Transcript #1

9/6/2012

*Students instructed to share peer-composed question with class.*

Question: Are the ones who choose to defy authority the ones with real power?

1. Alaa - Are the ones who choose to defy authority the ones with real power?
2. Mona - In some countries yes, in others no… some people in some countries don’t have free will like we have here.
3. Ali - In third world countries, governments have absolute power; the people can overthrow the government and this only happens if they work together.
4. Tahany - I think free will is subjective and it depends upon what we think is free will. What others may think is freedom, we might think that it is – interrupted
5. Alaa – Ability for humans to do whatever they want regardless of the law, regardless of who is our president. If I live overseas, I still have the power of killing someone. Free will isn’t so subjective it is present in every human because every human has the power to do it.
6. [Multiple people talk ]
7. Alaa - We aren’t thinking about what people say –
8. Tahany – you’re saying that there is no law enforced upon people; but that’s fine; here you have jail and that does restrict some people.
9. Zeinab J – [inaudible]
10. Noor - Wait you guys the question… it asked about defying power
11. Uzma – Authority & power are two different things. Authority is someone having control. Power is someone having influence. When I said isn’t it people who defy authority, isn’t it the people who are oppressed… don’t they in a sense to defy authority? Don’t they defy the real power? [inaudible] That’s what I meant by the question.
12. Mona – I see the question as different than what you guys were talking about. I see free will as what they are able to do.. I don’t know how to phrase…
13. Zahra – Can’t you guys say that power leads to authority? If you really think about it who has power? Who is in charge?
14. Uzma – Power doesn’t mean you are in charge.
15. Ali – You can’t both be in charge; it must be one or the other.
16. Manal – [inaudible]
17. Uzma – There are other words like affect or impact; there are other words like repercussion; authority means they have the right to command or control [ideas?] – power means having the power to influence or persuade people.
18. Zahra – People in authority have power.
19. Alaa – I think what Uzma is trying to say; if a person has authority it means they have power but if someone has power they might not have authority.
20. Zeinab – We have power but not authority; we can walk out of class that’s powerful
21. Ali – Anyone who has power has something else, they have heart. They better control their power. Power is a very wild thing. You have people with absolute power that oppress and people who don’t have power don’t have a choice. Depending on how you view power, everyone has power in them, that’s true, but what we choose to do with it that’s the factor. People have the power of defiance; they have the power of loyalty and obedience. While they have power they don’t have all of it
22. Aiman – You’re brave enough to speak against the system. You may not acknowledge your power.. You may not have power but there are not enough options to use it; there are too many consequences.
23. Ali – Does someone have power but choose not to use it? In that sense they’re weak?
24. Tahany – If you’re afraid for your family and you don’t want to speak out, are you weak?
25. Ali if you have the power to change something and you choose not to,
26. [other people talking in background]
27. Tahany – you can’t really call them weak or a coward because they have a reason for what they do
28. Ali – everyone has the ability to do something
29. [students raise hands but don’t say anything]
30. Tahany – inaudible
31. Alaa – there are totally different types of power; what Ali’s saying
32. Sara – its selfish
33. Noor – it goes back to what Uzma is saying; it goes back to your power. It’s not that you don’t have power it’s that you don’t have authority.
34. Tahany – overseas…
35. Manal – you always have the ability to use your power you have to accept the consequences
36. Ali – suffer them or accept them
37. Manal – if you… you got to jail that’s the consequence
38. Amina – no one has the authority to kill someone
39. [you don’t have the ability or the authority]
40. Farah – Authority gives you the power to kill someone. In the military they tell you shoot.
41. Amina – They have authority because they give them permission whatever it is war like Obama or someone like that that has authority he can’t go around killing people
42. Ali – Because he has the power to kill he shouldn’t do it?
43. [Not sure who] - We have the ability
44. [Not sure who] - We have the consciousness not to kill
45. Amelia – Power
46. Ali – The discipline to use their power. If they do this they have to decide what to do with it depending on the action.

END TRANSCRIPT

Transcript #2

9/6/2012

*Students instructed to share peer-composed question with class.*

Question: Do human beings have power or is it God/god that decides our destiny?

1. Amina – Do they really have power over their own lives or is it god that decides this over their destiny? We can determine our destiny fate is future we have control over what happens in between; religiously this could be looked at from different ways. Although we have control over our destiny and it is in our hands to change something. You can change it if it’s good or bad.
2. Zahra – Repeat question
3. Amina – Do human beings have power or is it god that decides our destiny? It can be answered from diff perspectives.
4. Farah – Some people don’t even believe in god and this may not apply to them; some people may defy what their destiny is actually about; Hitler believed destiny was a world without Jews and he made people suffer for that ---
5. Amina – if god wanted to be merciful
6. Farah – [inaudible]
7. Amina – [inaudible]
8. Farah – Regardless of religion, we believe that killing was wrong the point was when the first Bible was brought down it stated that thou shall not kill but during the wars the Pope made it acceptable to kill so we did defy what god/God originally said
9. Zeinab – That’s not defying destiny that’s in your destiny
10. Amina – You think god/God defies our destiny
11. Uzma – Wait
12. Ali – [inaudible
13. [Students raise hands but don’t talk]
14. [Many people talking]
15. Malak – Going back to the question it reminds me of: are we the product of our environment or is it fate? Let’s say god has already determined your destiny or fate let’s say you grow up in a run down neighborhood maybe in the near future you might die but you have the power to change your life.
16. Afeefeh – What happens to you?
17. Uzma – You can’t change destiny.
18. [People talk]
19. Multiple people - Shhhh
20. [Not identified]: I think god/God controls your destiny but you control how you get there
21. [Not identified]: In a sense yeah but a guy can meet his destiny even when he tries to avoid it he tries everything he can to avoid it.
22. *[11:07 – time is up]*
23. [Not identified]: He became a doctor through some strange way. You are alright by saying that.
24. [Silence]
25. Tahany - I think 11:08
26. Sara - Who really knows what your destiny is? How do you fulfill it? How do you follow it if you don’t know it?
27. Nadein – Based upon religion, you’re being guided.
28. Afeefeh – How do you know you’ve fulfilled your destiny…?
29. [Not identified]: What if that wasn’t your destiny how are you ever supposed to know you’re supposed to live your life … what happens in the end?
30. [Not identified]: We’re two minutes over time
31. [Not identified]: One
32. [Not identified]: Two
33. [Not identified]: She said 11:08
34. Multiple people: Ha-ha
35. [Not identified]: Do we stop?

[END TRANSCRIPT]