripture or historical sources, like, in addressing this pandemic...to, like, the congregation, for example?

R: Um, you know, so I haven't—like I said, I didn't really attend anything virtually, um, in regards to that, but I do remember, um, on like the local news here—I was watching the news one morning and, um, one of the, you know, the, um, segments they had on the news was, like, different religious leaders from different backgrounds that were, I guess, sharing their thoughts on the pandemic and you know kind of what, what you're mentioning, like in regards to, you know, what the religion says about, you know, what's going on. And um...so they had, like, you know, different religious leaders on there and one of them was Muslim and he did draw, kind of, on, you know, the Qur'an and stuff like that in regards to what's going on. So I do remember seeing that.

I: Yeah, that's interesting. Do you feel like that seeing that on the news or just your religious beliefs in general and the practices that you subscribe to have been helping you...or I guess, affecting at all the way that you're dealing with—with this pandemic, and with this crisis? Is it a coping skill? Is it just same old, same old? What do you think about that?

R: Um...yeah I guess I would say it—it, it, it, you know, it is a coping mechanism just in the sense of, like, believing that, you know, everything happens for a reason and, you know, God is doing this for a reason, not just, you know...and like, I guess the sense of like, we have a saying like, in our religion, that like, um, *God will not give you more than what you can handle*. I'm a firm believer in that, and I feel like no matter how hard it is and although like, we're all being tested in this way and it's a horrible thing that's going on, I feel like it's for a reason, even though we might not know that reason. It's kind of like the quote I just said to you -- we can handle it. Although it's tough, like, we're gonna, you know, we're gonna make it through...and hopefully will be sooner rather than later.

I: Yeah, yeah. I really appreciate you sharing that with me, um, and kinda educating me on that belief 'cause that is really interesting and I can see how that would maybe impact the way that you look at this. Because like you said, you know, the timing is up in the air but you do really,

you know, have to believe that we'll get through this.

R: Mm-hmm. Right, exactly.

I: Yeah. Yeah, definitely. Um, well thank you for answering those questions. Do you have any other, like, comments or anything about how the pandemic has played into your faith or vice versa?

R: No, not really. Kinda just what I said. Like, even though I know we don't know the reasons, I just feel like everything happens for a reason. I mean, it was meant to happen and you know unfortunately it's something that we have to deal with. And I feel like not only me, but I feel like a lot of people can find comfort in their religion, whether they're Muslim, whether they're Christian, whether they're a Jew...like, I just feel like everyone can—if they want to—you know, they can find some sense of comfort, you know, in their beliefs during like such tough times.

I: Yeah, absolutely. Well thank you for your thoughts on that. So the next set of questions focus on the Muslim community's engagement with social justice issues, especially as a result of the resurgence of the Black Lives Matter movement this past summer. First, the mosque that you do attend when you go, have they responded to the calls for social justice that's been raised by the Black Lives Matter movement, or made any sort of statement about what was going on that—that, last summer?

R: Yeah, there are a couple religious groups that I follow on Facebook. I mean I do remember seeing statements released by these organizations and various groups just kinda saying we—you know, stating like, *we stand in solidarity* and *we understand what's going on*. I do definitely remember seeing a lot of statements released, you know, when everything was happening.

I: Yeah. Yeah, that makes sense. Um...I guess what do you—what do you think that U.S. Muslim communities could be or maybe even should be doing with regards to social justice? So not only this past summer and the Black Lives Matter movement, but you know, issues of—other issues of racism, including Islamophobia, violence against um marginalized groups, things like that?

R: Mm-hmm. Um, so I think, I mean, I think the main factor is, I just feel like they need to work on like educating the communities around them. I feel like, you know, our generation is pretty well-informed, and I feel like that's only probably because of social media. But, like for example, the older generation, and you know, older, like, people, I feel like may not be as well-educated and may not even realize things that are going on around them or like, in their own communities that they live in. And so I feel like that's a place to start—I just feel like they could work more on educating the community around, you know, social justice issues that are occurring around the nation or around the world or in their own community. I definitely think that's something that we need to see more of.

I: Yeah, absolutely. Um, I mean I love that idea. I think it's—it's uh, I appreciate it because it's such a tangible place to start. You know, even within, for example, for the Muslim community, a mosque or a group within the mosque can work on, you know, educating their fellow congregation members on what's kinda going on in the world, especially for that older

generation who might not have access to social media or choose not to have access to social media [laughs] in the same way that younger people do.

R: Right, right. Exactly.

I: Yeah. So um, thank you for your thoughts on that. This is now the last section of the interview, um, and since we've been talking for the most part about difficulties and hardships and things like that we do wanna remember the things that are good in life and the silver linings, um, and whatnot. So we're gonna be, uh, kinda looking at your, um, experience, uh, regarding that aspect. So, you can take as much time as you need to think about this one but what was your most uplifting experience since the outbreak of COVID-19? So anything that inspired hope or happiness within you.

R: Um...let's see...um, I mean I would—I think I'm just extremely grateful, like although it's been a tough year, like, I've been kind of—even though we've been stuck at home, I've been stuck at home with, I mean...then a year ago, he was pretty much an infant, um, my son, and...which isn't a thing a lot of people get. I mean, like, once the maternity leave is over and all that, like, you're back at work, and you're, you know, you either have to get a babysitter or find a family member to, you know, watch your kid and you—you, you might miss on those small moments, you know, or any of their firsts as they would say. Um, and so I feel like, you know, that's something I'm extremely grateful and happy for, is that although like it was really t—a tough year, like, I was able to spend so much time with my son. And I feel like, you know, there's nothing, like, I missed because [laughs] we've literally just been cooped up in the house with him. You know?

I: Mm-hmm. Absolutely. That is...again, I uh, I nanny for this—these family friends, and they have this infant as well and, um, the baby's mom has said the same thing to me, that she feels so lucky, 'cause she's usually home, um, working from home now and she's like, *I feel so lucky to be spending so much time with her*, because yeah, otherwise she'd be off at daycare or whatever.

R: Right. Yeah, no, exactly. Definitely it's a blessing [laughs].

I: Yeah, definitely! Um, and what are you most looking forward to doing once this pandemic abates a little, or maybe if you are able to get the vaccination? [Laughs]

R: [Laughs] Um, I would say most looking forward to traveling [laughs].

I: Yeah! Yeah, any place up on your list? Maybe Palestine, since I know that was a trip you had [L.O. says, "yeah"] pushed back?

R: Yeah, yeah. So for sure I wanna go overseas to Palestine. And then I for sure wanna, um, go to Wisconsin. Um...and then I kinda, I mean those are more for family, and then I kinda wanna...I don't know. I wanna go somewhere, like, just relaxing. Maybe Cancun, maybe [laughs], I'm not sure but just somewhere nice. [Laughs]

I: Yeah. Definitely. I mean the world will be, in good time, your oyster. So [laughs] I encourage that.

R: *[Laughs]*

I: Um, well, I don't have any more questions. Is there anything else that you wanna revisit, or add on, before we wrap up?

R: Um...no! I don't have anything else, I don't believe.

I: Alright! Well thank you so much again for your time. This was great.

R: No problem.

I: If anything else comes up just let me know. But again, thank you so much for your time. And flexibility. This is really helpful.

R: No—no problem. Thank you. It was a pleasure talking to you.

I: Great, thank you so much! Enjoy the rest of your day.

R: You too. Take care. Buh-bye.

I: Buh-bye.